

## **All Committee Meetings**

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## ***PSA Program Committee Report***

DATE: May 4, 2011

TO: Chuck Hohm, PSA Executive Director

FROM: Sharon K. Araji, 2011 PSA President (Now Past President)

SUBJECT: 2011 PSA Program Committee Report

The 2011 PSA Program Committee was composed of 22 members, 23, if the Executive Director of the PSA, Charles Hohm, is included. Lucy Dwight and Andrea Haar, UC Denver, were Program Chair and Assistant Chair, respectively. The remaining program committee members and their affiliations are listed at the end of this report.

The 2011 PSA meetings were held at the Sheraton Seattle, March 10-13. It had been 15 years since the meetings were in Seattle. At that time, Thomas Scheff, UC Santa Barbara was President. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the 2011 meetings. The theme of this year's meeting was "Sociologists as Claims Makers: Turning Theory Into Action".

There were 243 sessions, excluding numerous Council and Committee meetings and other events during the 4 day conference. There were 12 Presidential Sponsored Sessions that began with a Friday evening keynote address that reflected the conference theme. The presentation was titled "Using Sociology for Good: Making Healthcare Information Technology Work" and was given by Dr. Ross Koppel, the 2010 recipient of the "ASA Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology". This was followed by a session to discuss the current crises in the Middle East; "Upheaval in Egypt: Waves Across the Middle East". At the suggestions of Executive Director, Charles Hohm, Judith Howard (UW), Past PSA President, organized and presided at the session. The New Members Reception was combined with the session, and seemingly worked well, although this format was to accommodate the addition of the late Middle East session, and was not meant to serve as an example for future meetings.

Other Presidential Sponsored Sessions focused on a historical overview of deviance and criminology which included the 1967 PSA President Jim Short (WSU), who had also been the ASA President and Editor of ASR. He was joined by Ross Matsueda (UW) and Val Jenness (UC Irvine, PSA President-Elect). Other Presidential Sponsored Sessions included "Meeting Journal Editors" (editors from 5 different journals) and "How to Get Published," featuring PSA Past President Michael Messner (USC) and Violence Against Women Journal Editor and author of numerous texts, Claire Renzetti (Uni of Kentucky). Still other Presidential Sessions focused on sexuality and intimacy in long-term relationships, post Hurricane Katrina research, abuse of institutional power, among others. Many of these sessions included Past PSA and/or ASA Presidents such as Pepper Schwartz (UW), Jodi O'Brien (Seattle Uni.) and Kai Erikson (Yale).

In addition to regular type sessions, there were a number of workshops, such as the one on Identity Theory by Peter Burke and Jan Stets (UC Riverside), and video sessions such as the one organized by Program Committee Member and Past PSA President, Jane Prather (CSU Northridge), titled "Can Art Stop a War: The Power of Posters to Educate, Agitate and Inspire?".

Program Committee Members Carol Ward (BYU), Kathy Kuipers (Uni of Montana) and Echo Fields (Southern Oregon) rose to the challenge of including American Native issues in the 2011 program. They organized 3 sessions that focused on Native American identity and survival, issues for tribal colleges and American Indian education. Kudos are sent to these program committee members.

There were 40 roundtable sessions and feedback from many who attended these was very positive. Thanks to PSA Secretary and Program Committee Member, Ginny Mulle, who organized many of these roundtables (those sponsored by AKD). Lucy Dwight, Program Committee Chair, did an excellent job of organizing many "papers without homes" into roundtables that had titles which reflected the wide diversity of presentations. In addition to roundtables, 20 students from many different institutions participated in the poster session. This was organized by Ginny Mulle, but coordinated at the meeting by Pat Hoffman (NMS), Program Committee Member. Dr. Hoffman had high praise for the number and quality of the poster presentations.

Overall, the 2011 PSA meetings were similar to past PSA conferences, but also had some differences. For example, we extensively marketed the meetings this year, beginning with a

large poster distributed at the 2010 ASA meetings in Atlanta. We also sent the poster to all department heads within and outside the PSA region, asking Chairs to post them and encourage members in their departments to attend the Seattle meetings. This may have been helpful, as the attendance at the meeting was 1100. According to Dean Dorn, PSA Treasurer, this meeting may have had record pre-registration, and according to Executive Director, Charles Hohm, may have had record attendance for meetings in the Northern Region, as northern meetings usually have lower attendance. Part of the record pre-registration may have been attributed to the ease of online registration. In the post meeting survey with a response rate of about 53%, 78% reported that the ease of online pre-registration this year was Excellent (51%) or Above Average (27%). About 64% of respondents indicated that the ease of accessing the online meeting schedule was Excellent (33%) or Above Average (31%). About 71% of the respondents thought the clarity of the program was Excellent (30%) or Above Average (34%). The meetings also attracted participants from about 40 states, 4 provinces from Canada, and 17 countries. We were pleased with the 2011 conference attendance, given that we had to hold the meeting in early March, as compared to early or mid-April, in order to get comparable hotel rates to other years, to find a downtown Seattle location, and an excellent hotel that could accommodate our conference.

This year we also had events that have not or do not happen each year. We provided framed recognition awards to Past PSA Presidents dating back to 2005 when they were last publicly honored, outgoing Council Members, and retiring Executive Director, Dean Dorn. President Araj also presented framed certificates to all those on the 2011 Program Committee.

After service 17 years as the PSA Executive Director, a recognition party in his honor was held after the Presidential Presentation and Awards Session and the Presidential Reception. In addition to the framed award, he was presented with a cash award from contributions by PSA members and friends of Dean. A fun and festive time was held by all attendees, with some sharing memories about their interactions with Dean, many wondering where the PSA would have been without Dean's unselfish contributions to the organization.

With the decline in book exhibitors who attend regional professional meetings, we contacted publishers to buy advertising in the PSA program to help offset increasing costs of meetings. This was a beginning to something that most publishers were in favor of, and we plan to continue.

By far, based on the post-meetings survey of attendees, most comments were very positive regarding the meeting sessions and the meeting site. There were the usual comments about people who submit presentations and then never show up or fail to notify organizers that they will not be in attendance, quality of some of the sessions, lack of preparedness of some of the presenters, weather, or timing of the meetings. But, on the other hand there were comments about presenters not showing up which gave others more time for their presentations or additional time for Q and A. The reason the meetings were earlier than usual, this year, was noted above. One comment that the next program committee may want to consider which was mentioned by some respondents is reducing the number of sessions. In the post-meetings report, there are some comments that the next program committee may want to consider—

some are possible to address, some are beyond the control of any program committee. We do realize that no program committee can please everyone.

In sum, the program committee worked very hard to make the Seattle meetings a success. Results from the post meeting survey (53% response rate), indicate that attendees felt this year's program was at least as good as previous years, and sizable numbers rated it, in comparison, as "Above Average" or "Excellent". As the 2011 PSA President, I congratulate the Program Committee Chairs and Members, and the Executive Director's office for their hard work to create a program that attendees felt was easy to pre-register for, access online, and had clarity, and would feel was worth their time and money, especially in these less than ideal economic times.

Respectively submitted,  
Sharon K. Araji, 2011 PSA President

### **PSA Program Committee**

PSA President, Sharon K. Araji, Univ. of Colorado Denver and Program Committee Chairs and Members: Lucy Dwight, Univ. of Colorado Denver - Chair, Andrea Haar, Univ. of Colorado Denver – Assistant Chair, Ginny Mulle, Univ. of Colorado Denver, J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College (CA), Richard Fernandez, Northern Arizona Univ., Echo Fields, Southern Oregon Univ., Joanna Gregson, Pacific Lutheran Univ. (WA), Vikas Gumbhir, Gonzaga University (WA), Patricia Hoffman, New Mexico Univ., Bob Kettlitz, Hasting College (NE), Kathy Kuipers, Univ. of Montana, Dennis Loo, Cal Pol Pomona, Lisa Martinez, Univ. of Denver, Christine Oakley, Washington State Univ., Amy Orr, Linfield College (WA), Susan Palmer, Walla Walla Community College (WA), Lisa Pearce, Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Jane Prather, CSU Northridge, Karen Seccombe, Portland State Univ., Richard Serpe, Kent State Univ., Carol Ward, Brigham Young Univ., Sharon Yee, Arizona State Univ.

### ***Report from the Awards Committee***

Submitted by Jennifer Reich, outgoing chair

The Awards Committee completed its work for the 2011. Below is a list of the winners of the 2011 awards. Vikas Gumbhir was elected chair of the awards committee. Jennifer Reich, Kari Lerum, and Marie Butler completed their three year terms and rotated off the committee. We thank them for their service. We welcome Joanna Gregson, Laura Earles, and Glenn Tsunokai as new members. They will join Shari Dworkin, Roberta Espinoza, Jane Ward, Sunil Kukreja, and Vikas Gumbhir who will continue on. The Awards committee also made a recommendation to Council to rename the Distinguished Contribution to Practice Award the Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Praxis. This was presented to Council at the meeting and will likely be reflected in the upcoming call for nominations.

### **Distinguished Scholarship**

Winner: Julie Shayne, University of Washington, Bothell and Seattle for her book, *"They Used to Call Us Witches: Chilean Exiles, Culture, and Feminism"*

Honorable Mention: Leiland Saito, University of Southern California for his book *The Politics of Exclusion: The Failure of Race-Neutral Policies in Urban America*

### **Dean Dorn Award**

No recipient

### **Early Career Award**

Co-Winner: Clayton Peoples, University of Nevada, Reno

Co-Winner: Jennifer Murphy, California State University, Sacramento

### **Distinguished Practice**

Kathleen Kaiser, CSU Chico

### **Graduate Student Paper Award**

Anita Harker Armstrong, Utah State University,

“Making the ‘Good’ Professor: Does Graduate Mentoring Promote Equality in Academia?”

### **Undergraduate Student Paper Award**

Co-winners

MacKenzie Fuentes, University of Puget Sound

“Social Movement Organizations and Policy Outcomes: Regulating Crisis Pregnancy Centers through Legislative Processes”

Christine Richardson, Boise State University

“Transracial Adoption: Promoting Racial Literacy or Perpetuating Colorblind Racism?”

### **Sociological Perspectives Award**

Co-winners:

The Contingent Effect of Social Networks on Organizational Commitment: A

Comparison of Instrumental and Expressive Ties in a Multinational High-Technology

Company Young-Choon Kim, University of Singapore and Mooweon Rhee, University of

Hawaii Sociological Perspectives, Vol. 53, No. 4 (Winter 2010), pp. 479-502

Administrative Challenges Facing Nonprofit Worksites Providing Work or Work-Like

Experiences for Welfare Recipients Author(s): Rebecca Joyce Kissane, Lafayette

College Sociological Perspectives, Vol. 53, No. 3 (Fall 2010), pp. 373-396

### ***Committee on the Status of Women (from Cynthia Siemsen)***

#### **Report of Annual Committee Meeting**

*Saturday March 12, 2011*

**Attendance:** Marie Butler, Teresa Ciabattari (11), Patricia Drew (13), Judy Hennesy (13), Kathy Kaiser, Zeynep Kilic, Rosemary Powers, Camilla Sears, Cynthia Siemsen (11), and Megan Wright.

**Regrets:** Jennifer Jacobsen and Mary Virnoche.

**Reports:**

- Saturday night (3/12/11, 7-8:30 p.m.) reception with Committee on Race and Ethnic Minorities was announced.
- We reported on the panels that we sponsored this year.
  - Patricia Drew (Women Don't Ask: Negotiating Your First Job Offer) – 10 people were in attendance and the session went well. ASA demonstrated interest in this panel for the summer meetings. It was decided to do this panel again.
  - Camilla Sears (Doing Feminist Research) – 12 people were in attendance. One presenter canceled, but notified Camilla. The papers for this session came from an overabundance of papers submitted to Feminist Media Studies. It was decided to do this panel again.
  - Rosemary Powers (Gender & Education) – 4 people were in attendance. On program at the same time as Doing Feminist Research.
  - Cynthia Siensen (Sociology of the Body) – 29 people were in attendance, including the presenters, and the session went well. One person was not able to present because of visa issues. She notified organizer.
  - Zeynep Kilic (Gender) – 4 people were in attendance, but it was presented at the same time as the Sociology of the Body. One graduate student presenter did not show, and did not inform Zeynep.
  - Gender & Sexuality (Patricia Drew) – 10 people were in attendance. One presenter canceled and did not notify Patricia.
  - Camilla Sears (Feminist Media Studies) – Huge success. Room was packed.
  - Judy Hennessy (Feminist Activism) – 10 people were in attendance. Session went well.
  - Cynthia Siensen (Undergraduate Roundtable on Changes in Childbirth & Mothering) – Too many people gathered around table for a single roundtable. Excellent papers and mentorship.
- Names of presenters that did not show up and did not let organizers know will be sent on to Ginny Mulle.
- Visibility of Committee on the Status of Women: There was discussion that the majority of our panels were presented on Thursday, early on in the conference, and that panels overlapped. Judy Hennessy will report to program committee that competition for attendance at our sessions was internal.
- Awards: Kathy Kaiser was acknowledged for winning the Distinguished Contributions to Practice Award. Kathy suggested that Marie Butler be considered for the Distinguished Contributions for Teaching Award next year. All committee members were encouraged to think about people for awards.
- **PSA 2012 – Panels:**
  - 'Women Don't Ask': Negotiating Your First Job Offer – an invited panel to be organized once again by Patricia Drew.
  - Author Meets Critic – Marie Butler will look into books for possible consideration for an author meets critic panel.
  - Mentoring Throughout the Career – to be organized by Patricia Drew. Kathy Kaiser offered to preside over this invited panel.
  - Feminist Discourse & Political Rhetoric – to be organized by Teresa Ciabattari.
  - Gender & Class – to be organized by Judy Hennessy.
  - Doing Feminist Research – to be organized by Camilla Sears.
  - Feminist Media Studies – to be organized by Camilla Sears.
  - Sociology of the Body – to be organized by Cynthia Siensen.
  - Gender and Migration – invited panel to be organized by Zeynep Kilic.
  - Gender & Health – to be organized by Megan Wright.

- Gender Gap in Education – to be organized by Rosemary Powers.
- Gender, Crime and Justice – to be organized by Cynthia Siemsen
- Undergraduate Roundtable – Teresa Ciabattari will preside over the undergraduate roundtable sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women.
- **Membership:** There was discussion about people's recollections of who was on the committee. Committee members were reminded that we are recommend to the Committee on Committees names of people to be considered for membership. Those interested in serving on the committee include:
  - Marie Butler, Oxnard College
  - Rosemary Powers, Eastern Oregon University
  - Cynthia Siemsen, California State University, Chico
  - Zeynep Kilic, University of Alaska
  - Kathy Kaiser, California State University, Chico
  - Camilla Sears, Simon Fraser University
  - Teresa Ciabatti, Pacific Lutheran University
- **Chair of the Committee:** It was decided unanimously that Patricia Drew will be the Chair of the committee for this next year.

## ***Minutes from the Committee on the Status of LGBT Persons***

from Anna Muraco

In attendance: Miriam Abelson (14), Chuck Hohm, James Thing (12), Ann Travers (14), Jason Hopkins(14), Anna Muraco (acting chair)

1. First order of business was to select a new chair through PSA 2012. The members in attendance nominated and voted unanimously for Anna Muraco, contingent on re-appointment to the Committee on the Status of LGBT Persons for another two- year term. Anna Muraco will continue as acting chair until the Committee on Committees confirms the nomination.
2. The committee came up with a list of possible nominees to serve on the committee to replace the members whose terms end with the PSA Conference, 2012 (three members: James Thing, Dan Cortese, Jillian Dheri). The committee provided the following names: Anna Muraco (amuraco@lmu.edu), James Thing (thing@usc.edu) for reappointment, Meredith Conover Williams (mlwilliams@wsu.edu), Kari Lerum (klerum@uwb.edu), Shari Dworkin (shari.dworkin@ucsf.edu), Katrina Kimport (kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu), James Dean (james.dean@sonoma.edu), Dana Collins (dcollins@fullerton.edu), Sylvanna M. Falcon (smfalcon@ucsc.edu), Claudia Geist (claudia.geist@soc.utah.edu). Anna Muraco will forward these names and email addresses to the Committee on Committees.
3. The present committee members proposed several possible sessions to be co-sponsored by the Committee on the Status of LGBT Persons. The sessions are as follows: Sport and Social Injustice (Ann Travers); Transgender Issues (Ann Travers); Children and Gender Justice (Ann Travers); Religion and Sexuality (Jason Hopkins); Race and Sexuality (Miriam Abelson & James Thing); Queer Citizenship (Jason Hopkins); Undergraduate Roundtable (Anna Muraco); Gender, Sexuality, and the Military (no volunteer to organize). Each person should submit the session proposal and indicate co-sponsorship with the GLBT Committee by May 1.
4. Anna Muraco inquired about the process for requesting a reception to the sponsored by the GLBT Committee at the PSA Conference 2012 in San Diego. Chuck Hohm, PSA Executive Director, said the inquiry constitutes a request and will be put on the program.

5. Byron Lee, past committee member, passed on information about attendance for the sessions he organized and presided over that were co-sponsored by the GLBT Committee:

The attendance numbers (in total, this includes people who left early or were late) for my sessions were as follows:

Age and Sexuality: 24

Gender, Race & Sexuality: 31

Queer Citizenship: 7

Disseminating GLBT Movements and Discourses: 4

According to Byron: "The last two panels were poorly attended because of their times, I think.

The Queer Citizenship panel was at 5:15 on Saturday, and the Disseminating GLBT Movements and Discourses was at 10:15, but on the Sunday. All of the sessions ran fabulously."

## ***PSA Publications Committee***

### **In attendance:**

Dennis Downey (Chair)

Karen Seccombe

Kevin Wehr

Marilyn Fernandez

Charles Powers

## **Annual report from editors of *Sociological Perspectives***

Marilyn Fernandez and Charles Powers presented the Publications Committee with the Annual Report for 2010 – the last full report of their tenure as editors of *Sociological Perspectives*. The report was thorough, indicating strong stewardship on the part of Powers and Fernandez. Here we will present several of the highlights of the report. The number of new submissions in 2010 was 123, which has remained relatively steady in recent years. The time under review for manuscripts undergoing full blind review averaged 97 days for 2009; for 2010 (up to October), the time was down to 87 days. This is a very good sign, and can be used to attract submissions from authors interested in rapid decisions. The acceptance rate for the journal in 2009 (the last full year for which an acceptance rate is calculable) was between 23.0% and 24.6% (depending on the final decision regarding two revised manuscripts currently under review). Marilyn and Chuck discussed the variation associated with how different journals calculate acceptance rates – e.g. whether to count revised submissions as separate submissions or not – and pointed out that their calculation is rather conservative, and acceptance rates would fall if they used other methods. The measures of journal influence from 2004 to 2008 seem to be hovering in roughly the same spot as a strong mid-level or regional journal. Additional information was presented and discussed.

The Publications Committee was very impressed and thankful for the thorough report. More importantly, Marilyn and Chuck were thanked for their valuable service to the association through their role as editors for the past years. The Publications Committee is very thankful for their conscientious work and for maintaining the high standards of the journal.

## **Conclusion of *Sociological Perspectives* editorial search**

The main task of the Publications Committee for 2010-11 was to conduct a search for the new editors of *Sociological Perspectives* to continue with the great work that Chuck and Marilyn have been doing at Santa Clara. At the time of the meeting, the recommendation of the editorial team of Bob O'Brien and Jim Elliott at the University of Oregon had already been forwarded to the PSA Council, and they had already approved the recommendation (unanimously and enthusiastically at all stages). The reason for the early decision via email by the committee was to allow the Council to accept the recommendation in time for an announcement to be made at the Presidential Address on Friday evening. Consequently, discussion of the editorial search in our meeting largely consisted of a collective and well-deserved self-congratulation for such a great outcome.

## **Press arrangements:**

The committee briefly discussed the contract with the publisher of *Sociological Perspectives*, University of California Press, which concludes in 2013. The Publications Committee is tasked with making a recommendation to Council regarding which press to contract with subsequently – whether UC Press or another (perhaps commercial) press. The Chair will investigate timelines and necessary tasks (e.g. crafting and sending out a call for proposals, accepting and distributing the incoming materials, and establishing a plan for making a decision).

## **Chair election:**

Dennis Downey was re-elected Chair for the coming year.

## ***Committee on Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT)***

March 13, 2011, Seattle, WA.

## **Present:**

Glenn A. Goodwin; Jeffrey Houser; Rima Dasgupta; Dean Dorn (for part of meeting); Sharon K. Davis, Chair (joined the meeting late, due to her paper session conflicting with The COFRAT meeting time).

## **Resolution on Frances Fox Piven:**

Glenn Goodwin brought a proposed resolution in support of Frances Fox Piven, along with a background and rationale (attached), which was discussed by the committee. Jeffrey Houser proposed adding the word "threats" to the motion. His addition passed unanimously, as did the motion. PSA Secretary Dean Dorn suggested the motion be taken to Counsel, along with a request that:

1. the motion be put on the PSA web site,
2. the motion appear in the May Newsletter, and
3. the office of the Executive Director (Chuck Hohm) send a special email to all the members, informing them of the resolution. Sharon Davis will take the resolution,

background/rationale, and copies of the email exchange between Goodwin and Piven to the Sunday Council meeting. Sharon Davis added that Council be reminded that the Piven resolution is consistent with past PSA positions on academic freedom.

### **Sessions for San Diego Meeting:**

All sessions will be planned and organized on line. It was agreed that absent COFRAT members would be contacted to see if they might want to organize a session for the San Diego meetings (2012). It was decided that, while we would prefer doing invited sessions only, we would advertise initially for a “public session” and then turn it into an invited (only) session. Rima DasGupta will take the lead on organizing a session on “Academic Freedom Issues at Junior Colleges”. Public sessions must be proposed and submitted (online) by May 1. October 15 is deadline for invited sessions. Jeff Houser is drafting a resolution for the ASA regarding disability concerns. When it is done, he will draft a resolution on disability concerns for COFRAT to consider for the PSA as well.

### **Other Business:**

(Dean Dorn left the meeting at 12:45pm) COFRAT needs clarification from Council regarding whether COFRAT can act independently on issues, i.e., without first getting direction to do so from the PSA. If so, what is the procedure for obtaining PSA support on such issues? A new COFRAT chair was not elected because the only committee members who were eligible for the position who attended the meeting were first time attendees. Sharon will speak with Dean Dorn and Chuck Hohm about remaining on the committee as interim chair until a new chair can be elected.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Davis, COFRAT Chair

Glenn A. Goodwin

### **Membership Committee**

FROM: Amy J. Orr  
Chair, PSA Membership Committee, 2010-2011

The Membership Committee of the Pacific Sociological Association met on the morning of Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Seattle Sheraton in Seattle, Washington. Committee members in attendance included Vikas Gumbhir, Melissa Monson, and Amy Orr. Past PSA Executive Director Dean Dorn attended a portion of the meeting.

### **Membership Report:**

The meeting began with a report on the status of PSA Membership provided by Dean Dorn.

According to available data:

- PSA Membership for **2010** (as of the beginning of this year’s PSA meeting) was **1,135**.
- 552 of these PSA members were faculty members (48.6% of the total), while 583 were students (both graduate and undergraduate) (this is 51.4% of the total). This is the first year in which student membership has exceeded faculty membership. Dorn thought that this might have been due to a surge of students in San Diego who attended the meeting last year (these students joined PSA and attended the session, but did not present papers).

- So far in **2011** (as of March 7th), we have a total of **996** PSA Members. This number is one less than it was at this time last year. We are expecting the final membership to be between 1100-1300.
- Overall, it was concluded that PSA membership numbers are stable.

### **The Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Conference Format**

Unfortunately, the committee has not received a response from the PSA Council regarding Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Conference Format that was submitted last year (this report was prepared and submitted by a subcommittee of the Membership Committee chaired by Dennis Downey, and consisting also of Kristin Bates and Vikas Gumbir (with the assistance of Dean Dorn)). The report will be resubmitted this spring. It is the desire of the committee to address responses to the report at the next meeting.

A review of the report recommendations was provided for new member Melissa Monson. This led to a discussion of past recruitment efforts. Dean Dorn noted that PSA has attempted to recruit new faculty members (particularly from PhD-granting institutions), but that the yield has been low (1-2%). One example Dorn noted was the sending of PSA information to faculty via standard mail. We have not yet tried to recruit extensively via e-mail, as there is some difficulty in obtaining e-mail addresses. If the committee would like to suggest a recruitment effort via e-mail, there is a chance that e-mail addresses could be obtained through the American Sociological Association. Another way to locate faculty at PhD-granting institutions is through the ASA Guide to Graduate Programs.

Dorn noted that there are 24 PhD-granting institutions in the region. Representation in PSA varies. The University of Washington, UC-Berkley, UC-San Diego, and UCLA are still somewhat underrepresented. A possible way to attract more faculty members from PhD-granting institutions would be to increase the number of invited sessions in the program. [Dorn also noted that involvement from community colleges appears to be stable.]

### **New Member Reception**

Dorn noted that the Membership Committee sponsors the Reception for New Members on the first night of the conference (generally Thursday evening). The Membership Committee is welcome to provide input into this event, and should contact the Executive Director if they would like to make suggestions. One proposal was to send a special invitation to the reception to new members of PSA, and/or formally introduce them at the event. A list of new members could be obtained by contacting the Executive Director.

### **The Mission Statement of the PSA Membership Committee and Its**

#### **Chairperson Position:**

A brief discussion was held about proposed revisions to the official mission statement of the PSA relating to its Membership Committee and the responsibilities of the Chair(s) of that committee. The committee members who were present felt that the revisions were not drastic and could be adopted (pending minor editing and approval by the PSA Council).

#### **The Election of a New Membership Committee Chair:**

Given low attendance at the meeting, it was agreed that Orr would approach Kristen Bates about the chair position (she is one of only two continuing members). Bates agreed (via e-mail) to chair the committee for the upcoming 2011-2012 year.

#### ***Conference Format: Issues, Challenges, and Options***

*Report from PSA Membership Committee to PSA Council, 2010*

In recent years, the issue of conference format and the overall quality of presentations at the annual meetings has come to the attention of the Membership Committee because of their potential influence on participation in the meetings and membership in the association. The most recent discussions are based on concerns about the composition of membership and how that is influenced by the structure and format of our annual meetings. Specifically, the Membership Committee finds the continued decrease in the composition of PSA membership comprising faculty from doctoral-granting institutions to be a problem that need be remedied to maintain our role as a venue for sociologists at the forefront of our field which is essential to the long-term health of the association. We discuss that issue in more detail below.

The Membership Committee also determined (based in part on evidence discussed below) that one of the issues essential to attracting such sociologists to join the PSA concerns the nature of our annual meetings. In brief, while there is a substantial amount of good research presented in lively sessions at our meetings, there is also a sense that there is also a lot of poor quality presentations in marginal sessions that are weakly attended – which is an ongoing frustration to some of our members. We believe that this reputation is in part responsible for discouraging participation on the part of some potential members that we need to attract (back) to the PSA. This concern prompted the Membership Committee to engage in focused discussions at the past two meetings regarding the organization of our annual meetings – and specifically the issue of session formats – and how that might be improved in the future.

To investigate possible alternatives for session formats, possibilities and options for implementing those alternatives, the Membership Committee appointed an *ad hoc* subcommittee at the 2009 meetings to develop points for discussion at the 2010 meetings. The charge of the subcommittee was "to flesh out this general notion of a multi-tiered typology of conference presentation formats and venues, and to think of ways to address the problems likely to be encountered if the PSA were to actually attempt to implement such a system." That resulting report was discussed at length at our 2010 meeting, and this report is a series of recommendations that emerged from the report and discussions. We submit this report to the PSA Council to consider. . . . .

## **I Membership Composition and Session Formats**

- A. *PSA membership composition:* Membership of PSA is increasingly dominated by students (55%). In contrast, faculty members from doctoral-granting departments have been declining such that they now comprise approximately 14% of total membership (and approximately 28% of faculty membership). While there is a fundamental commitment to serving students within the association and assisting with their professional development, it is important for many reasons to maintain a balanced membership. Most immediately, it is crucial to the vitality of the association that we include those at the forefront of research in our discipline. As a consequence, we agreed that the *PSA needs to focus efforts on increasing the composition of faculty from doctoral-granting institutions.*
- B. *Concerns regarding conference format and participation:* Given that participation in the annual meetings is arguably the most visible aspect of membership, and one of the most important venues that the association has for sharing research (aside from our journal), that is the most important

means through which to cultivate greater involvement of faculty from doctoral-granting institutions and that is where our efforts should focus.

1. *Quality of presentations*: Concerns over the overall quality of presentations at our annual meetings have come partly from experiences, anecdotes, and informal conversations among members. The issue was also raised prominently in a survey of members in 2007 which indicated that there was substantial dissatisfaction regarding overall presentation quality. An additional survey was conducted by Keith Farrington on behalf of the Membership Committee in 2009 that sought to gauge directly the perceptions of faculty from doctoral granting departments in the region. While that survey did not indicate that quality of presentations/meetings was an issue that deterred research-oriented faculty from joining the association, the low response rates (especially among faculty with neither past nor present affiliation with the PSA) does not rule that possibility out. This kind of sentiment is likely to be recognized outside of the association, and may be a disincentive for research faculty from joining the association and presenting their work at our meetings. Consequently, recent discussions in the Membership Committee have sought ways to increase the quality of presentations both as a benefit to the association in and of itself, *and* as a means to increase the membership and participation of research-oriented faculty.
2. *Number of presentations and quality of sessions*: There is also a generalized concern about the number of presentations and sessions at our meetings. One of the negative results of so many sessions is that the audience in attendance is thinned out, so that many sessions are attended by a very small number of audience members. This can be discouraging to presenters, and generally makes for less lively sessions. This is also related to the quality of presentations, because *ceteris paribus* the more research that we accept for the meetings the more difficult it is to screen out those which do not merit presentation. The result is often that presentations of very different quality are presented in the same sessions, leading to uneven sessions – which further discourage audience members from attending.
3. *Meeting "culture"*: The concerns noted above have prompted some concern about the "culture" of the meetings. Mostly, this is manifest in the perception that little is expected of presenters at the PSA, further discouraging both audience and presenters who might otherwise prepare more seriously. One of the most egregious examples of this culture is the increasing practice of presenters who are accepted and listed on the program to cancel at the last minute, or to simply fail to show up for their presentations. Again, that further degrades both the sessions for which they are scheduled and the meetings as a whole.
4. *Norm of inclusivity and maintaining membership*: One of the most obvious solutions to the concerns noted above is to screen proposals much more seriously, and to accept far fewer for the meetings. Because of the norm of inclusivity within the PSA, and the fundamental commitment to

students, the committee has been hesitant to recommend measures that would increase the quality of presentations via increased exclusivity. Likewise, we do not want to decrease association membership by limiting the number of presentations at the meetings – although that has been suggested previously (as we discuss below). As a result, committee members decided at the 2009 meetings to seek ways to increase the overall quality of presentations *without* abandoning the norm of inclusivity – which is the framework within which we developed the current report.

- C. *Optimizing participation as a goal*: Specifically, our framework of recommendations focuses on ways to restructure meeting and session formats that would *optimize* participation through better matching of session formats and the range of possible presentations. The starting point of those discussions was our collective reservations about the dominance of the standard paper session – i.e. "the 90-minute session featuring the presentation of four or five academic papers, sometimes accompanied by critical commentary offered by a prepared discussant." Instead, members expressed the "desirability of the PSA moving to implement and then institutionalize a 'multi-tiered and progressive' typology of presentation venues and formats." (Those discussions are more fully documented in the 2009 Membership Committee Report to the PSA Council.) Rationales for optimizing participation, and strategies for doing so, will be discussed at length below.
- D. *Previous recommendations and responses*: Before presenting recommendations, it is important to first briefly review previous recommendations, and the progress made in achieving those recommendations. In 2007, the Membership Committee presented recommendations to the PSA Council regarding student participation in the annual meetings, and related issues designed to increase the quality of presentations/sessions at the annual meetings. The following are the specific recommendations, and some comments on progress made on those recommendations.
1. *Place all undergraduate student papers to undergraduate student sessions*: In recent meetings, there has been a systematic effort to direct all undergraduate paper submissions to sessions specifically identified as undergraduate sessions. Ginny Mulle has generously organized these sessions in recent years, and the sessions have been well-attended, and students like the opportunity to present in a supportive environment of peers.
  2. *Place undergraduate papers in roundtable/poster sessions*: Following from the above process, undergraduate papers are now channeled to roundtable and poster sessions. Roundtables are matched to faculty discussants, which enhances their value for presenters.
  3. *Limit graduate students to 1-2 per regular session*: There is little progress on this issue, due largely to the difficulty of achieving it within the current program development process (described below). Moreover, it is uncertain how much that would achieve in terms of raising the overall quality of

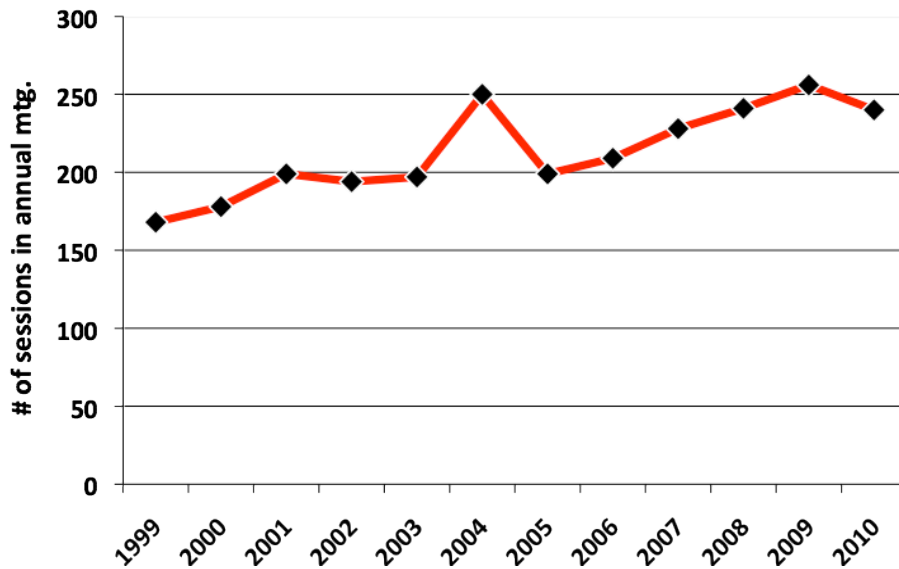
sessions since there is substantial variability in the quality of presentations for both students and faculty. Finally, it is difficult to establish limits within sessions if the overall balance of student and faculty presentations remains constant.

4. *Distinguish between ABD and less advanced graduate students:* This distinction is now tracked through the online submission process, but we make little use of that distinction.
5. *Decrease the number of sessions offered:* As the data presented below (section II A) indicate, there is little progress on this issue. (Current discussions on this topic will be addressed below.)
6. *Increase the number of invited sessions:* While this is not tracked, and there is little leverage that can be exerted toward that goal in the current program development process, there have been focused efforts to encourage the sponsorship of invited sessions rather than open sessions. According to informal (but very reliable!) estimates from Dean Dorn, recent meetings have in fact seen increased numbers of invited sessions.
7. *Require submission of full papers:* This recommendation has not been enacted, largely because of the difficulty of enforcing the recommendation and its potential effect on reducing participation.

## **II Current conference format and program development process**

### *A. Current conference format: number and distribution of session formats*

1. *Number of sessions:* The chart below indicates the number of sessions listed in the final program at each annual meeting over the past decade. We can see that there has been a near-constant and incremental growth from year to year over the past decade. The sole exceptions include the 2004 meetings in San Francisco, which represented a substantial jump followed by a substantial decrease the following year. The reason for that jump was that it was the association's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and special efforts were made to develop the program and participation accordingly. The other exception is the current meeting: according to the preliminary program for 2010, there will be a small decrease from last year's record number of sessions, although not a substantial drop. It is unclear whether that is a trend or simply an aberration. If it is a trend, there might be several explanations. Most immediately, the economic crisis has decreased travel funds available to many members, even as many of our members have less funds of their own to pay for travel due to furloughs. Another possible reason for the decreased number of sessions is as a response to recommendation for fewer sessions. To the extent that is the case, it would be worth attempting to determine whether that will lead to an overall higher quality in presentations.



2. *Distribution of session formats:* The distribution of various session formats at the annual meetings is of particular interest, starting with the dominant format which includes full paper presentations (i.e. sessions in which presentations take the form of formal paper presentations, generally 15-20 minutes each). The table below indicates that distribution for two recent meetings (2007 and 2009). (The distributions were compiled by simple observational counts from the final programs, and only based on session titles and participant lists – so they may conceal differences in session types that do not show up with that kind of observation.)

We can see from the table that full paper sessions dominate the meetings; 86-88% of all sessions are full paper sessions. Paper sessions generally include three to five presentations. A brief sample suggests that half or more of the paper sessions include four papers, about a third include three papers, and nearly all of the rest include five papers. It should be noted that this count comes from the program itself, and does not take into consideration cancellations that will reduce the number of actual presentations per session. (It is common practice to include four or five papers as "insurance" against cancellations, whereas a cancellation with three papers leads to a less-than-optimal two papers in the session.) Only two to three dozen sessions in total are non-paper sessions.

	2007	2009
Session type:		
Paper	195	225
Roundtable	5 (23 tables)	5 (42 tables)
Workshop	8	7
Author-Meets-Critics	9	7
Video session	5	2
Poster	1 (10 posters)	1 (19 posters)

Student session:		
Graduate	7	1
Undergraduate	9	4
Unspecified	3	2

Roundtable sessions are the main alternative to regular paper sessions, if counted in terms of the number of presentations, rather than the number of sessions. It is important to make that distinction between sessions and presentations – a point which is made particularly clear in the comparison between 2007 and 2009. As we see, while the number of roundtable sessions remained constant, the number of presentations (measured in terms of tables) within those sessions nearly doubled. This was the result of a concentrated effort to reduce the number of full sessions and channel more papers into roundtables – many of those tables being specifically designated as student sessions. It should also be noted that many of those tables are effectively run like paper sessions, except to a much smaller audience; that is, there is often little adjustment made for the very distinct format of a roundtable vis-à-vis a formal presentation session.

Finally, several other types of sessions represent minor but important components of the program: workshops sessions, author-meets-critics sessions, video sessions, and poster sessions (all self-explanatory). Regarding poster sessions, it is important to note (like roundtables) that while there was only one session at each meeting, the number of posters nearly doubled. Poster presenters are nearly all students.

It is important to make two additional distinctions among sessions. First, some sessions are designated as student sessions, although those sessions might be undercounted because they are not always made clear in the program. It is also crucial to note that we have only counted student-designated sessions, and have counted student-designated tables within roundtable sessions. As a consequence, it appears from the data that student-designated presentations decreased from 2007 to 2009, but what also happened is that many of those student presentations were channeled into roundtables – hence the growth of roundtable presentations. That was the result of specific efforts to channel student presentations (mostly undergraduate students) into student-designated presentation venues. While there has been a substantial effort to move undergraduate student presenters into their own sessions (which seem to have been successful), there has not been a commensurate effort to move graduate students into any particular sessions nor to monitor their dominance in any particular sessions. Most graduate students are presenting in regular paper sessions, similar to faculty.

A second important distinction is that between *invited* sessions and *open* sessions among paper sessions. As noted, the Membership Committee recommended increasing the number of invited sessions. This is an important distinction because invited sessions offer the potential to attract experts in various sub-fields. There has been an increased emphasis placed on invited sessions communicated to the Program Committee, but it is impossible to track any changes because that distinction is not indicated in the final program.

- B. Current process for organizing sessions:* To consider any changes in the distribution of sessions requires that we first consider the process through which sessions are organized. In brief, the current program development process is extremely de-centralized. That, of course, presents challenges for change, because there is no point at which we (e.g. PSA officers, etc.) can exercise leverage to make those changes. While we have an annual program committee, only about a third of the sessions organized originate from that committee, and the majority of them are outsourced without any real oversight on their part. There are several ways that sessions are created in the current system; within each category, session can be open or invited. Also, while we offer estimates of what percentage of total sessions each category comprises, it is difficult to estimate this because that information is not consistently tracked.
1. *Member proposed/organized sessions:* These are sessions that are proposed by members, listed in the call for papers, and constituted by people sending in papers. There is nominal oversight of those sessions on the part of the program chair, but that mostly amounts to steering session titles apart when they overlap – but virtually no proposed sessions are turned away. Many (perhaps a majority) are organized by graduate students. We estimate that proposed sessions comprise about half of total sessions.
  2. *Program Committee sessions:* A core of sessions is organized or commissioned by the Program Committee. Members of the Program Committee are selected by the PSA President, along with the Program Chair (who is selected by the President). The Committee generally comprises about 25-30 members, selected to represent the diversity of membership in terms of sub-fields, region, and institution. Members commit to organizing four sessions – or, more often, commissioning people to organize four sessions. It is important to recognize that the overwhelming majority of the sessions that emerge in this way are in no way overseen by the program committee or its members. Most are commissioned by committee members who secure an initial commitment from organizers and nothing more. For example, those organizers may be graduate students working with the committee member who agree to organize one or more sessions. We estimate that sessions originating from the Program Committee account for approximately 100 sessions, or about one third of sessions.
  3. *Committee sponsored sessions:* Each PSA Committee generally sponsors a session. That accounts for approximately a dozen sessions.
  4. *Presidential sessions* are those organized or promoted by the President; they usually account for approximately a half dozen sessions. These sessions are almost exclusively invited sessions.

From that informal accounting, we can see that the majority of sessions are proposed and organized by members with little if any shaping from the program committee or any other centralized influence. If we take into consideration that most sessions commissioned by the Program Committee are effectively "outsourced," that majority becomes a dominant majority (perhaps 85%?) organized without any central oversight or influence.

There are distinct advantages and disadvantages to the current process of program development. The primary advantages come in the form that the overwhelming majority of the work is done by volunteers who take it upon themselves to organize the sessions. It is an extremely decentralized process in which the substantial job of program development occurs without having to recruit volunteers. With relatively little direct effort on the part of any official representative of the PSA, the program is effectively organized. (That does *not* take into consideration the tremendous effort on the part of the Executive Director to manage and schedule those sessions – but that represents a different process.) The fact that it works is no small consideration, and the process should not be reorganized without appreciating that fact. The disadvantage is that the association and committees exercise very little control over the process – and, therefore, little control over the distribution of session types and the overall quality of presentations and sessions. As a consequence, it will be very difficult to have any influence on session formats without revising in some ways how the program is currently developed.

### **III Recommendations**

A. *Restructuring conference format (session format distribution)*: Discussion within the Membership Committee meeting in 2009 focused on the possibility of rebalancing and diversifying session formats as one way of addressing quality of presentations. As noted earlier, by seeking to optimize participation by making a wider range of available session formats, and institutionalizing means through which matches can be made between formats and presentations, we believe that it is possible both to raise the overall quality of the meetings and to maintain the norm of inclusivity. This is based on the assumption that the poor quality of some presentations is the result of a mismatch between what presenters have to offer and the dominant session format requiring full paper presentations drawing on completed research. For example, there is significant value for presenters and audience in presenting and discussing works in progress, but there is no venue specifically designed to do so. Consequently, research-in-progress must be presented as full papers – which are of minimal value (and potentially substantial frustration) on the part of presenters and audiences. Again, we believe that part of the current problem of quality of presentations stems from the fact that the wide range of possible presentation content is forced into the narrow format of formal paper sessions. Our goal is to reestablish balance in session formats in our meetings and to expand the range of session formats in order to promote a more optimal match between presentations and venues, and finding ways to institutionalize that optimization.

1. *Reestablishing session balance*: In order to reestablish more balance in session formats, we suggest continuing and redoubling recent efforts. Specifically, we should increase the number of invited sessions – particularly as they seek to include participants presenting cutting edge research in a variety of areas, or presenting synthetic presentations in their established areas of expertise. We should seek to add more author-meets-critics sessions, that identify important works and sponsor focused discussions on them. Additionally selecting classic pieces of research to

revisit or reassess (retrospective sessions) are also good formats to increase. We also believe that we should increase the use of roundtables, although in doing so we should emphasize a distinct role for roundtables – rather than making them a presentation of last resort for research that does not meet standards for full research presentations.

2. *Expanding the range of session formats:* We also believe that there are other session formats that should be considered and institutionalized to expand the range of sessions – and to expand the range of presentation types that can be productively accommodated. Some of these new "formats" are not wholly new, but emphasizing distinct purposes for sessions and institutionalizing additional elements as well as the types of presentations delivered within them which will shift the purpose of the session and the nature of participation. The following are some of the additional formats or emphases that we believe merit consideration:
  - a. *Research-in-progress and preliminary findings:* Current paper sessions accept presentations that are ostensibly completed research, however that is not always (and perhaps seldom) the case. Students, for example, need to get experience with presentations and that can seldom wait until they have completed a research project. Moreover, getting feedback along the way can be extremely useful. In keeping with the less formal and collegial atmosphere that has become a hallmark and appreciated aspect of the PSA meetings, we might institutionalize formats in which presenters can present research-in-progress in sessions specifically designated as such. Such sessions would include presentations that present the basic progress and preliminary findings for research projects. (In fact, there is a strong argument to be made that conference presentations should be mostly of this sort, since the traditional venue for completed research is through published outlets.)
  - b. *Research notes:* Such sessions would be appropriate for projects that do not seek to link research findings to broader or generalizable arguments, and would likely minimize the expected review of literature and other theoretical linkages. Such presentations might highlight smaller projects, applied projects, and discrete findings, and other empirically-focused projects without broad theoretical linkages or which do not seek to make generalizable arguments. By grouping such presentations together, such generalizations might ensue collectively.
  - c. *Theoretical and conceptual forums:* In contrast to empirically-focused presentations, it would also be useful to group presentations which seek to make theoretical contributions or developments without linkage to empirical research. Such sessions would focus on conceptual issues addressing a common topic, which would be ideal for students getting started on projects, or for those who are working through some particularly difficult conceptual issue at any stage of research (or teaching, for that matter).

3. *Varying presentation length and number of presentations per session:* For all session types (but especially those we have suggested above), we suggest considering varying the number of presentations and (correspondingly) the length of presentations per session. The general practice of 15-20 minute presentations with three to four papers per session might not be ideal for every type of sessions. The variation might go in both directions, as per the following.
  - a. *More presentations of less duration:* Following on the logic that some worthwhile presentations might not need or merit a full 15-20 minutes, some sessions could be organized specifically with more presenters. Presentations could be made more brief – perhaps establishing a standard of 10 minutes or so. That would allow for either more discussion, or more presentations – or both. Sessions with the standard three to four presentations of shorter duration might be of the type detailed above (research in progress, research notes, theoretical issues) which encourage more discussion of the presentations and less actual presentation. Sessions might also include a larger number of shorter presentations – perhaps up to six – which might be designed to allow presenters working in the same area to network with one another, and with audience members. The emphasis in these sessions would be providing feedback/discussion and networking among people working in similar areas. So, there would be more presentations by more presenters within each such session, and it would likely be a smaller venue that will be particularly attractive for those who want to engage in developed discussion on some particular topic.
  - b. *Less presentations of greater duration:* It is also possible to have highlight sessions in which only one, or perhaps two, presentations are made – generally an invited presenter. This might involve research faculty making presentations about large, funded project they are working on (like a research in progress session taken to a higher level). That would highlight a large well-funded project that may not have produced papers yet, but might be of great interest. That model would also serve the goal of involving faculty from research institutions, and perhaps might involve their graduate students presenting preliminary findings, etc.
4. *Institutionalized mentor sessions:* We believe that another underdeveloped area where we can serve our members better is to institutionalize some type of feedback – especially for students. It might be useful to try to develop sessions in which graduate students present research in progress, and to invite leading scholars in their field to act as formal discussants in the process (getting copies of papers before the session, and offering feedback during the session and perhaps in writing). This would require recruiting faculty in doctoral-granting institutions – a strategy for which we discuss below (section D below).
5. *Undergraduate student "honor" sessions:* The area of recommendations that has probably been most successful in recent years has been the

concentration of undergraduate students into their own sessions – primarily in roundtable formats. We would also like to honor some of the best undergraduate presentations by organizing one (or perhaps more) special sessions where the best undergraduate papers can be presented in a full paper format, with (hopefully) larger audiences of undergraduates. This will serve dual purposes: it will reward and recognize those undergraduates who do exceptional research and prepare high quality presentations; and it will also serve as a venue to model those students so that other undergraduates are socialized into appropriate expectations for presentations at the PSA.

We have discussed the logistical issue of how such students might be selected. It would be counterproductive to make decisions based simply on papers submitted in the fall, since most of the crucial work would be done between that time and the time of the presentation. One idea was to have some kind of a selection committee that would choose among nominated papers shortly before the meetings. Another is to select the best presentations made in the regular undergraduate student roundtables, and allow them to present the paper in the larger venue later in the meetings.

*B. Restructuring the conference development process:* While we have suggested a number of ways to restructure session organization, current session distribution and formats, it is extremely important to consider how this might be accomplished. There are substantial obstacles to doing so under the current system in which the program is developed because the decentralized nature presents few opportunities for directing changes. Moreover, we have a system that currently works (i.e. our meetings are organized reliably each year), so any change in the system should be considered very seriously. We focus our considerations on several interrelated areas: shifting the culture of session organizing; centralizing program development processes; altering the submission process; and soliciting involvement of faculty from doctoral granting departments.

- 1. Shifting the culture of session organization:* One important way to begin to change the way that sessions are organized will be to establish guidelines, advertise format differences, etc. – and to make sure that members are aware of any proposed changes in direction that the meetings and session organization is to take. We believe that many of the changes recommended above will be welcomed by the membership as win-win proposals. By being diligent about explaining any changes and emphasizing their need and benefits, we will go a long way to facilitating that transition.
- 2. Centralizing program development processes:* Simply put: in order to achieve more control over sessions, it is necessary to exercise more influence on session creation. That will require some degree of centralization of the process – which has both costs and benefits (already mentioned).

- a. *Strengthen the role and increase the responsibilities of the Program Committee:* The program committee will need to have more direct oversight of some kind over session proposers and organizers. Given that Program Committee members are selected with some reference to their subfield specialties, one way of exercising oversight is to have areas of oversight assigned that would likely be associated with subfields of research. That would be a crucial means through which Program Committee members might "steer" and rationalize sessions (especially those with many overlapping sessions) while still allowing the organization of the program to come mostly from the membership. The specific nature and form of that oversight would need to be specified. However, Program Committee members are in a good position to assist volunteer organizers to understand guidelines – e.g. recognizing which submissions are appropriate for which types of sessions (although much of that work might be accomplished by adding identifying categories in the submission process, explained below). Such oversight would also address the problems of unevenness across the program in terms of areas of interest. For example, one large area of Sociology that has been poorly represented in general on recent programs is Criminology. By assigning oversight responsibilities by areas of interest, we would have Program Committees with direct responsibility for promoting such underrepresented areas.
  - b. *Institutionalize continuity within Program Committee:* One of the challenges of handing increased responsibilities to the Program Committee is that they are ad hoc committees reconstituted annually by the PSA President (in conjunction with the Program Chair selected by President). That guarantees that each program is produced annually with little learning curve or institutional learning. We argue that process makes it difficult to exercise oversight, and difficult to put any plans for improvement into operation. We would suggest that the Program Committee (or at least a core of it) become an elected committee with standard several year terms. If we had an elected core, that would allow continuity, and would still allow the President and Program Chair to tailor the annual meetings to their individual liking – which we also believe is a useful process. One downside of an elected Program Committee is that it might be seen as taking away the presidential imprint on annual meetings.
3. *Alter the session proposal and paper submission processes:* In order to carry out any of the recommendations above, it will be essential to alter in some small ways both the session proposal process and the paper submission process. We suggest considering the following changes:
    - a. *Offer more options for session proposals:* New formats need to be made clear in the session proposal process – i.e. whether organizers seek to organizer full paper sessions, research-in-progress sessions, etc.
    - b. *Institutionalize increased options for presenter submissions:* Presentation proposals should likewise have more options for identifying the type of presentation that they wish to make. Proposers should be able to identify

the type and stage of research that they have (or are likely to have at the time of the conference). Additionally, full paper proposals should submit something much more developed than research-in-progress proposals. Regardless of any decisions about the nature of the submission process, to make them effective, substantial work will be necessary to educate members about them and to institutionalize those changes.

- c. *Institutionalize a two-stage submission process for papers*: It might be possible to require fall submission of abstracts, and then winter submission of papers at which point assignments can be made to particular sessions. So, say, fifteen full papers are accepted in the area of Political Sociology in the fall process; in the late winter, with the submission of full papers, assignments are made to sessions in a process designed to highlight the most innovative and developed research. This would be undertaken in conjunction with the recommendation below concerning program scheduling. Of course, that would involve a tremendous amount of additional work to be undertaken by some set of members, which presents very clear obstacles. While this comes as an issue for consideration, this is *not* a recommendation at the current time due to the logistical issues which it raises.

C. *Soliciting involvement of faculty from doctoral granting institutions*: It is hoped that increasing the overall quality of presentations will help to cultivate increased involvement of research-oriented faculty over time. However, we should also pursue some more direct and immediate means to increase their involvement in the meetings and in the association. We offer the following as some ways to do so.

1. *Increase the number of invited sessions*: Invited sessions should be seen as a great opportunity to increase participation of faculty from doctoral-granting departments. Special invitations seem to be effective. (See also the idea presented above regarding inviting researchers to present large projects in progress in various fields of research.)
2. *Faculty-student sessions*: It might be possible to institutionalize faculty-student research in sessions open only to joint presentations. To the extent that this focused on graduate students, it would also serve to increase participation of faculty from doctoral-granting institutions. (It would be essential to ensure that presentations are actually joint presentations, rather than joint research presented by graduate students.)
3. *Contact faculty through student mentor identification*: As discussed in the Committee, while the PSA is doing a wonderful service in providing venues for the professional socialization of graduate students, many of their mentors (who are receiving indirect benefits of this) are not participating nor contributing in any way to the PSA. We believe that this might offer some leverage for positive participation. One way of achieving that is to request of student members the names of their advisor or primary research mentor. When we have that information, we can match it with faculty non-members, and that will offer a way to contact those professors to offer them an opportunity to be involved in the PSA and the annual meetings. In particular, those professors might be asked if they might be interested in serving in panels of grad students doing research in their

fields, where they might read over students papers and offer feedback. We could also offer the opportunity to present their research (perhaps making sure that sessions would be adjacent on the schedule).

*D. Integrating session format differences into program scheduling*

If we are able to make distinctions among various types of presentations and session formats, it would make sense to match session distinctions into program scheduling: place special sessions in high visibility slots, and to the extent possible, try to schedule one or two high visibility (general interest) sessions for each time slot, with the others being sessions that will attract mainly those presenting and those with closely related interests. And try to find some way to identify these distinctions more clearly in the program.

Additionally, it might be useful to identify sessions by recognized fields of research rather than simply by session titles (which can be very idiosyncratic) and which makes it difficult for sociologists interested in particular subfields to identify relevant sessions throughout the program. This might possibly help to increase audience attendance.

## ***Report from the Endowment Committee, Seattle Meeting 2011***

Chair, Dean S. Dorn, CSU Sacramento

Members present: Mike Harrod, Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Ethel Nicdao, Dean Dorn, and guest Wendy Ng.

Dorn reported the financial status of the Endowment Fund. At the end of the 2010 fiscal year on December 31, the fund's total was \$239,272.91. The income for 2010 totaled \$4,616.67, with interest accounting for \$1,625.67 and donations \$2,990.00. Expenditures were \$4,745.00 for student travel awards.

Discussion regarding next year's student travel awards was the first item on the agenda. Carli Richie-Zavaleta volunteered to process student applications for the awards. She created a unique email address for this purpose: [psatravelgrants@gmail.com](mailto:psatravelgrants@gmail.com). Students will be asked to send their name and e-mail address to this special e-mail address. Carli will then select the recipients randomly.

The Committee also discussed ideas regarding fund-raising for next year. The following ideas were accepted.

1. Those donating online or by mail (during the annual membership and registration drive) would be asked to select a donation "tier": Gold Donor (\$100 plus); Silver Donor (\$50-99); Bronze (\$25-49) and Thank You (Below \$25). Those who donate at the Gold Donor level by March 1 would have their names published in the annual program and also published on the PSA Web site. If they donated after March 1, their names would appear in the next year's annual program and also be published online.
2. It was also decided to ask each PSA Committee to donate at least one item from the committee for the Endowment Fund silent auction that would take place at the annual

meeting. The donated item or items could range from a basket of food, tea, fruit, spa items, etc. to gift cards or hand crafted items. The committee's name would be attached to the item or items donated, so that everyone can see which committee donated which items. In addition to soliciting committees for donated auction items, the committee will send email to members asking for their donations as well.

3. At next year's meeting in San Diego, the committee agreed to spend time with a fund-raising consultant for some help and suggestions about setting of bequests and other types of donations and fund-raising. The consultant will most likely be someone from San Diego state.
4. The committee decided to request Council to support again next year using the endowment fund for 50 student travel grants at \$125 each.
5. Finally, the committee discussed offering student's registration costs on a random basis, using the same process as is currently used for student travel grants, except the students could qualify just by attending the conference; they would not have to be listed on the program. Dorn brought this idea up to Council in Seattle and Council decided to have this item brought back to the Endowment Committee for further discussion. Council was concerned about moving ahead with more student subsidies at this time, even though the cost to the fund would be minimal. The association is headed toward higher operating costs in the future and it is too early to know if Endowment Funds will have to be used for some of the day-to-day operations of the association. And it was pointed out that the association already provides over \$8,000 to students, including the travel grants and student paper awards.

## ***2011 Committee on the Community College Report***

J. Vern Cromartie, Chair

- The Committee on the Community College sponsored five sessions at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the PSA.
- The Committee on Community Colleges met on Saturday, March 12, 2011. Of the 8 membership positions on the Committee on Community Colleges, none will have their stints end at the conclusion of the conference. Whereas there was a total of 10 membership positions in 2010, that number was reduced to 8 in 2011. The Committee on Community Colleges recommends that the number be increased to 10 again to increase and maximize the participation of the community college faculty. In addition to Charles F. Hohm, the March 12, 2011 committee meeting was attended by J.Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College; Susan Palmer, Walla Walla Community College; and Carli Richie-Zavaleta, formerly at Mira Costa College and presently at the University of California, San Diego. It is assumed that many committee members did not attend the conference because of the lack of support by their institutions regarding attendance costs (travel, hotel, etc). It is also assumed that participation will increase at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in San Diego. Cromartie will send emails to committee members who did not attend the conference to

encourage them to organize and participate in sessions at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in San Diego.

- The Committee on Community Colleges will sponsor five sessions at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in San Diego. J. Vern Cromartie will organize a paper session titled, "Issues in Race and Ethnicity" and a roundtable titled "Issues in the Community College." Susan Palmer will organize a paper session titled "McDonaldization of Higher Education" and a panel session titled "Community Colleges as Foundations for Success: Sociology Faculty with Community College Roots." Carli Riche-Zavaleta will organize a paper session titled "Migrants and Education."
- J. Vern Cromartie will continue to serve as chair of the Committee on Community colleges for the 2010-2011 academic year. Cromartie is also in the process of developing a written chronology on the history of the PSA's Committee on Community Colleges.

### **PSA Committee on Practice Applied and Clinical Sociology (CPACS)**

Minutes 201 Annual CPACS Committee Meeting (Seattle, WA)

Saturday March 12, 2011 1:30

Members Present: Bob Kettlitz (Chair), David Musick, Jeffery Houser (new member)

Members Absent: Meda Chesney-Lind, Richard Garvey, Richard Lockwood, Yvonne Luna, Susan Mannon, Don Winiacki and Marcus Marquandt.

Guests: Chuck Holm

Meeting called to order at 1:45pm

Introductions for new member Jeff Houser from the University of Northern Colorado.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Election of Chair**

Bob addressed Don Winiacki's proposal to have a dual chair and his request/nomination to be co-chair. Proposal was discussed and rejected. David Musick nominated Kettlitz for second term as chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Houser. Bob Kettlitz was reelected for a second term as chair. Student representative (Marcus Marquandt)

#### **Agenda Item 2: Recruitment**

The committee currently has seven faculty and one student member serving on the committee. Attendance for committee meetings has been poor for the past three meetings. David stated his feelings about people using committee membership as a line on a vita but not taking their committee responsibilities seriously, Jeff, Bob and Chuck agreed with David that it does happen. David suggested that the PSA needs to put in place rules/guidelines that committee members must follow or risk being removed from the committee, all present agreed. Chuck stated that he would pursue this issue. Marcus Marquandt (student rep) has never responded to email contacts nor attended any committee meetings. A new student representative needs to be appointed to the committee. The committee is currently looking for new members.

#### **Agenda 3: Role of CPACS/Visibility**

David, Bob and Jeff agreed that the major functions of the committee are to promote visibility of "sociological practice" and sponsor sessions for the annual conference.

David mentioned that our visibility might be improved if we rename the committee to something like "Committee on Sociological Practice". The following is added and was not part of the discussion but is relevant and should be addressed for next year's conference. Last year Dean Dorn asked us to consider taking up an effort to propose revisions to the PSA guidelines for selecting a winner of the PSA's ***Distinguished Contributions to Practice Award***. Bob Kettlitz mentioned that at the Association for Applied, Clinical and Sociological Practice conference a local agency is give an award for doing great applied, clinical or sociological practice work in the community. During the conference representatives of that agency are presented an award for their outstand service. The award is a very popular event at the conference. Bob K. will begin to contact departments of sociology in the San Diego area to find worthy nominees.

#### **Agenda Item 4. 2012 Session Proposal.**

David mentioned that sessions with short titles seem to attract many participants. He cited his success at organizing sessions as evidence. David suggested that we propose sessions that provide examples of sociological practice, these would be an invited sessions. Bob proposed developing a session that addressed job opportunities for students with an applied or practice emphasis. Jeff will propose and organize a session on applied sociology. Yvonne Luna emailed Bob with the following suggestions for sessions "I would like to make sure that the panel organized for the last several years by Warren Lucas, Evaluating Social Programs: Successes, Failures & Innovations, be proposed for the 2012 conference. Warren may not attend the meeting if he is out of the country during his sabbatical. In that case, I've agreed to preside over it for him. In addition, do you think it would be appropriate to propose a panel specifically targeting students who could present on their applied projects?"

Bob will email other committee members requesting they organize sessions for the 2012 meeting in San Diego.

New Business: Members present ask Jeff to begin the process of forming a Committee on Disabilities.

No Old Business.

Meeting adjourned around 2:15pm

#### ***Committee on Committees report***

The Committee on Committees met on Saturday, March 12th. All members of the committee were present. Initial assignments for finding new members to committees are listed further below. Additional assignment forthcoming.

A question that arose during the meeting was that status of student membership on committees. The bylaws state that students can be members of all committees except the Awards committees. On some committees, the length of service for students is specified in the bylaws, which can be found at the link below. As Chuck Hohm noted, the ideal would be for each committee to have a mix of levels in their ranks. Bylaws for each committee are found in the links on this page: <http://www.pacificsoc.org/committees/>

Assignments:

# openings/Committee/who is in charge

(2) openings on Awards: Don B & Sandra Way

(1) opening on Teaching: Echo Fields

(2) openings on COFRAT: not assigned, if no one available, Don B will handle

(2) openings on Membership: Marta Elliot  
(1) opening on Student Affairs: Michelle Jacob  
(3) openings on Practice/Applied: Sheila Steinberg  
(2) openings on Community Colleges: not assigned, if no one available, Don B will handle  
(2) openings on Social Conscience: Don B  
need to be appointed early fall 2011  
must be from the San Diego area  
No openings listed:  
Endowment  
Status of Women  
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
Race & Ethnic Minorities  
GLBT

### ***Committee on Civil Rights & Civil Liberties***

We meet on from 8:30 – 10 AM on Saturday, March 12. Following are various updates and some things that will need to be planned for in advance:

**Membership:** The terms for many of us end this year or, at least according to PSA records, already ended! The committee for next year is below (I think the years may be off by one, I'm checking):

Akihiko Hirose (13) University of Colorado Denver  
Sine Anahita (13) University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Molly Talcott (14) CSULA  
Anthony Sivaggio (14) Humboldt State  
Brian Wolf (14) University of Idaho  
Alison Cliath (14) CSU Fullerton

**Chair:** Since I am rotating off the committee, the new committee will need to elect a chair from the above.

**Sessions 2011:** Some of the sessions organized by the committee did not get listed as organized by the committee, but here's what are the sessions that I know of that we're presenting:

11) The Moral Panic Perspective in Scholarship, Activism & Teaching  
161) Social Resistance: From WTO to Now  
159) Fighting for the Public Good: The Future of Quality Higher Education  
198) Video Session: Modern Day Slavery: Visually Telling the Story

**Sessions 2012 (San Diego):** Time now to start thinking about sessions to propose for 2012

**Report:** The committee chair is supposed to give a report during the PSA Business meeting on Saturday (5:15 – 6:00). I am not going to be able to go to that meeting due to a conflict, so hopefully the new chair will be able to go.

### ***PSA Committee on Teaching***

Meeting Minutes

*2011 meeting, PSA SEATTLE*

*Friday, March 11th: 1:45-3:15 PM*

*Present:* Michelle M. Camacho (chair), Rosemary Powers, Caleb Bush, Joshua Meisel, Amy Denissen, Dean Dorn, Pam McMullin-Messier, Megan Wright

#### **I. Announcements**

- A. This year we are welcoming three new members to our committee who will serve to replace three outgoing members of the committee:  
 Pam McMullin-Messier from Central WA U  
 Anjana Narayan from Cal Poly Pomona  
 Megan Wright U Arizona
- The four members who served at the PSA in Seattle for their final year include:  
 Rosemary Powers, Eastern Oregon  
 Lindsay Custer, Cascadia Comm College  
 Caleb Bush, Univ New Mexico  
 Michelle M. Camacho, University of San Diego, \*outgoing as chair.
- B. One of our important achievements as a committee last year was rewriting the descriptions for the Teaching Awards. These new criteria are now in effect and have been circulated by the new PSA Executive Director, Chuck Hohm, and are also available on the PSA website.
- C. There will be session organizer is live online at the PSA Web site:  
<http://www.pacificsoc.org/2006/08/2012-annual-meeting.html> click on "Session Proposal Form." Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2011. The 2012 Session Proposal Form is now up on the website.
- D. It has been proposed that all teaching-related sessions that are proposed outside of the Teaching Committee be referred to the committee for consideration before being included in the call. This might alleviate much of the overlap (there were originally 27 teaching sessions in the call for this year's meeting). The Teaching Committee recommends that the program chair and teaching committee co-chairs consult each other early on to address issues of session overlap.

II. **Possible Sessions to be proposed by the Teaching Committee for PSA San Diego 2012: Discussion**

Rosemary Powers —TEACHING INTRO OFF THE GRID||  
 Teaching Intro -- new strategies using technology; outside the textbook range; introducing research methods in intro "TEACHING INTRO W/O A TEXTBOOK "

Caleb Bush-- TEACHING THE MASS CLASS: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES IN LARGE CLASSROOMS, possibly as a workshop? Note: Josh will get a presider for this session; Caleb is now in Wisc & may not be @PSA

Empowering students through sociology: creating agency in the classroom (ideas about "double agents") -- Derrick Snow, College of W Idaho (Caleb will contact)

Pam McMullin-Messier – —Effective service learning -- the good the bad the ugly||  
 —Teaching about inequalities in a hostile environment||

Rosemary Powers will contact:  
 Randy Stoeker -- parasitic nature of CSL -- a healthy critique of the reciprocal encounter; building partnerships

Amy Denissen—EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS ON TEACHING (EFFECTS OF ECONOMY ON QUALITY OF TEACHING) & TEACHING IN THE CLOUD: SOCIAL MEDIA AND STUDENTS (workshop)

Josh Meisel-- InsideOut -- prison model sociology experiential; Note: It was offered this year, possibly repeat next year?  
 Experiential learning

Survey research online -- new software apps (workshop?) --ICPSR -- Univ Michigan, (combine w/ other tech related sessions, suggest internet access in room);

PROMOTING QUANT LITERACY: ACCESSING AND USING ONLINE DATASETS IN THE SOC CLASSROOM

Rosemary Powers recommends  
 JayeCee Whitehead: PARTNERSHIPS W/ UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS "STUDENTS AS RESEARCH COLLEAGUES"

Dean Dorn: The committee would like to see a presidential session on a teaching on topic of your choice

Megan Wright-- (Invited) workshop -- teaching your first sociology class (mentoring)

**III. Election of New Co-Chairs -- Results**

Amy Denissen, CSUN

Josh Meisel, Humboldt

### ***Emeritus Committee Report***

The newly formed Emeritus Committee corresponded initially through e-mail and worked out a mission statement and goals for the 2010-2011 year.

#### **The mission statement:**

The mission of the Pacific Sociological Association's Emeritus Committee reflects the PSA mission statement "...to advance scholarly research on all social processes and areas of social life...and...to mentor the next generation of sociologists." The Emeritus Committee encourages and enables sociologists who have retired from their faculty positions, but not from their discipline, to participate in all aspects of the association: the intellectual, the scholarly, and the social.

The Committee decided that identifying an Emeriti Table at the Presidential Reception was a wonderful way for emeriti to meet, greet and find each other at the PSA meeting. Noting that many emeriti attend the Presidential Address, the committee recognizes this reception as an ideal time to have an Emeriti Gathering. Since this was the first year of such an event, the committee chair prepared 100 flyers promoting the reception and distributed these throughout the meeting. At this year's reception about 15 -20 emeriti congregated and seating was provided for those who needed this assistance. The Committee requests that next year, an announcement about the reception be placed in the Program in the section describing the Presidential reception.

The Committee held discussions concerning how to attract more emeriti. We requested that a member of the Emeritus Committee be on the Program Committee so sessions of special interest to emeriti would be included. Jean Stafford attended the program committee for the 2012 meetings and the Emeritus committee has submitted 4 sessions.

Submitted by Jane Emery Prather, emeritus professor, Sociology  
California State University, Northridge

### ***Nominations Committee Report***

DATE: May 4, 2011

TO: Chuck Hohm, PSA Executive Director

FROM: Sharon K. Araji, 2011 PSA President (Now Past President)  
Chair, Nominations Committee

SUBJECT: Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee for the 2012 Slate of Nominees met at the PSA meetings in Seattle on Saturday, March 12, 8:30-10:30 a.m. The committee includes Sharon K. Araji (UC Denver), Past PSA President and Committee Chair, Amy Leisenring (SJSU), Amy Orr (Linfield College), Michelle Camacho (SDSU), and Chuck Hohm (SDSU), Executive Director. Araji, Camacho, Leisenring, and Orr were present, and Dean Dorn, PSA Treasurer, attended in place of Dr. Hohm.

Those in attendance used the nominations material provided by PSA Secretary Ginny Mulle, to prepare lists of nominees for the 2012 ballot. However, we were unable to go beyond this task, such as contacting those on our lists who might be at the PSA meetings, because we did not

have access to the 2011 ballot, to determine if any overlaps between that list and ours occurred. As our committee's list of nominees is not due until May 2012, we will now begin contacting those on our lists, as we have received the names of those on the 2011 nomination ballot. We will submit our nominations long before the May 2012 deadline.