



Sociolines

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2011 PA Sociological Society Officers

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Successful PSS 51st meeting at Seton Hill

The PSS just completed a very successful conference on the campus of Seton Hill on Sept 30th and October 1st. This year the PSS program focused on how sociologists engage with their communities in order to effect positive social change. Beginning with the early founders of the discipline, sociologists have been committed to social change and activism. This commitment is perhaps even more important in our increasingly complex and global world. Among some of the issues explored included how do we inspire and mentor students to play an active role in creating social change. Along with what are the types of successful interaction and dialogue with community agencies that are being implemented? Our keynote speaker Amir M. Marvasti, Associate Professor from Penn State Altoona presented "We're All in this Together: From Diverse Experiences to a Common Humanity". Using qualitative interviews, field observations, and personal experience, he showed how two seemingly distinct groups (i.e. the homeless and Middle Eastern Americans) share similar experiences regarding: 1) self-other relations in the context of egregious stereotypes; 2) awareness of mortality and time; 3) desire for belonging; and 4) the wish for new experiences. He demonstrated that qualitative research can be used to encourage people to locate their selves in the experiences of others. His collections of interview videos lead to a deeper understanding. He concluded it is necessary to move beyond simplistic approaches that pit one group against another or simply encourage dominant groups to have empathy for the less fortunate. We need to recognize, in the words of a homeless white man, that "we're all in this together" that we are united by our common woes, anxieties, and desires.

New Graduate Student Poster Competition

The request for entrance in the poster competition by was very high for 2011 by graduate students. At the annual meeting PSS officially added a new poster section for graduates with prizes attached. V. P. Ying Yang will be coordinating the paper and posters. For more information contact her at yyang@ship.edu

Sociological Viewpoints loses Editor Anthony Zumpetta and gains new Editor Libby Larson

Anthony Zumpetta was the editor of Sociological Viewpoints in 2001 to 2003 and returned to take on the reigns of the journal again in 2005. Tony has decided to more fully enjoy his retirement and let the elected officers know of his intent to retire fully last month. His work is greatly appreciated. He has maintained and enhanced the journal publication in his time as editor.

A called went out to members for a new editor last month. The response was wonderful. It is exciting to know there is a strong commitment of members to the journal and its quality. We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Larsen will be the new editor.

You can reach Libby at:

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Pennsylvania Sociological Society

Membership rates at \$40.00 per year it includes subscription to the PSS newsletter *Socioline* and the refereed journal *Sociological Viewpoints*.

Waiver of the \$10 submission fee on any manuscripts submitted to *Sociological Viewpoints* for consideration of publication.

Elizabethtown College Senior Wins 2011 Undergraduate Paper Com

Barbara Prince, a senior from Elizabethtown College was the winner of the 2011 Undergraduate Paper Competition. The title of her paper is *When is Mommy Coming Home? A Content Analysis of Spillover in Parenthood*. Barbara's presentation and research on parent perspectives adds to an interesting body of work on work spillover and role strain. Her abstract is as follows: In recent decades, parents have begun devoting more time to their careers than to their roles in the family unit. At the same time, the amount of time spent watching television has increased exponentially. Due to the wide variety of uses for television programming, television media both influences and shapes the lives of families in the United States. This study examined the representation of spillover in the United States as portrayed in television media. The data for this research were obtained from a content analysis of the first season of *Parenthood*. Results support the hypotheses that women will be shown experiencing more work-to-family spillover than men but do not support the hypothesis that women will be shown experiencing more family-to-work spillover than men. The findings of this research will be useful for work-family scholars, and individuals struggling with balancing work and family.



Off to Penn State Schuylkill 2012 Conference and Theme

The PSS conference is head to Penn State Schuylkill for the meeting in Fall 2012. It will be held Oct 12th and 13th 2012. This will be the first time the conference will be held here. The Schuylkill campus is located in Schuylkill Haven, PA "The Little Town That Could". Located near Schuylkill Haven in the Blue Mountains of east central Pennsylvania, Penn State Schuylkill is within a two- to three-hour drive to major cities such as Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. Penn State Schuylkill enrolls about 1,000 students and provides on-campus housing for approximately 200 students. The focus for this year's conference is, "Changing Lives: Real potentials of humanity". The focus will be examining how sociologists work to facilitate change to better society. Lester Ward the first president of the ASA wrote the book *Applied Sociology* in 1906 as sociologists tried to determine the focus of our discipline. He emphasized the need to have the work of our research serve the community and the world. Today the need is as great as it was over one hundred years ago to have the work of sociology continue to reach to better the world and those lives in it. Our Friday evening speaker has confirmed. Gail Largey will take us down the historical path of sociology. Expect an exciting meeting.