

SOCIOGRAPH

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'With Justice for All' 2004 SOM Conference – October 7 & 8, 2004

The 2004 Sociologists of Minnesota Conference is coming to Red Wing, Minn., on October 7-8, 2004. Mark your calendar for an excellent opportunity to take in new knowledge about sociology – both applied and academic – and socialize with your colleagues and make new contacts. Students, this is great way to get to know what we do for fun.

We are excited about the general topic of the conference – With Justice for All. Though we encourage any and all organizers to share their expertise and research, as we want to offer a wide variety of issues, we are focusing on the important topic of “justice” for the 2004 conference. We will have sessions on the topics of:

- Criminal justice
- Global justice
- Environmental justice
- Justice and immigration

There will also be sessions on teaching sociology at both the university and high school level. For specific topics, see the “Call for Papers, Presentations, and Panelists.”

We are excited about our venue – the Minnesota Correctional Facility – in Red Wing. You will literally step “behind the walls” for the conference. You will remain very safe in the meeting facilities, yet you can get a feel of this institution with a history that goes back to 1875. Tours of the facility grounds and selected building will be available throughout the conference, if you are interested. For the sightseers among us, the MCF-Red Wing is nestled in the bluffs of the Hiawatha Valley, overlooking the Mississippi River. If we are lucky, the fall colors will still be with us.

Thursday evening hotel accommodations are available at the AmericInn in Red Wing, within three miles of the conference location. See important details in the next edition of *Sociograph* before calling. Hotel information is also currently available on our website. Other room arrangements in the area may also be available. Book early! Book now!!

The keynote presentation will follow a social hour and buffet dinner in the clubhouse of the Mississippi National Golf Links, immediately adjacent to the correctional facility, on its east side.

We are pleased to welcome Mark Carey, president-elect of the American Probation and Parole Association as our keynote speaker. Mark is currently the warden of the MCF-Shakopee, Minnesota's 455-bed sole women's prison. Mark's reputation as an excellent speaker and his wealth of experience will be a wonderful complement to the annual conference program. We feel especially honored that Mark has agreed to join us October 7 and 8. The keynote discussion on Friday will be very engaging, as it will include some of the perspective of life inside the very walls of this facility.

As in all other years, we are looking for organizers for panels, paper sessions, roundtables, poster sessions, workshops, etc., for this conference. If you are interested in being an organizer or even present a paper, please contact Paul Schmid or Dane E. Petersen ASAP (see special *Sociograph* section on “Call for Organizers & Papers” for details). ☺

Call for Organizers

The SOM Board and conference chairs need your assistance now. We continue to seek organizers for the Sociologist of Minnesota Annual Conference on October 7 & 8, 2004. We still need organizer assistance in the area of roundtables and a student poster session. All areas of sociological practice are welcome. Sessions organized relating to the conference theme, general sociology, and sessions organized of particular interest to students and teachers of high school sociology are particularly encouraged.

If you are interested in being an organizer, please send a proposal ASAP to:

Paul Schmid
Gantz Wiley Research
901 Marquette Avenue, Suite 1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
pschmid@gantzwiley.com


or

Dane E. Petersen
Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing
1079 Highway 292
Red Wing, MN 55066
Petersen@redwing.net 

Seriously, Why Aren't You More Involved In SOM?

The past-president serves as chair of the nominating committee for SOM. Although elections do not take place until the annual business meeting in October, nominations may be made at any time. A list of current board members and officers, and their terms of office, may be found on SOM's website <www.sociologistsofminnesota.org>.

Contact James Sherohman today to nominate a colleague or yourself for a board position.

James Sherohman
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498 

SOM Secures 501 (c)(3) Status

Joan Vitek Hiller, Social Research Associates

Congratulations! Due to the persistence of Jim Sherohman, as well as supporting roles by Susan Smith-Cunnien, Tim Pippert, and Joan Hiller, Sociologists of Minnesota has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS!

What does this mean?

By recognizing Sociologists of Minnesota as a nonprofit exempt organization, the IRS has determined it is organized for educational purposes as outlined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. With this designation, your donations over and above the cost of your membership may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for an individual's or corporate tax return. In addition, Sociologists of Minnesota now qualifies as an exempt organization to which foundations and corporate giving programs may grant funds. So if your employer has an employee gift matching program, your donation may bring in even more money. These funds can support conferences, student projects or participation, and other special events.


Exempt status also opens the door to a number of other resources from such support organizations as the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Sociologists of Minnesota also qualifies for special privileges granted to nonprofit organizations (such as free or reduced fees for using public meeting spaces in libraries and schools).

How did this happen?

Jim Sherohman began the process during his tenure as SOM president after the St. Cloud Post Office questioned our ability to send out *Sociograph* as a non-profit entity. Upon further examination of our records, it became clear that SOM had never filed for 501(c)(3) status. To assist the board in this effort, I was asked to assist the board in the application process because a large part of my work at Social Research Associates, Inc., is assisting nonprofit organizations with organizational development. I have helped a number of startup organizations with the process of requesting exempt status from the IRS.

In addition to completing multiple IRS forms and communicating with IRS representatives, the team went on a bureaucratic scavenger hunt to assemble board information, financial statements, and lists of activities including time and resources devoted to each one.

In its first ruling, the IRS categorized SOM as a 501(c)(6) organization. The team decided to appeal this decision and was ultimately able to secure the more applicable 501(c)(3) status.

Joan Vitek Hiller, Ph.D., LISW, CFRE, works with nonprofit organizations in the areas of organizational development, evaluation, and fund raising. She may be reached at <jhiller@core.com>. 

Call for Papers, Presentations, and Panelists 2004 SOM Conference – With Justice for All

Contact the organizers below with your interest in participating as a presenter or panelist. Your involvement makes the conference. Your participation is vital. We are all enriched by your contribution to the discipline of sociology at this conference.

General Proposals – Papers/Sessions/Workshops/Roundtables

Paul Schmid
Gantz Wiley Research
901 Marquette Avenue South
Suite 1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
pschmid@gantzwiley.com

Qualitative Research

Scott Magnuson-Martinson
Department of Sociology
Normandale Community College
9700 France Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431
Scott.Magnuson-Martinson@normandale.edu

It's Everywhere! It's Everywhere!–Applying Sociology to Create a Better World – Paper Presentation

Leah Rogne
Minnesota State University, Mankato
113 Armstrong Hall
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-5610
leah.rogne@mnsu.edu

We're Everywhere! We're Everywhere! Applying Sociology in the Work World – Panel Discussion

Paul Schmid
Gantz Wiley Research
901 Marquette Avenue South
Suite 1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
pschmid@gantzwiley.com

Criminal Justice – Paper Presentation

Norma Armstrong
SICK MAIHAK, Inc.
6900 West 110th Street
Bloomington, MN 55438
Norma.Armstrong@sickmaihak.com

Criminal Justice – Panel Discussion

Dane Petersen
MN Dept. of Corrections-Red Wing
130 Culter Hill Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Petersen@redwing.net

Global Justice – Paper Presentation

Afroza Anwary
Department of Sociology
Minnesota State University, Mankato
113 Armstrong Hall
Mankato MN 56001
afroza.anwary@mnsu.edu

Justice and Immigration – Panel Discussion

Erica Busse
Department of Sociology
University of Minnesota
909 Social Sciences Building
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
buss0101@umn.edu

Environmental Sociology

Karen Branden
Dept of Social Relations and Services
Bemidji State University
Box 23, HS 351
Bemidji, MN 56601
kbranden@bemidjistate.edu

Race, Religion and Diversity in America: Findings from a New Study (Announcement Only)

Douglas Hartmann, Penny Edgell and Joseph Gerteis
University of Minnesota
909 Social Sciences Building
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Hartm021@umn.edu

Sins of the Fathers – Understanding & Working with Abused Delinquent Youth (Announcement Only)

Dane Petersen
MN Dept. of Corrections-Red Wing
130 Culter Hill Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Petersen@redwing.net

CALL FOR PAPERS, cont. on page 6

Revisioning and Revitalizing the Course on Gender

Meg Wilkes Karraker, Professor & Chair of Sociology, University of St. Thomas

We have had a general course at the University of St. Thomas in the sociology of gender for over a decade. However, of late the course seemed to be losing its niche to other courses in the social sciences with “gender” in the title. In spring 2003 I was awarded a curriculum development grant from the Luann Dummer Center for Women at the University of St. Thomas to develop a comparative course on gender. The comparative focus meets important objectives at the university and the Center for Women, as well as my own developing interests in sociology.

While by no means a course unique in sociology departments in Minnesota, this course and others like it have critical value for:

- Students planning a career that impacts or is impacted by the global economy, the world political stage, or the world wide web of mass communication – e.g., Advertising, Aerospace Studies, Business, Communication, Economics, International Studies, Journalism, Modern Language, Political Science
- Change agents and social activists who seek to understand the interplay among gender, oppression, and social change – e.g., Catholic Studies, Community Health Education, Criminal Justice, Education, Environmental Studies, Justice & Peace Studies, Legal Studies, Public Relations, Social Work, Urban Studies
- Scholars who seek to enrich their study with comparative, global, or international perspectives – e.g., Women’s Studies and American Cultural Studies, as well as Theology and Philosophy, Sociology and Psychology
- Anyone moved by and seeking to understand recent world events that have resulted in the enslavement, genocide, oppression, or rape of women and men, their children and families

As such, the course has the potential to attract students to sociology who might otherwise not consider an elective beyond the introductory course. Further, the course has appeal to students as future change agents. In this era of increasing emphasis on enrollments and the bottom line, explicit communication of the value of sociology courses beyond the major is not pandering, it is essential.

Along the way, I acquired appreciation for:

- How far our discipline has come in the last decade in addressing the global contexts of gender
- How wide the resources are for building curriculum around comparative gender concerns, both among my colleagues in sociology and in other disciplines
- How deep the resources are for integrating the expertise of diverse communities and professionals
- How exciting it is to “start from scratch” after over a quarter century of teaching

A description for the course, which will be offered for the first time in fall 2004 (TR 9:55-11:35 A.M.), follows:

Gender is the most important variable in determining life chances across societies. In every society, females and males are assigned different statuses and receive different treatment at birth, during childhood, and throughout the life course. Differing attitudes about the social roles and values of men and women are rooted in religion and lived in family arrangements. Patterns of prejudice and discrimination are institutionalized in education and economics and codified by governments and other political institutions.

In this course we examine the global significance of gender and the experience of women and men worldwide. Throughout the course we consider the connections to world system processes, including capitalism and democratization, and social policies enacted by world bodies such as the United Nations and the World Bank. Finally we explore global feminism and other movements for social change in the status of men and women.

On a Recent Trip to Bali ... Sociologists and Engineers in Paradise

Karen Braden, Bemidji State University

The Balinese call Bali Pulau Dewata, or "Island of the Gods." It is roughly 80 miles long and 45 miles wide. It is a very small island with about three million people, mostly adhering to their own unique style of Hinduism. It is known by many as a place of paradise. This past December I had the privilege of interviewing engineers attending the Fluid and Thermal Energy Conversion Conference held in Bali. I would like to share some of my experiences as I vacillated between my role as a sociologist and my impact as a tourist during this trip.

Bali is a cultural experience fascinating for sociologists because there is so much about it that is unique. Women are constantly gliding through the streets and paths in their traditional Hindu clothing with food offerings (especially fruit) balanced on their head as they go to temple (pura). These beautiful traditions mix with economic devastation, which mostly began during the 1997 Southeast Asian economic crash. This economic devastation was heightened by declining tourism due to the 2002 Bali bombing and SARS. The poor economy and the constant development made me move through feelings of frustration, sadness, and amazement to thinking about how sociology can help.

Bali remains a paradise "of the Gods" for tourists but less for the local population as tourism has altered their tiny island creating a number of problems. Even so, the local population would like tourism to increase because they see it as a way to alleviate their economic suffering. Most of the tourists are from Australia and many people were surprised to find out I was from the United States. When shop owners, motorcycle renters, hotel owners and staff, and restaurant owners found out I was from the United States they always asked, "when are people from America going to start coming back to Bali?" This is an important question since the decline in tourism has brought many people to near starvation.

I was in Bali in 1997 before the economic crash and the important difference between then and now was physical contact. I was never touched when I was in Bali in 1997, but this past December people actually grabbed onto my arm and would not let go. This physical contact was an act of desperation. Even walking the beaches meant being approached by young women and children who constantly begged me to buy some of their crafts and/or postcards so they could make enough money to go to school. "Please," they would say, "buy this so I can get a good education." Education is free and open, however, there are fees associated with books and supplies that many families cannot afford. Furthermore, many families must rely on the money their children earn for survival. Working is more important than

education in this situation. There were other changes that are important to mention as well.

In 1997 I spent most of my time in Ubud, the cultural focal point located in the south central part of the island. The ride from the airport located in Denpasar was one of open fields and small villages. The changes from 1997 to 2003 were disturbing as there were only small rice fields which never opened up to anything identifiable except constant development, an occasional McDonalds, and even a Dunkin' Donuts which came in handy as a land mark on my motorcycle trip back to Denpasar. The important point for me as an environmental sociologist was that the increased population and the development were blatant and devastating. The open spaces are nearly gone. Another "tragedy of the commons" brought on by globalization and economic dependency and happening in the space of about six years.

I found myself asking a number of questions as I toured the island. How well will their culture mesh with the oncoming aspects of globalization? Although our ideas of "McDonaldization" are important approaches to understanding the waves of devastation globalization brings, what do starving people do? How do people "diffuse" influences from other cultures in desperate situations? Should we as sociologists "help" places like Bali in their quest for economic independence? The answers to these questions depend on each individual sociologist but I think many of them can be found in ASA president Michael Burawoy's discussion at the SOM conference this past fall and the theme he has developed for the 2004 ASA conference.

Burawoy has identified what he calls "four daunting challenges" for public sociology, the theme for this years ASA conference. To sum them up he calls for sociologists to do the following: defend what is public, use sociology's "critical imagination" to focus on helpful change, "build bridges" with the non-academic groups, and build two-way bridges of equality at the international level. He's truly a leader after my own sociology heart.

The voice of sociology seems particularly important because most of the changes happening in Bali are occurring on a global scale. Many people that I have met from other countries would like to have the standard of living that we enjoy in the United States. Unfortunately the messages they receive about our life style come from the popular media and promises from corporations. Their understanding of our culture is often narrow and misguided because they do not have access to the types of messages sociologists offer. They want our standard of living without all of the culture but often feel development can only occur in one way. Combining their

TRIP TO BALI, cont. on page 7

Sociologists of Minnesota Annual Student Paper Competition

Held in honor of Caroline Rose

Three Divisions

- Graduate • Upper division undergraduate (juniors and seniors)
- Lower division undergraduate (freshmen and sophomores)

FIRST PRIZES \$100

SECOND PRIZES \$75

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. The competition is open to any student who has written a paper while enrolled in a college or university in Minnesota during the 2003-2004 academic year. Single-authored papers only.
2. The paper should not exceed 20 double-spaced pages, excluding appendices and references, and should also include a brief abstract.
3. The name or institutional affiliation of the author must not appear in the text or in the abstract. The title of the paper should be included at the top of the first page of the text.
4. The name, telephone number, e-mail address, and mailing address of both the student and the faculty sponsor should be included in a separate cover page. This page should also include the title of the paper and indicate graduate, upper division undergraduate, or lower division undergraduate status.
5. Students who submit papers to this competition may submit the same paper to sessions at the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society or the American Sociological Association.
6. The winning authors are expected to be available to present their papers at the annual meeting, which will be held October 7-8, 2004, in Red Wing.
7. Papers involving human subjects must have Institutional Review Board (or its equivalent) approval, and must note the receipt of approval in the methodology.
8. Three copies of the paper must be postmarked by August 1, 2004.

Submit copies to:

Monte Bute
Social Science Department
Metropolitan State University
700 E. 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

All entrants receive free conference registration, meals, and membership in SOM. Prize winners also receive motel accommodations.

Call for Papers, cont. from page 3

Teaching White Privilege: Pedagogy and Implications for Social Justice – Panel Discussion

Hui Wilcox
Department of Sociology
University of Minnesota
909 Social Sciences Building
267 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455 niux0004@umn.edu

Teaching Sociology: Time Tested Ideas for Teaching High School Sociology

Robert Greene and Anne Cross
Alverno College, Milwaukee
4135 Barby Lane
Madison, WI 53704
rwgreene@execpc.com or Robert.greene@alverno.edu

Why Aren't You More Involved in SOM? A Roundtable Discussion

Tim Pippert
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue, Box #113
Minneapolis, MN 55454
pippert@augsb.org

SOM Student Paper Winners

Monte Bute
Metropolitan State University
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On a Recent Trip to Bali... Sociologists and Engineers in Paradise, cont. from page 5

own unique culture into aspects of development seems to be particularly challenging and nearly impossible, particularly when they are in such a vulnerable state. This is not a big surprise as the “one-way only” type of development continues to negatively impact groups in the United States, especially the reservations surrounding Bemidji State University where I teach as an assistant professor of sociology.

The two-way international bridge exists in a variety of forms. As previously mentioned, I was in Bali as an environmental sociologist and nearly all of my time was spent interviewing engineers. I chose this conference because it was international and involved a variety of engineers openly collaborating and discussing energy problems. The organizers of the conference are members of the International Scientific Committee, which is made up of engineers from around the world who come together every three years. It is a relatively small meeting with approximately 130 to 200 attendees depending on the year, and open to anyone. Many of the people attending are working on alternative and sustainable energy issues. The energy solutions being developed will help places like Bali survive in the long run, and give them the ability to endure in ways that would not effect their traditions. Their collaborations are a true inspiration for me and many of the engineers are involved in a variety of international two-way bridges.

For example, in Bandung, Indonesia, they are steaming “dirty” low-grade coal because Indonesia has quite a bit of low-grade coal it could use to produce “cheap” energy. The steaming process removes moisture and pollutants that would enter the air when the coal is burned. By reducing the moisture content of the coal it is usable as a viable energy source. This process allows Indonesia to use one of its own resources unavailable to them in the past. Some engineering students from the Netherlands have been doing graduate work in these laboratories. This same process can be used to steam biomass in the Netherlands so these students take what they have learned from the third world and apply it in their own countries. According to the engineers that I spoke with at the conference these give and take bridges strengthen both places.

Although sociologists are involved in countless two-way international bridges, we do need to address some issues. Namely, we have to continually let people know what we are and what we do. I actually interviewed an engineer from Japan who had never heard of sociology. How can this be? Following the interview I explained sociology to him. He felt sociologists and engineers should begin extensive collaborations. I let him know that collaborations were already taking place and that he was certainly welcome to be involved in them or develop some of his own design. One example I offered him came from an interview with an

engineer from Norway. In Norway there is a program that promotes an interdisciplinary approach to solving energy problems. Some of the key members of that group are sociologists because they tell engineers which energy solutions would work in the social world and which ones would most likely fail. Engineers want to know what groups of people do and why they do it. Sociology can tell them that. Engineers want to develop solutions that are easy for people to use. Sociologists can help them with that. Clearly, understanding the social world is crucial to “fixing” energy problems which is one of the reasons the Norway program has been successful.

I believe these types of collaborations, the two-way international bridges, are more common than people realize and often exist in sociology and many other disciplines but are unexplored, unknown, and their potential unrealized. I think it is less about developing two-way bridges and more about letting people know about the bridges that already exist so more people can build on successful collaborations. This is just one space that demonstrates sociology’s worth as an integral part of understanding and developing solutions to global issues. As a sociologist I feel very lucky because the people I have researched offer two-way bridges for us to cross together. I intend to cross as many of these as possible because I believe in the abilities of sociology and hope that we continue to use our creative and critical imaginations to let people know that privatization is not the answer, the gap is growing, and the bridges are sturdy and welcoming.

Dr. Karen Branden is an assistant professor of sociology at Bemidji State University. She also teaches as an adjunct instructor at the White Earth Tribal and Community College. Her areas of interest include environmental sociology, race and ethnicity, sexuality, and the media. She presented a paper based on her interviews with engineers at the Midwest Sociological Society’s conference in April 2004. She will also present this material at the Sociologists of Minnesota Conference in October 2004.

References

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Turner, Peter et al. 2000. *Lonely Planet: Indonesia*. Melbourne. Lonely Planet Publications.

American Sociological Association. “2004 Theme Statement.” www.asanet.org

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SOCIOGRAPH

SOCIOLOGISTS OF MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

About Sociograph

Sociograph is the official newsletter of Sociologists of Minnesota. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Augsburg College and Augsburg's Department of Sociology.

Send Submissions to:

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SOM Web Site

www.sociologistsofminnesota.org

Forward suggestions for updates to Tim Pippert <pippert@augzburg.edu>.

Happenings to the East

September 30 & October 1, 2004. Joint meeting of the Wisconsin Sociological Association and the 15th Conference on the Small City, Stevens Point, WI. Theme: "Governing the Small City." Other co-sponsors include the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the Wisconsin Political Science Association, and the Center for the Small City at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Contact: Robert Greene, President, Wisconsin Sociological Association, <rwgreene@execpc.com> or Robert Wolensky, Center for the Small City, <rwolensk@uwsp.edu>. Deadline for commitments to organize sessions or present papers is May 31, 2004. For more information see: <www.uwsp.edu/polisci/smallcity/Call_for_Papers.htm>

