

Fall 2018

The Humanist Sociologist

AHS
*Humanist
Sociology*

A Note from the President...



Colleagues, insurgents, comrades,

We face some extraordinary challenges—that which are gut wrenching, scary, violent, and which leave us asking some hard questions about ourselves, our organizations, our society, and even why we should bother continuing to fight in a struggle that seems never ending, and sometimes moving backwards. These struggles are multi-layered and complex—from issues of

sexism, racism, homophobia, and xenophobia, to issues of cronyism, corporatism, and neoliberal assaults on academic freedom. The backlash from the far right to our humanistic understandings (and engagements) hurts our very spirits; so too do such attacks from the neoliberal left. Thus, our very existence is challenged in a capitalistic, patriarchal, homophobic, racialized social system. In this Amerikkka, we more than ever need humanist sanctuaries where we can academically interrogate the social ills of the world; challenge ourselves to do better, be better; and to find and engage in active solutions, wherever we might, to put feet on the ground the thoughts and ideas we put on paper. Our meetings this year in Detroit are not the first place and time we do this. However, it is my hope that we can revisit our collective and individual contributions to making the world a better, more humanistic place, for everyone. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2018 meetings of the Association for Humanist Sociology, Detroit.

AHS President
David G. Embrick



Sociology for Whom?

Real Conversations and Critical Engagements in Amerikkka

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- * Over 20 local activists
- * Environmental Mini-Conference
- * Immigration Mini-Conference
- * Off-site fundraiser for the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (Thursday night at 7:15)
- * Off-site Friday Reception at Classic Detroit Loft (Friday at 7:10 p.m.)
- * Saturday Reception at McGregor Center featuring hip-hop artist and activist James "SoSoon" Gantt
- * Plenary Speaker on Friday: David Fassenfest
- * Plenary Panel on Friday: In Solidarity – A Panel Discussion about Unions Today and Where To Go From Here
- * Plenary Panel on Saturday: Co-Sponsored with the General Baker Institute: Race, Class and Struggle in Detroit – Lessons from the League of Revolutionary Black Workers for Today's Movement
- * Activist Café on Friday: Jamii Tata and Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition
- * Activist Café on Saturday: Will See and Emma Lockridge (speaking on environmental racism)

Visit

www.humanist-sociology.com/2018-meeting
for more information.



Mini Conference on Environmental Inequality

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Topics include but are not limited to: water rights, pollution, local environmental justice issues, environmental racism, environmental activism, resource extraction, sustainability, food, climate change, indigenous rights, and environmental citizenship.

Select conference papers will be featured in a special issue of *Humanity & Society*.

Mini Conference on Immigration in the U.S.

November 8-11, 2018

Topics include but are not limited to: immigration law (DACA, DAPA, RAISE, SAFE, asylum, refugee status), migration and discrimination (deportation, "the wall," microaggressions, police brutality), and migrant labor (wages, working conditions, "low skill" labor, labor and the economy).

TOURS

Thursday:

Motown Museum

Friday:

Detroit Studies Bus

Saturday:

African American Museum

Tours and second lunch can be added at **ANY** time, including after you have already registered!

Visit: www.humanist-sociology.com/2018-meeting

for more information.

Documentary Corner

“People Like Us: Social Class in America”

Summary

It's the 800-pound gorilla in American life that most Americans don't think about: how do income, family background, education, attitudes, aspirations, and even appearance mark someone as a member of a particular social class?

Class can be harder to spot than racial or ethnic differences, yet in many ways it's the most important predictor of what kind of financial and educational opportunities someone will have in life. But class is a hard subject to talk about in a society like ours, where the idea that all people are created equal and that a poor child can become President is enshrined in national legend.

PEOPLE LIKE US is the classic film that has spawned thousands of conversations about class in America.

To view the documentary, visit:

<https://www.kanopy.com/product/people-us-social-class-america-0>



“As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

- Nelson Mandela



Discussion Questions & Prompts

The following are a few potential discussion questions that could follow a screening of “People Like Us: Social Class in America.” The website has further questions and information about class discussions.

- How do the people in the film define “class”?
- Discuss the various interpretations of class labels.
- Is the United States a classless, egalitarian society? Why or why not?
- Can discussions of social class be viewed in daily publications, such as newspapers (online or print) or magazines? Which type of publication do you find those discussions? Why aren't there daily discussions?

For more questions and activities, visit:

http://www.cnam.com/people-like-us/resources/Teachers_Guide.pdf

Congratulations

- * **Mary Barr**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Kentucky State University, has contributed a book chapter.
"Together We Can Build a Nation of Love and Integration: The 1965 North Shore Summer Project for Fair Housing in Chicago's Northern Suburbs," to a new anthology, "Deferred Dreams, Defiant Struggles: Critical Perspectives on Blackness, Belonging, and Civil Rights," edited by Violet Showers Johnson, Gundolf Graml, and Patricia Williams Lessane (Liverpool University Press, 2018).
- * **Mary Patrice Erdmans** will be a Fulbright Scholar in Poland in 2019 where she will study return migration.
- * **Cheryl Joseph** had a new book published. *You're Hired: Putting your Sociology Major to Work.* United Kingdom: Emerald Publishing Limited.
- * **Jonathan Coley** had a new book published.
Coley, Jonathan S. 2018. *Gay on God's Campus: Mobilizing for LGBT Equality at Christian Colleges and Universities.* Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press.
- * **Freedden Blume Oeur** had a new book published. <https://blackboysapart.com/>
Blume Oeur, Freedden. *Black Boys Apart: Racial Uplift and Respectability in All-Male Public Schools.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018.
- * **Greta Pennell** was elected Vice-President of the International Toy Research Association (ITRA) at the 8th World Congress this July in Paris, France. This fall she was also awarded a Research Fellowship at The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, NY where she will be examining artifacts in their extensive collection for her research on gender and toys
- * **Kalai Mugilan** had a new book published. <http://www.authors-corner.net/urban-monk-humanist-perspective>
Muglian, Kalai. *Urban Monk: A Humanist Perspective.* Nashville, TN: Author's Corner
- * **Melanie Bush** edited a book that is set to release on November 12, 2018.
Rod Bush: Lessons from a Radical Black Scholar on Liberation, Love, and Justice. For more information, visit: <https://www.okcir.com/rod-bush-lessons-from-a-radical-black-scholar-on-liberation-love-and-justice/>
- * **Jason Smith** had several articles published.
Smith, Jason A. and Bhoomi K. Thakore, editors. *Race and Contention in Twenty-first Century US Media.* Routledge. Released in paperback May 2018. <https://bit.ly/2MJlzzZ>
Smith, Jason A. 2018. "Learning from a 'Teachable Moment': The Henry Louis Gates Arrest as Media Spectacle and Theorizing Colorblind Racism." *Studies in Media & Communication*, 16
Smith, Jason A. and Randy Abreu. 2018. "MOU or an IOU? Latina/os and the Racialization of Media Policy." *Ethnic & Racial Studies*. Online first <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2018.1444187>
Smith, Jason A. and Randy Abreu. 2018, March 30. "Memorandum of understandings promise nothing; media mergers require close scrutiny by the FCC for their impacts on Latinas/os." *LSE USAPP blog*, London School of Economics - U.S. Centre. <http://bit.ly/2pTjJ7r>



ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting, August 9-11, 2019, New York City, NY. The program theme selected by President Nancy J. Mezey is *illuminating the SOCIAL in Social Problems*. SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. Contact sssp@utk.edu or visit https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/745/2019_Annual_Meeting/.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 69th Annual Meeting, to be held August 9-11, 2019, at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City, NY. The program theme selected by President Nancy J. Mezey is *illuminating the SOCIAL in Social Problems*. The submission deadline is January 31, 2019. SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. If you are involved in scholarship or action in pursuit of a just society nationally or internationally, you belong in the SSSP. You will meet others engaged in research to find the causes and consequences of social problems, as well as others seeking to apply existing scholarship to the formulation of social policies. Contact sssp@utk.edu or visit https://www.sssp1.org/2019_Call_for_Papers.

COMPETITIONS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is pleased to announce the 2019 Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards. In order to be considered for any of the Student Paper Competitions, applicants are required to submit their papers through the Annual Meeting Call for Papers, https://www.sssp1.org/2019_Call_for_Papers by January 31, 2019. This will ensure that winning papers are both designated and included in the program. Please note that students may only submit to one division and that each division has its own deadline and submission process. For information, visit https://www.sssp1.org/2019_SPC_and_OSA.

FUNDING

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is soliciting applications for the 2019 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship. Persons identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, Arab or Middle Eastern or North African, Asian or Asian-American, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) from one of the aforementioned groups, accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences are invited to apply for the \$15,000 fellowship. Two students will be funded. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 1, 2019. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2019. All applicants must be a current member when applying. With the exception of DACA students, who are also eligible, applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Contact Dr. Saher Selod, Chair, with questions concerning the fellowship: saher.selod@simmons.edu or visit https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/261/Racial/Ethnic_Minority_Graduate_Fellowship/.

Bring Corey to your university!

The Event: Focusing on the role folksongs play in the U.S. labor movement, Dolgon's words and music bring both history and theory to life. This singing lecture covers labor history from a multicultural perspective and examines the function of folk songs in workers' lives, labor, and organizing. The lecture can be tailored for specific needs and time periods, but generally runs about an hour to an hour and a half depending on format.

The Program: SSSP welcomes applications from those interested in hosting this event. SSSP will make four \$500 grants to cover performer's honorarium. Applicants commit cover travel expenses.

The Performer: Dolgon is a Sociology Professor at Stonehill College and a long-time labor activist and community organizer who has used folk songs to build solidarity on the line and engage students in the classroom. He is adept at gaining audience participation and provides an object lesson in how the collective acts of singing enhance the feelings of solidarity and create new possibilities for collective identities.



Here's what students, faculty and labor folk have to say about Corey's performances:

"I learned about the importance and power of strikes and labor unions. He made the period come alive." –student, Stonehill College

"Corey's work weaves together a coherent and accessible narrative about labor struggles with a tour de force of labor songs that move an audience with workers' own articulate descriptions of their conditions and inspiring visions of movements to improve those conditions." –Chris Dale, Sociology Dept., Bentley University

Faculty and students were blown away by this unique method and message. Dolgon's ability to weave stories through song was powerful and thought provoking. Personally, I was mesmerized by his musical ability and with the material. My students agreed that it was by far the most interesting colloquium they ever attended. –Scott Carter, Sociology Dept. University of Central Florida

"Imagine an event that attracts from every campus demographic: international students, faculty, staff, undergraduates, emeriti faculty, and community activists, and has them all standing together enthusiastically singing songs about solidarity. We have never had an event like this! –Melinda Jo Messineo, Sociology Dept. Chair, Ball State University

Corey Dolgon's "singing lecture" is a hit. Those who attended his presentation—from union retirees to active members to academics and management—were entertained and enlightened. A good time & good learning. –John Ralston, Asst. Director, University of Louisville Labor-Management Center

Corey's wonderful voice, abundant energy, and great knowledge about folksongs, the labor movement, and other social movements were entertaining, very informative, and inspiring. He made a major impact on WPUNJ, performing in front of almost 300 students and faculty. –Kathleen Odell Korgen, Sociology Dept, William Patterson University

"Dolgon's singing lecture had breadth and depth. It captured an extensive history of the labor movement in narrative and song, brought students, faculty and labor union members to their feet to sing together, and left people smiling, feeling good, and recognizing the importance of solidarity in efforts to change the world. –Timothy Black, Director, Social Justice Institute, Case Western Reserve University

Please contact Corey for applications or more information at 617-852-7237 or cdolgon@stonehill.edu

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2135>

AHS Officers

President: David G. Embrick, University of Connecticut

President-Elect 2019: Jeff Torlina, Siena College

President-Elect 2020: Johnny Williams, Trinity College

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Nominations Committee: Joti Sekhon (co-chair), Jim Pennell (co-chair), Stephen Adair, Anastacia Schulhoff, James (JT) Thomas, Carson Byrd, Bilal Sekou



“We strive to inspire, support, and learn from one another as we make our humanist practice more conscious and skillful.” - AHS Purpose

Humanity & Society

Humanity & Society, the official journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology, was first published in 1977 and has been published quarterly since 1978. Humanity & Society is a peer-reviewed Sage journal with abstracts of published articles appearing in Sociological Abstracts. It features “humanist sociology,” which is broadly defined as a sociology that views people not only as products of social forces but also as agents in their lives and the world. We are committed to a sociology that contributes to a more humane, equal, and just society.

Additional information and previous volumes are available at:

<http://has.sagepub.com/>



Keep In Touch!



@AHSsoci



Association for
Humanist Sociology

Questions? Comments?
www.humanist-sociology.org/contact-us

Register for the 2018 Conference
www.humanist-sociology.org/store

To view previous meeting minutes, visit:
<https://www.humanist-sociology.org/meeting-minutes.html>



Who Are We?

The Association for Humanist Sociology

Our Past: The Association arose out of growing disenchantment with conventional sociology and a need for a more clearly value committed emphasis in sociological work. We came together in 1976, not out of shared politics or similar "schools" of sociology, which were, and still are, richly varied, but out of a common concern for "real life" problems of peace, equality, and social justice.

Our Philosophy: Humanists view people not merely as products of social forces but also as shapers of social life, capable of creating social orders in which everyone's potential can unfold.

Our Purpose: Accordingly, humanist sociologists study life with a value commitment to advance that possibility through scholarship and practice. We intend to be an active support network for sociologists committed to humanist values, as they practice sociology in institutions often hostile to such an approach. To this end, we produce a quarterly journal, *Humanity & Society*, as well as a newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*, we organize national meetings and have sessions at regional sociology conferences.