

THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Winter, 2013

Letter from the *Humanist Sociologist* Editor Saher Selod, Simmons College

It is my pleasure to bring to you the Winter 2013 issue of the *Humanist Sociologist*. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their contributions. It has been an eventful year for so many AHS members. It was a great to meet you all in person in Nashville and put some faces to names. Some of the highlights from the conference include guest speaker Time Wise, engaging sessions, and the live music in the hospitality suite. You can read more about this in the past program chair's report.

In this issue you will find updates from the Board, exciting news from members, call for papers and call to action. Alan Spector, President of AHS, also encourages everyone to get excited about the conference in Washington D.C. The theme is "Racism and Capitalism—Crisis and Resistance." It is sure to be a great conference with David Embrick serving as program chair.

Dennis Kalob wrote an important piece on membership. Please take some time to read this. In order for an organization like AHS to flourish, we need to remember to be diligent about keeping up with our dues and work towards improving membership.

I look forward to hearing more from you for the summer issue. Please send me any news you have by email (saher.selod@simmons.edu). I hope you are all having a great winter and staying warm!

Saher Selod

Report of the Past President Dennis Kalob

My primary duty as Past President was to organize and lead the midyear board meeting, which this year took place in Evanston, IL. It was a productive meeting and came in under budget. Details of it can be found in the minutes, which were kept by Stephen Adair, our Secretary. A summary report of the meeting can also be found in the fall issue of our newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*.

A major issue that was discussed was membership, both retention and attracting new members. A correction to something that was written in the summary report (in the newsletter): We were not looking at, nor did we achieve, a retention rate of 80%. In the end, we retained a little more than 70% of our membership from 2011 to 2012. What was said at the midyear meeting (and I believe it was I who said it) was that experience demonstrates that if we work very hard and can get just a little lucky, we can have a retention rate of 80%, possibly more. However, we more typically come up short, which we did this year. Nevertheless, at 73%, this year's retention rate was relatively decent. Also, our membership overall was able to grow slightly due to 40 new people coming on board this past year.

Further details concerning membership will undoubtedly be provided by our esteemed colleague, Ottis Murray, our current VP for Membership.

As this is my fifth and final year being on the AHS board of directors, I wish to make a few parting comments concerning the future of our organization.

Message to AHS Members from President Alan Spector

We are all looking forward to a great year and a great conference in Washington, D.C.! Building on the theme from last year's conference, this year's theme will be . . .

Racism-Capitalism> < Crisis-Resistance

The description/announcement for the conference pretty much explains it all. It will be on the East Coast -- close enough to New England (almost) and much of the South. PLAN EARLY -- get a group together and organize a session or just submit your own paper on the conference theme or anything of relevance to humanist sociology. D.C. is a great place for the conference and we are planning lots of activities. This is a great chance to meet new folks (maybe even from your own area), renew old friendships, and network with others for future brainstorming and collaboration. So . . . **GET GOING!!!!!!!**

First of all, membership **MUST** be, in my opinion, of very special concern for our organization over the next few years. We go up and down depending on several factors, but many of us are growing weary of looking at a membership that should be much greater than it is. We know we have a message that is attractive to many sociologists and other like-minded academics and activists and we need to find a way to better promote what we do and what we offer. (And maybe we should look for ways that we can improve upon what we do and what we offer.)

To reach new people will require new and aggressive outreach strategies, as well as careful selection of future sites for our annual meeting. More on that below.

First, I would like to say that our new online payment option which is about to become a reality will be very helpful for membership development. The easier it is to pay or renew membership, the better it will be for our organization. Thanks to our Treasurer, Chuck Koeber, for working on this project and for the amazing work he has been doing these last couple of years to get our books and membership database in very fine order.

Our major project each year is, of course, the annual meeting. For many years, we have held our meeting in what could be called “second tier” cities. Although these meetings have typically been very enjoyable, productive and well-received, they have not always proved effective at reaching new people.

Our most successful meetings of the past decade, in terms of sheer size and ability to bring in new members, were the ones held in Boston, New Orleans and Chicago. To be clear, all those other meetings we have held in second tier convention cities have been wonderful (Santa Fe easily comes to my mind in this regard). However, if we are about growing this organization, we now need to buy into the idea of the importance of the first tier city. That doesn’t mean we can’t occasionally go to smaller, yet very interesting cities (I would vote for Providence or for Memphis, a wonderful place in which we gathered back in the 90s), but our future lies in going to conveniently located, larger cities.

Next year, we will be in Washington, DC (technically across the river in Arlington). This will be excellent for our organization. Future presidents should think seriously about places like Philadelphia, Boston/Cambridge, New Orleans, Atlanta, Chicago, and maybe even New York. We have often stayed away from such cities because of their cost to both the association and our individual members, but with hard work we have found ways to control some of these costs and some of these places are important hubs with good airline deals, which can mitigate the higher hotel prices.

In summary, I humbly suggest for our future that we remember these six words: location, location, location and membership, membership, membership.

Thank you very much for allowing me to serve on the board for the past five years and for serving as president last year. It has been an honor.

Note: This report was submitted before the board at the annual meeting in Nashville this past November. It has been edited slightly.

Program Chair Report 2012 Annual Meeting Kathleen J. Fitzgerald

In this report, you will find an overview of the 2012 Association for Humanist Sociology’s Annual Meeting, held in Nashville, TN, Nov. 7-11, 2012 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel.

I want to begin by extending my gratitude to the numerous people that made this meeting a success and specifically, provided guidance to me concerning the conference program. Thanks to AHS President Deborah Burris Kitchen for picking the conference theme and for picking a great hotel. The conference theme, “When Race and Class Still Matters,” did seem to bring more attention to issues of race than past AHS meetings have, which I found exciting. Alan Spector, 2013 AHS President, has continued that attention with his 2013 program theme, “Racism-Capitalism/Crisis-Resistance.” I would also like to thank the many AHS members that offered their help to me throughout the year and to those that not only sent in papers, but proposed sessions. Indeed, it takes a village to make a conference work.

I relied a lot on both Dennis Kalob, as past-President, and Chuck Koeber, Treasurer, and want to thank them both for their gracious assistance with issues both large and small that came up during the year. My friends, Jim and Greta Pennell, were always willing to share their considerable knowledge about AHS as an organization, or key information pertaining to organizing conferences, the job of program chair, or just as sounding boards during crunch time! Of course, my partner, Tony Ladd, also provided considerable invaluable assistance to me during my year as program chair. Many thanks, again, to you all. You folks are the heart and soul of AHS!

The 2012 conference was smaller than any other AHS conference in recent memory, which is concerning. The official numbers should be provided in the President’s report (Deborah Burris-Kitchen) and the Treasurer’s report (Chuck Koeber). As Program Chair, I can offer some numbers: there were 25 sessions, three films, 71 presentations, with 6 no-show/cancelations (these were people that were on the final program, but did not make it to the conference; two of them canceled, four simply did not show up). Perhaps a bigger concern was the fact that at least ten presenters canceled between the creation of the preliminary

program and the final program. The next smallest conference had at least 82 presentations (not sure about no-shows/cancellations, because I am relying on the St. Louis 2006 annual meeting program for those numbers). The 2012 numbers were about half what they were last year in Chicago/Evanston. This presented AHS with a severe financial crisis. Annual meetings need to be self-sustaining.

While no one knows for sure why the numbers were so low this year, we are all in agreement that we should be working toward bigger conferences/better attendance in the future. In order for AHS to remain sustainable, two things have to always be balanced: we need members/conference participants and we need to maintain the integrity of the organization. Thus, looking back on this year, a key weakness was probably communication. In the future, the President and Program Chair need to be more vigilant about communicating with our membership...they need to be reminded (constantly) about the upcoming conference and they need to be encouraged to participate. They need to be informed about exciting programming notes, speakers, etc. All sociology departments in the conference area need to be contacted, numerous times, so that they know they know of the opportunity.

In addition to getting people to the conference, we need to make sure the conference itself is great. In this era of endless budget cuts, academics have fewer travel dollars and thus we have to always give people very good reasons to spend their limited funds at an AHS conference instead of some regional conference they might consider attending. As a smaller, national organization, we have the potential to be an exciting alternative to the anonymity of ASA or the parochialism of regional meetings.

Another reason the numbers may have been so low in 2012 pertains to the size of the city. It was suggested by Dennis Kalob, as past-President, that we pay particular attention to location in the future (he actually said, "location, location, location" so I think he means it). All jokes aside, a purview of the past six AHS annual meeting programs does find that larger cities such as Chicago, Boston, and New Orleans do seem to be better draws (side note: New Orleans is not a large city; but people LOVE to come to New Orleans, so it works). The 2013 meetings will be in Washington, D.C., so that is potentially going to be good as well.

Per the issue of cancellations between the preliminary program and the conference itself, at the 2012 meetings, the membership voted to require conference participants to register for the conference by the date of the release of the preliminary program (a date that is to be decided by that year's AHS President). This change aligns us with most other professional sociology organizations and also makes conference participants think twice about cancelling, limiting holes in the conference program.

While the numbers were low, the conference itself held a lot of highlights. Anti-racist activist Tim Wise spoke at the Saturday activist luncheon and set the room on fire. Many

felt he was one of the best speakers AHS has ever had. There is no doubt that people talked about his talk for days afterwards. Having a nationally known speaker such as this is one of the ways to make sure the conference is memorable and may inspire people to return the next year. Our activist luncheon speaker for Friday, Dr. Amiri Al Hadid of Tennessee State University, was also inspirational. Attendance at the activist luncheon's however, was quite low (around 15-25, the Treasurer's report may contain more specifics on this). I encourage the future president to nudge members that register for the conference to remember the importance of the activist luncheons. You have to really sell these activist luncheons; and they are worth selling!

The hotel was also a highlight: it's location in the heart of Nashville could not be beat. The food was excellent and the staff pleasantly accommodating to the many changes we had to make. One drawback, however, was that they had an incredibly high food and beverage minimum (\$10,000). In the future, that minimum should fall between \$6-8,000. This high minimum and low attendance meant we had expensive food being served every five minutes (which only sounds good in theory; there was actually a lot of waste).

A final highlight was simply the fact that a small conference allows for more interaction. We think more people may have connected with AHS at this conference because they felt included. There seemed to be a buzz in the hallways... also, the microbrewery tour (of Jackalope Brewery) was a huge hit. It also created a buzz.

I would encourage that conferences in the future offer more connections to the city – include maps, highlights, a restaurant guide, etc, in the program folder, for instance. People do not have time to do a Google search every time they want to find a restaurant and we want to help them connect with the city in more than superficially tourist-y ways (which are happily provided by the hotel concierge).

Our book exhibit left a lot to be desired this year. We arranged with the Library of Social Science (specifically working with Richard Klein) to set up a book exhibit. The good part is that it was supposed to relieve us of any headaches associated with putting together a book exhibit (they go by the conference theme and the attendees, finding books that fit or were written by conference participants), so in theory, it is helpful for small conferences to have someone else arrange this. However, we did not get any money for this book exhibit (in the past, when we worked with Haymarket in Chicago, for instance, we got something like 10% of sales). Also, Richard Klein was difficult to work with – he did not want to be located in the room we had reserved for him and kept telling us he had 12-14 tables of books to exhibit (in the end, he only had four). He would tell the hotel that we talked to him and it was okay to move him to the lobby (where the food breaks would be held) and he would tell us they wanted him to move to the lobby. Not the end of the world, but it was just unnecessary conflict.

I got Haymarket to trade an ad in our program for some books, which we auctioned off and made \$90.00 on. Income from book exhibits is essential to the sustainability of the conference and the organization. Trading ads is a good way to generate some income if you are in a small city where there is not a local publisher (In Washington D.C. next year, hopefully, some publishers will be willing to display books and provide AHS with a percentage of their sales).

We traded an ad in the program with SSSP, so Alan Spector and David Embrick, as 2013 Program Chair, need to remember that they owe us an ad in their 2013 program. If we design a poster to send to programs in the area (as Alan has talked about), we can use that design for the ad.

Some suggestions for the future:

- Get speakers to sign contracts (general contracts are available at Home Depot) so there is no question as to the date/time/fees and may even deter cancellations.
- Make sure you have all meetings listed in the program (there are way more meetings than I realized).
- o Opening Board Meeting – in 2012, we had this meeting at 8:00am-10:00am on Thursday morning (for many years, it was held at this time, but at some point, they switched it to Wed evening, 7:00-9:00pm). We switched it back to Thursday am simply because it was such a small conference, we did not need that time for presentations. Hopefully, future conferences will have a better turn-out and thus, will be forced to have it on Wed evening). As I understand it, everyone is welcome at this meeting.
- o Business Meeting – I missed this one and it turned out to be a big mess. Per the AHS Constitution, this must be scheduled during the annual meetings and open to all members. You must have it at a time when it does not compete with anything else. In the past, it has been held at lunch on Saturday's, for instance (brown bag lunch). This is when the membership gets to discuss and vote on items of business that may have been brought up during the opening board meeting (or brought up at the mid-year board meeting).
- o Breakfast Meetings – just a time for committees to meet (Nominations, etc). Schedule time in the program for this.
- o Newcomers Breakfast Meeting – again, just day/time/location in the program.
- o Editorial Board Meeting - ask the journal editor(s) when they would like to schedule this meeting and list it on the program.
- o Closing Board Meeting – generally held on the Sunday morning closing the conference; everyone is welcome. We spent almost \$400.00 on food for this in Nashville and few people attended, so most of the food was wasted. In my personal opinion, closing board meetings are not very useful because no one

has any numbers to share from the conference (since it just ended), and most of the business has already been conducted. However, whether or not to have one would be an issue for the board to decide. But I would strongly encourage you all to discuss not having this, primarily as a way to save money. Anyone that has been to these closing board meetings and then to the mid-year board meeting can tell if they are at all redundant (they seem like it to me, but I don't really know).

- When negotiating with the hotel, push for perks. A general rule is that we get a free room for every 40-50 rooms booked. Also, we get a hospitality suite as one of those rooms (Dennis and his family stayed in the hospitality suite in Chicago, but in Nashville, it was the graduate student home; two grad students stayed in the room and AHS picked up their bill with some nights ended up being free, but not all). As a general rule, more can fit and more grad students were hoping for some kind of financial assistance, so that is something to think about – having six or so grad student's stay in the hospitality suite. The year Greta Pennell was president, she arranged with the hotel to have a free room for the book award winner. That worked out well – it was Rick Eckstein and he became a member. Keep in mind we have little to offer a book award winner, so if we can offer them one free hotel night and free conference registration that will likely motivate them to come to the conference.
- AHS purchased two projectors and two screens, so in the future, two rooms can have technology without paying the outrageous hotel costs. Sometimes people can borrow projectors or screens from their universities because hotel costs are ridiculously prohibitive on technology. Speaking of technology, if you have anyone showing films, you will need sound. Sometimes the meeting rooms are wired for sound, and you can use that if it is not too expensive. It is cheaper to simply bring in small computer speakers, which work wonderfully (thanks to Greta Pennell for remembering to bring her speakers in 2012 because without them, I would have been showing silent films).
- On a final, minor, note, most programs have been printed in black and white, no doubt in order to save money. You may note that the 2012 program had some color photos, but that was a printer's mistake and we were only charged for black and white. Color programs cost double what black and white one's do, so I would avoid them.

Thanks so much for the privilege of serving AHS in the capacity of Program Chair 2012.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Fitzgerald

We Should Stand with Jammie!!!!!! by Corey Dolgon

Faculty, even sociology faculty informed with a “Sociological Imagination,” are not always very good at recognizing their collective class or institutional interests. We don’t reflect on our conditions as wage workers inside institutions that are increasingly becoming more corporate. We labor ever more intensely while often ignorant of the “speed-up” tendencies that technology, consumers (students) and burgeoning administrators demand. And we allow skirmishes over work rules and shop control (academic freedom) to result in censorship and intimidation creeping into our classrooms and curricula.

Major institutional transgressions, however, sometimes force us to take notice. In fact, they give us opportunities to awake from our professional slumber and act in our own collective interests. One of these events has taken place at Appalachian State University where Dr. Jammie Price, a tenured Sociology Professor and Editor for the *Journal of Applied Social Science* was unjustly disciplined by the University’s administration. We must take a stand. We must speak out!

For those of you who have not heard the details of this case previously, I would point you to numerous articles in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and elsewhere, but most recently an excellent overview of the case appeared on the website for *Inside Higher Ed* at <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/11/26/faculty-panel-backs-professor-dispute-over-porn-documentary>. This article explains the initial student complaints and the administration’s exaggerated response. Administrative overreach clearly violated faculty contract and due process, judgments shared and well-articulated by a faculty grievance committee. According to reporter Scott Jaschik, the faculty report concluded that Price *deserved* a hearing before being suspended and rejected the administration’s response that suspension did not constitute a serious enough sanction to merit a hearing. Jaschik continues:

Further, the report defended Price’s right to talk about issues related to athletics, higher education and race -- even when those comments include criticism of the university. “In teaching race and ethnicity, Prof. Price discusses race in the context of higher education and student athletics. In doing so, she does not paint a pretty picture, and it intentionally hits home with many students,” the faculty report says. “Even if her illustrations are critical of Appalachian, that is legitimate sociology. Teaching about the intersections of race and higher education and athletics is a legitimate topic for a sociology class. It is a legitimate argument in the

field that student athletes receive special privileges... In fact, ASU athletes do receive special privileges.”

Ironically, the student athlete complaints about Price, “received speedier consideration than is the norm, and that every effort was made to immediately make the athletes happy, rather than -- as the panel suggested should have happened -- to bring the athletes and Price together to try to work things out informally.” Thus, Prof. Price’s case suggests an object lesson in the fact that student athletes *do* get preferential treatment.

ASU Chancellor, Kenneth Peacock, however, “rejected” the report and its recommendations saying they were inconsistent. The only thing inconsistent is the ASU administration’s behavior and the notion that ASU is an institution of higher learning. ASU seems more like a banana republic than a bastion of free inquiry and democratic ideals. But the Chancellor and his minions clearly operate with little concern for such niceties as due process, contractual obligations, etc. because so far no one has *made* them. It is a common yet still sad lesson that every generation must learn, that the quality and quantity of the justice you get is based on the amount of power and will individuals and groups can muster to demand it. For now, there is no justice for Jammie Price.

But we can help! We must write our own letters and distribute them far and wide. Read the *Chronicle of Higher Education* piece at <http://chronicle.com/article/Chancellor-Defends-Discipline/135944/> or the *Inside Higher Education* piece and add your comments. People will see them. Post this letter or your own comments on Facebook. Call or write your own professional organizations, regional and national groups (especially officers) and demand they write letters supporting Jammie Price and calling on Chancellor Peacock to accept the faculty panel’s report. Call or write the ASU administration directly. If nothing happens, then we should all pursue professional sanctions against the college—up to and including not accepting students with ASU sociology degrees into graduate programs or not accepting papers from ASU faculty and students for conference presentations and publications. In other words, ASU as an institution needs to be disciplined by those of us in academia until they clean up their act.

If any of you have questions about how you can be involved in this struggle or have ideas for other ways to make our voices heard and take a stand, please don’t hesitate to contact me at cdolgon@stonehill.edu. And, finally, for those of you who would like to simply support Jammie on a personal level, you may contact her at jammieprice@gmail.com. As you can tell from the papers and surmise from the nature of these struggles, she should know the solidarity that’s out there and be buoyed by your actions and your words. This is the time and this is the place for action. Please join me and stand with Jammie Price!

AHS Member News

Alex Liazos published *Twelve Days in Vietnam: The Life and Death of Nicholas Conaxis*.

Nicholas Conaxis was twenty years old when he was killed in Vietnam on May 5, 1968. He had led a difficult life. Deprived of parents at the age of one, he lived in foster homes for the next thirteen years, and for four more years he lived in a group home for teenage boys. He was funny, sensitive, friendly, and mischievous, while he endured anxiety and insecurity for his entire life.

Drafted by the army in 1967, he wrote many thoughtful and sensitive letters from military training, criticizing military life, the war, and social conformity. He read widely as he explored values and philosophies of the 1960s. His letters from Vietnam showed concern for the Vietnamese children, the people, and the land around him. He is a “hero” for overcoming a hard life, reaching out to people, and writing honest and thoughtful letters under extreme conditions.

Alex Liazos taught sociology for forty years. He is the author of three sociology textbooks. He first read Nick’s letters from Vietnam in 1968, but it took him forty-three years before he came to write Nick’s biography. He lives in the Boston area and enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren.

For more information on how to purchase the book and to read Chapter 1 visit <http://twelvedaysinvietnam.org/>. You can contact Alex at zituri@gmail.com.

Jim Wolfe received the Ron Hering Mission of Service Award for 2011 from the Mankind Project International (mkp.org) acknowledging his work with the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center and other groups. At the ceremony Jim recited his mission statement: "I create a world of boundless loving



and thinking where bodies and souls are nourished and nurtured by doing the political and personal work needed in tune with the divine within and beyond."

Dr. Janine Schipper from Northern Arizona University has published several articles listed below. She also received a faculty grant from the Martin Spring Institute to develop mindfulness curriculum for social activists.

Schipper, Janine. 2012. "Toward A Buddhist Sociology: It's Theories, Methods, and Possibilities." *The American Sociologist*. Vol 43(3).

Scott Lukas and MaryKris Mcilwaine with Kimberly Alexander and Janine Schipper. 2012. *Introductory Sociology: A Critical and Contemporary Perspective*. Fourth Edition. National Social Science Press.

In addition to her publications, Janine and her family also welcomed baby Isa.



Dr. Jerome Rabow, Professor Emeritus from UCLA, is producing a documentary based on his students’ experiences with gay rights’ symbols called *The Pink Triangle Experience*. His recent publications and presentation are listed below.

Conley, T. D., Rabinowitz, J. L. and Rabow, J., Gordon Gekkos, Frat Boys and Nice Guys: The Content, Dimensions, and Structural Determinants of Multiple Ethnic Minority Groups' Stereotypes About White Men. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, no. doi: 10.1111/j.1530-2415.2010.01209.

Cochran, E., Dhillon, M., Rabow, J., Vega M.Y., and Yeghnazar, P. Blind Side: “Colorism Continues.” *Humanity and Society* (vol. 36, 4, pp.380-385).

EDGY, Embracing the Diversity of GLBTQ Youth and Families. Presentation made to the Penny Lane Centers. October 12th, 2012. USC. *The Pink Triangle Project: Increasing Awareness and Consciousness Among Students*

Call For Media Reviews: Humanity and Society

Recognizing the multiple modalities of communication and how these presentations enhance our sociological understanding of the complex realities of the 21st century, *Humanity and Society*, the journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology, announces the introduction of media reviews. We invite reviewers of sociological messages in photography, web-based art, websites, popular films and documentaries, radio broadcasts, and multimedia presentations. We also invite suggestions for media reviews. Please note that book reviews can be sent to our book review editor at RJ-Hironimus-Wendt@wiu.edu.

As a generalist journal, *Humanity & Society* publishes media reviews on a wide variety of topics. We are particularly interested in media presentations that are relevant to humanist sociology. Humanist sociology 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.

The journal welcomes reviewers from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives, including activists, graduate students, and practitioners in fields other than sociology. Potential reviewers are also encouraged to contact the Editor with suggestions for reviews in their areas of interest and expertise.

Agreement to prepare a review for *Humanity & Society* assumes that the reviewer has no substantial material or personal connection to the material or to the producer. Reviews in violation of this guideline will not be published.

Written submissions should not exceed 1000 words. Reviews should also include your:

Name:
Position:
Media Outlet:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

And the titles and dates published, along with URLs for electronic and multimedia presentations. If you think any additional contextual information would be useful, please include it with your submission/review.

To review for *Humanity & Society*, or to offer suggestions for reviews, please contact our Media Editor, Pamela Anne Quiroz, with a brief summary of your chosen review (paquiroz@uic.edu). We look forward to hearing from you and
Thank You for your contributions!

SSHA Call for Papers

Dear Colleagues,

We serve as co-chairs of the Race/Ethnicity section for the Social Science History Association (SSHA). The meeting is scheduled to take place in Chicago, November 21-24, 2013. Our theme this year is "Organizing Powers."

Our main goal is to structure sessions so that they explicitly draw on an interdisciplinary group of scholars who hail from different institutions. The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 15th, 2013. Note, all SSHA requires at this point is an abstract. You can find more information at: <http://www.ssha.org/>, including the Call for Papers.

We are hoping to put together a number of sessions related to the conference site and date that were discussed at the planning meeting:

- Commemorating 150 Years Since the Emancipation Proclamation: Legal Abolition vs. Black Emancipation
- Post-Emancipation Politics and Imperatives
- Race and the Law: Have Legal Remedies Produced Racial Emancipation
- Revisiting the work of W.E.B. Du Bois (50 Years Since His Death)
- The Great Migration: Racial Movements and Migrations in the Past and Present
- Racial Politics ? Obama, Electoral Politics, and Black Politicians
- 50 Years Since the March on Washington: Where is The Civil Rights Movement Now?
- Community Organizing or Organizing on College campuses
- Immigrant Rights Movements and the DREAMers
- The Chicago Teachers Strike or Activism Around Racial Inequality in Education
- Latino Chicago
- Continuities and Transformation of Racial Systems Across Time
- The Role of Borders: Race and Transnationality
- Decolonial/Post-Colonial Race Theory
- Race and Natural resources: Land, Water, Air and Environmental Racism
- Roundtable: Studying Race Across National Context

We are also looking for people to volunteer to be a critic for the following Author Meets Critics sessions:

- Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration, and the American Welfare State from the Progressive Era to the New Deal, Cybelle Fox
- Chinese Chicago: Race Transnational Migration and Community Since 1870, Huping Ling

You are welcome to submit papers regarding any of these topics, or on a topic relating to your own research. If you would be interested in putting together an entire session, let us know and we would be happy to provide you with details as to how to do this. Feel free to forward this call widely, particularly to graduate students (there is funding available for graduate students to travel to the conference which can be found at <http://www.ssha.org/grants>).

We are also looking for another network representative for the Race/Ethnicity Network to aid in the organizing and planning each year. In order to maintain the interdisciplinary nature of the organization, anyone from a discipline other than Sociology is invited to email either of the organizers with your interests. If you would like more information about the duties and responsibilities for this position, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Finally, please feel free to check our Facebook page, which you can find by searching for "Race/Ethnicity Network - Social Science History Association" or by following the link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/RaceEthnicity-Network-Social-Science-History-Association/113130038802365>

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact us via email: mfweiner@holycross.edu or enasch@u.northwestern.edu.

Sincerely,

Melissa F. Weiner
Liz Onasch

Heanon Wilkins Fellow Visiting Assistant Professor/Instructor

Job Summary:

Professor Emeritus Heanon Wilkins was Miami University's first full-time African-American faculty member. A distinguished professor of Spanish, Portuguese, and Black World Studies, Professor Wilkins received Miami's highest honors in teaching, research, and service and we honor him with the Wilkins Fellows program. Applicants from varied disciplines welcome.

Basic Qualifications:

Miami University welcomes candidates who have nearly completed (e.g. ABD) or completed their doctorate or equivalent degree within four years of the August 2013 appointment date. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, temporary resident (admitted for residence as an applicant under the 1986 immigration amnesty law), refugee or asylee.

Preferred Qualifications:

Ability to contribute in significant ways to Miami's diversity-related initiatives.

Duties:

The Wilkins Fellows program provides a culturally diverse faculty with mentoring, a salary equivalent to that of a Miami University faculty member at the same rank (instructor or visiting assistant professor), \$3000-\$5000 for research-related expenses, the potential of obtaining a future tenure-track faculty position at Miami University, and an opportunity to live and work in a welcoming community of enthusiastic scholars. During the appointment, Wilkins Fellows conduct research and enjoy a reduced teaching load. Applications will be reviewed on 03-04-2013 and the position will remain open until filled.

Special Instructions to Applicants:

On-line applications are not accepted for this position. Submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, a statement of proposed research (one to five pages) indicating area or discipline, and sample scholarship addressed to Dr. Carolyn Haynes via email to nguyenp@MiamiOH.edu. Three letters of reference are required, including one from the dissertation advisor.

Call for Final Thought Submissions

Humanity and Society is a *different* journal—one imbued with the action and hope of the humanist philosophy. At the end of each issue we hope to pique reader interest with a “Final Thought” Page.

This may come in the form of a provocative image that carries a sociological or social change message, an interview with a sociologist talking about her/his craft, or even a cartoon analysis of our social world. *Strong submissions bridge critical insights with creative imagination, calling us to engage in fresh inquiries and the renewal of our personal and collective practices.* Final thoughts may be provocative, humorous, even perplexing. We view *H&S* as a kind of larger curriculum vitae for humanist sociology. As the Latin translation of the term means “curriculum of my life,” we view *H&S* as a journal that breathes life into academic inquiry.

Please submit your “Final Thought” (writing, image, interview, cartoon, etc.) along with a description/interpretation of the final thought (200 words maximum) and your biography (200 words maximum) in regards to how your life pertains to the image/idea presented.

Submit to: RyderPhoto@gmail.com

Frank Lindenfeld Outstanding Student Paper Award

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Association for Humanist Sociology (AHS) seeks graduate and undergraduate student papers that advocate for more humanistic workplaces. Papers may critically evaluate current forms of economic and workplace organization that repress the potential of people through inequality, bias, discrimination based upon race, gender, sexual orientation, and other bases of exploitation/domination. Papers may also address political and economic changes, initiatives, and policies, which occur away from workplaces, but have significant consequences for conditions of work and workers. Examples include critiques of the global economy, outsourcing, and effects of austerity measures. Paper topics can also address how people resist dehumanizing conditions and create more humanistic alternatives, such as worker owned co-operatives, socially and environmentally responsible businesses, non-profit and/or grass roots activist organizations, and instances where workers and/or unions have organized to win higher wages and/or improved working conditions.

The author of the most outstanding paper will be invited to present her/his work at the annual meetings of AHS and will receive a \$250 honorarium to defray travel expenses and a free year of membership in AHS. The winning paper will also be formally reviewed and cultivated for possible publication in the journal of the AHS, *Humanity and Society*.

Deadline: Papers must be submitted by May 30th. Winners will be announced August 15th

Papers accepted for publication are not eligible to receive the award.

Please send an electronic copy of your paper to the following email: humanityandsociety@nau.edu . Type "Student Paper Award Submission" in the subject line. Please contact janine.schipper@nau.edu if you have any questions.

Frank Lindenfeld, a long-time member and dear friend to AHS, passed away on June 8, 2008. He was a husband and father, scholar, visionary advocate for democracy, and tireless worker for social and economic justice. As a scholar-activist, Frank was a leading authority on worker cooperatives and the co-founder of Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO), a decentralized collective of educators, researchers and grassroots activists working to promote an economy based on democratic participation, worker and community ownership, social and economic justice, and ecological sustainability.

Frank's wisdom, kindness, dedication and gentle manner touched the lives of many people and his spirit will live on in the work that we do together to build a better world.

Toward this end the AHS Frank Lindenfeld Memorial fund was established and makes possible this paper competition.

Call for Papers, Posters, and Participation

Teaching Sociology: New Approaches to Practicing a Discipline That Matters

April 13th, 2013

Stonehill College, Easton, MA

The Association for Humanist Sociology; The Society for the Study of Social Problems "Teaching Social Problems Division; and the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Stonehill College would like to invite you to attend a one-day conference on teaching sociology (and social science in general for affiliated faculty in Criminology, Anthropology, Political Science and other interdisciplinary fields). The conference will feature traditional paper sessions and poster sessions in the morning; a luncheon with keynote speaker; and an afternoon dedicated to open issue-oriented sessions to be determined in a "world café" style of identifying topics and then allowing for space and time to meet in groups during the afternoon. We will conclude with a general wrap up session where we identify common themes, questions and issues for future exploration and pedagogical inquiry. We hope to communicate these ideas through a variety of professional meetings and outlets opportunities and help to shape the future themes of teaching conferences and other events over the next few years.

Because we are committed to the most rich and inclusive conversations about the future of teaching in our discipline(s), we want to encourage people who are NOT presenting or who don't have a poster to still join us. While the presentations will help us get a sense of the current pedagogical landscape and give regional scholars and students an opportunity to share their work, the afternoon conversations will give everyone an opportunity to explore individually and collectively what questions and ideas will shape the future of our efforts. The Conference will be free except for a nominal fee to cover costs of luncheon and snacks as Coffee and lunch will be provided for all registrants. We are committed to costs being no more than \$10-20 per person (perhaps less for students and working faculty can pick up cost of snacks?).

We have moved the paper/poster deadline to March 15th. Please send abstracts for either poster or paper to Corey Dolgon at cdolgon@stonehill.edu

We will also have an online registration form linked from our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Teaching-Sociology-New-England-Regional-Conference/469143589813862#!/pages/Teaching-Sociology-New-England-Regional-Conference/469143589813862>, but people can register the morning of the conference as well. We expect registration fee to be about \$15—the cost of lunch—and the sponsoring organizations will be covering any expense for keynote speakers, etc. We would hope that departments and colleagues might pick up the registration costs for graduate and undergraduate students. The Facebook page will also include directions and other logistics, but please feel free to contact conference Chair, Corey Dolgon, by e-mail or phone at 508-565-1904 to get further information.

Saher Selod
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
Simmons College
300 The Fenway C-205A
Boston, MA 02115

THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST



ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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.