

The Humanist Sociologist



AHSDenver2016: An Update!

By Chuck Koeber, 2016 AHS President

Greeting AHS! I am excited to update you about our annual meeting, which will be held from Wednesday, November 2 to Sunday, November 6, at the Doubletree Hotel in Denver Tech Center.

Karl Marx wrote in his *Theses on Feuerbach* (1845): "The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to *change* it." With these wise words in mind, I chose this year's theme, "Elevating Humanity: Pathways to Progressivism," to share an opportunity for us to discuss how the connections between our teaching, scholarship, and activism can help bring about a more just, peaceful, and humane world.

Toward achieving this goal, our Program Chair, Bhoomi Thakore, has received many submissions. However, we want to make sure that all who would like to participate can have ample time to submit their proposals. Therefore, we are extending the deadline date for submissions to August 1st.

Bhoomi informs me that this will be the final deadline, as we need ample time before the conference to assemble and print the program. Please send your submissions ASAP, or prior to the August 1st deadline.

Our Denver meetings will feature not only engaging sessions, but great entertainment, education and activism by our very own, Corey Dolgon. Corey will use folk music to inform us about the history of the labor movement. Corey's "musical lecture" is a great example of how we can use our teaching and artistic talents to educate, advocate, inspire, and entertain.

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I am also excited to introduce Dr. Kerry Wilkes. Kerry is a Spanish Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Wichita State University. However, outside of Wichita State she is well-known as a plaintiff in a recent same-sex marriage lawsuit against the State of Kansas. Kerry has appeared frequently on television news and in other mass media speaking eloquently, energetically, and forcefully about her rights to marry the person of her choice. We can look forward to hearing more about her struggle to “blaze a trail” toward same-sex marriage and equal LGBT rights in one of the most anti-LGBT environments in the United States.

More programming is in progress. Woody Doane will be leading a museum trip to the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center. This event is tentatively scheduled for Thursday morning, November 3rd. Additionally, faculty at Denver University are connecting me with various community organizations. I hope to include representatives from these organizations as speakers at our Activist Café luncheon. The Activist Café Luncheon, will be a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the people, organizations, and efforts to create a more progressive and humanistic Denver community. More details of these events will be forthcoming.

In addition to the program, we hope you will enjoy the hotel and its location, which can now be accessed via light rail, from Denver International Airport, for a very affordable nine dollars. As I write, airfares to Denver are relatively low. For example, a non-stop ticket from Boston to Denver, with a bit over four hours of flight time, can be purchased for \$313. Flights from Boston with one-stop are in the mid-\$250s. Consider buying your plane ticket now.

The Doubletree hotel is an award-winning hotel and its rooms are newly remodeled. All rooms are spacious, modern, and feature patios from which one can admire a view of the Rocky Mountain Front Range. Click [here](#) to make a reservation.

An abundance of food and entertainment exist within and near the hotel. First, make sure to try, Zink, the hotel restaurant and bar, which serves a variety of moderately priced gourmet food, as well as a fantastic breakfast buffet. One of my favorite restaurants, located within walking distance of the hotel, is Modern Market, which originated in nearby Boulder, CO. It serves affordable, locally sourced organic food that is both healthy and delicious and they pay their workers a livable wage. If you would like alternative choices located a bit further away from the hotel, take the light rail (the stop is less than half a block from the hotel) to Union Station, located in the heart of downtown Denver, where free hybrid shuttle busses drive continuously up and down Denver’s 16th Street (pedestrian) Mall, delivering passengers to and from the many shops, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Click [here](#) to view more information about the conference, including the links to [proposal submission](#), [conference registration](#), and [membership renewal](#). I look forward to seeing you in Denver. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Call for Editor of the AHS Newsletter

AHS is searching for a new editor for the AHS Newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*. Requirements include....

- Position is for 3 years
- Release a Summer, Fall, and Winter issue
- Editor must be an AHS member

For more information about the role of Newsletter Editor, visit:

<http://www.humanist-sociology.org/#!ahs-handbook/c1rp>



Elevating Humanity: Pathways to Progressivism

A more progressive society: what would it look like and how do we get there from here?

What are the obstacles and impediments and how can they be overcome?

Unlike hikers preparing to ascend a Rocky Mountain peak, we cannot rely on a trail map to rise above the treacherous social terrain of inequality, injustice, and oppression. Alternatively, we must collaborate, share our knowledge and experiences, and inspire each other to learn and do more. Join us in Denver, Colorado as we discuss and propose solutions to pressing social problems such as economic inequality, environmental crises, racism, xenophobia, and heterosexism, to name a few. We welcome proposals for sessions and paper presentations that enhance understanding of problems, while focusing on strategies, movements, organizations, and actions that “blaze trails” to humanistic solutions and progressive change.

Visit

www.humanist-sociology.org

for more information.

In Loving Memory of
Helen Raisz: A note
from her family.

In deep sorrow, we have to let you know that Helen left us on Saturday, July 16th. She died peacefully, at her home, in her bed, with her family close by.

We will be having a memorial service for her on August 20th, in the Hartford area.

If you would like to attend or need to be in touch with us, please email her daughter Katherine, at:
katherineraisz@gmail.com

Her loving family.

Call for Participation

The Association of Humanist Sociology invites you to organize a session or submit an abstract for a paper presentation. We welcome proposals that enhance understanding of social issues and problems, but with focus or emphasis upon alternative strategies, movements, organizations, and

collective efforts that strive to bring about humanistic solutions and progressive change.

The Denver area offers not only breath-taking views of the Rocky Mountains, but is an ideal location in which to gather and confront pressing and timely social issues. Many of these issues pose serious problems for Denver and the state of Colorado as well as all of humanity.

Activist energy has not been confined to Colorado. For instance, growth and momentum has recently occurred in the Black Lives Matter, women's rights, and gay rights movements in the United States. Globally, organizations and activists are gaining ground solving a wide range of problems and nations are uniting to address increasingly urgent threats to our planet, such as climate change and nuclear arms proliferation.

Paper and Presentation Formats ~ SUBMIT BY AUGUST 1, 2016 ~

The Association for Humanist Sociology is a community of sociologists, educators, scholars, and activists who share a commitment to using sociology to promote peace, equality, and social justice. Remaining true to the mission of AHS, we seek papers about any social issue that impedes progress toward a more peaceful and socially just world. However, we especially encourage the presentation of papers that describe, explain, or propose solutions to problems. Examples of topics include, but need not be limited to, descriptions of progress made by global political movements, examples of successful action within states or communities, alternative forms or models of social/economic/cultural organization, and descriptions of service learning or other transformative pedagogies used in teaching and learning.

We encourage following types of submissions for sessions and presentations:

- Paper presentations (15-20 minute presentations, 3-4 speakers per session)
- Critical dialogues (5-8 minute presentations, 4-8 panelists per session)
- Panel sessions and Author-Meets-Critics sessions (3-4 panelists per session)
- Workshops and Film Screenings
- Poster presentations

Please visit the Association for Humanist Sociology Website to propose sessions and complete abstracts for papers or sessions related to the conference theme or to the AHS mission of equality and social justice:

www.humanist-sociology.org

Successful Activism in Colorado

We should be encouraged by the fact that Denver has received much attention in recent years, less for its problems, and more for its ability and willingness to confront and solve them, even amidst significant opposition. Politically active and organized residents in Denver and across the state of Colorado have achieved victories in political battles that would have seemed unlikely or even impossible to win, as evidenced, for example, by the state's legalization of medical and recreational marijuana.

Please join us in the "Mile High City" as we discuss successes and challenges and as we aspire to "blaze new trails" leading to peace, justice, equality, and greater life chances for all.

Special Presentations

The rich history of activist speakers at the AHS Annual Meetings continues in 2016. It is an honor to welcome Dr. Kerry Wilks and Dr. Corey Dolgon in November. They will speak on their topics during special sessions at the Annual Meetings.



Find AHS on Facebook to keep up –to-date on when these speakers will be featured.

[www.facebook.com/
HumanistSociology/](http://www.facebook.com/HumanistSociology/)



Search for AHS on Twitter

[@AHSsoci](https://twitter.com/AHSsoci)

and use

[#AHSDenver2016.](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AHSDenver2016)

LGBTQ Activism in Kansas: A Personal Journey in the Land of Oz



Photo courtesy of Kerry Wilks

Dr. Kerry Wilks is a Kansas activist for the LGBTQ community. She “wandered” into this role a few months after relocating to Kansas in 2004 when the Phelps crew (Westborough Baptist Church of Topeka) decided to protest a church near her apartment that didn’t hate gays quite enough. This was shortly followed by the State’s constitutional ban on gay marriage and Wilks found herself as an ally on the margin of a new struggle for civil rights in Kansas. The role quickly expanded when Wilks became a member of the LGBTQ community and accepted the

position as Chapter Chair for the South Central Chapter of Equality Kansas. In the fall of 2014 she and her partner, Donna DiTrani, went to the Wichita courthouse to demand a wedding license. Upon their denial, and combined with another couple, the ACLU of Kansas sued for the right to marry. The injunction in this case brought marriage equality across the state. Ironically, Wilks’s and DiTrani’s case is still pending as they wait to get married (Summer 2016). Wilks’s volunteer role in Equality Kansas is made possible by her day job as a Associate Professor of Spanish and Associate Dean of the Graduate School. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and publishes on seventeenth-century theater in Spain.

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In Search of One Big Union: The Role of Folksongs in the Labor Movement



Photo courtesy of Corey Dolgon

Corey Dolgon received his doctorate in American Culture from the University of Michigan in 1994. After teaching for 3 years at the Friends World Program of Southampton College-LIU, Dr. Dolgon went on to Chair the Department of Sociology at Worcester State College. Dr. Dolgon has been the inaugural Director of Stonehill’s Office of Community-Based Learning and a professor of Sociology since the summer of 2009.

Corey has also been a folksinger, activist and organizer for 25 years. He has organized with labor organizations, environmental groups, and various anti-poverty and educational reform movements. Along with using his guitar and songs in meetings, as fundraisers, and “on the line,” Corey has also performed a singing lecture on folks songs and labor for over 15 years. He has performed for labor unions and associations, as well as dozens of colleges and universities.

AHS Officers

President: Chuck Koeber, Wichita State University

President-Elect: Rebecca Hensley, Southeastern Louisiana University

Past President: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Tulane University

Vice-President of Publications: Susan Machum, St. Thomas University, New Brunswick

Vice-President Membership: Johnny Williams, Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Secretary: Dawn Tawwater, Austin Community College, Austin, TX

Treasurer: Greta Pennell, University of Indianapolis

Nominations Committee: Bhoomi Thakore (co-chair), Kasey Henricks, Daina Cheyenne Harvey (co-chair), Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl, Codie L. Stone



“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.

Daina Harvey: New Editor of Humanity & Society

Daina Cheyenne Harvey is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of the Holy Cross. He earned his PhD in Sociology from Rutgers.

He researches and teaches in the fields of: social disruption, risk, climate, culture and cognition, suffering, urban marginality, and the environmental precariat.

He is currently writing a book tentatively titled *Anthropocene Demos: Neoliberal Disorder and the Long-Term Lessons of Hurricane Katrina*. This book explores the concept of *ecological citizenship* as a way to rectify democratic exclusion in the anthropocene. Its focus is on the experiences of residents of the Lower Ninth Ward in rebuilding their community.

Along with Ellis Jones he is also working on a book that focuses on the craft beer scene in New England. His recent work has appeared in *Symbolic Interaction, Humanity and Society, Local Environment, and Urban Studies*.

Additional information and previous volumes are available at:

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

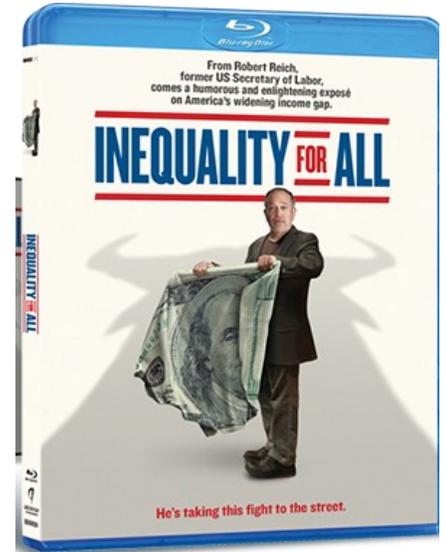
Documentary Corner

This is a new section of the newsletter which focuses on a documentary that addresses a social problem which impacts our society.

This issue features Former Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich's film, "Inequality for All."

Summary

In the wake of the U.S. economic crisis, the widening gap between the rich and the poor has gained unprecedented public awareness. Robert Reich, UC Berkeley professor and economic policy expert, helps viewers understand how the extreme inequality we now face has roots in economic and policy changes that began over 30 years ago. Newly shot and archival footage and personal moments of narrator Robert Reich helps us see his unwavering passion to return our society to one in which the American dream is possible for everyone.



"We make the rules of the economy – and we have the power to change those rules." – Robert Reich



Discussion Questions

These are some of the discussion questions taken directly from the "Inequality for All" website.

- Describe a moment from the film that sticks with you—maybe you found it particularly inspiring or particularly troubling. What was it about that moment that is so memorable?
- If you could spend a day with one person in the film, who would you choose? What would you want to ask them?
- In what ways did the film affirm or challenge what you were taught about "equal opportunity" and "the American Dream"?
- What do you think most Americans don't realize about income inequality? What difference do you think it would make if they did have this information?
- Reich asks, "Who is looking out for the American worker? Who is actually working in Washington and in state capitals to improve the well-being of the American workforce?" In your view, who should be looking out for the American worker? What could you do to ensure that workers had an advocate in the halls of government?

For more questions, as well as screening information, shareable graphics, and further information, visit

www.inequalityforall.com

Call for Papers

Humanity & Society Special Issue:

“Foodways and Inequality: Toward a Sociology of Food Culture and Movements”

Guest Editors: Kaitland M. Byrd (Virginia Tech) and W. Carson Byrd (University of Louisville)

Foodways exist as key sources of cultural capital, and the rising quest for distinction within foodways has led to the proliferation of restaurants and chefs claiming authenticity (Johnson and Baumann 2010). Although the cultural dimension of foodways dominates the literature there is also extensive research on the prevalence of hunger and obesity throughout the United States (Poppendieck 1999, 2011). While a definition of foodways can vary between scholars and academic disciplines, we define foodways as the choices and meanings behind what people eat. Using this conceptualization we can gain a better understanding of how sociological perspectives can elucidate connections between people and food such as the formation of varying food movements, differing forms of inequality, the politics that infiltrate foodways and craft the connection between what people eat, and how people identify themselves through the consumption of specific foodways and food products (e.g., southern barbeque). The sociological study of foodways provides insight into broader processes such as how inequality functions around social movements, the connection between identity, memory, and consumption, and the politics behind the production and consumption of cultural products fundamental for survival. While a multitude of studies have examined the role of foodways in creating cultural distinctions and exploring the increasing problem of hunger, there is a lack of research focusing on the sociological implications of foodways and food movements. The extant focus on food insecurity and elite consumption is too narrow of a lens of social inequality - leaving a large portion of society unexamined. This special issue seeks to remedy this scenario.

The underlying goal of this proposed issue is to highlight research on foodways and inequality grounded in sociological theories emphasizing the breadth of food as an important facet of everyday life across multiple research areas. The scholarship we will include examine various relationships among foodways, food movements, and social inequality. These areas will include, but are not limited to the following areas of research:

- Social inequality in/and food movements
- The effects of food movements on local/global foodways
- Comparisons of the prevalence of food movements across place, gender, and race
- Comparative research on how alternative foodways (e.g. Indigenous) negotiate external pressures from food movements and initiatives
- Farming efforts to preserve non-GMO seeds and farming practices
- Theoretical contributions to understanding foodways and food movements sociologically
- Comparative research on food movements as social movements both locally and globally
- Farmer's markets as sites of alternative food movements and perpetuating sites of inequality
- Identity politics and food

Please submit abstracts (preferably as Microsoft Word documents), no longer than 500 words, to Kaitland M. Byrd (kmp009@vt.edu) or W. Carson Byrd (wcarson.byrd@louisville.edu) by August 1, 2016. Contributors should note that this call is open and competitive. Additionally, submitted papers must be based on original material not under consideration by any other journal or publication outlet. Authors will be notified of the editors' decisions no later than September 1, 2016. Papers accepted for further consideration for inclusion in this special issue will go through the same double non-blind peer review process as normal journal submissions. The invited papers will be due to the editors by November 1, 2016.

Diversity and Social Justice in Higher Education

This special issue of the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations (HJSR) captures work and experiences in higher education as they relate to changes and challenges around diversifying U.S. college campuses. Race, class, gender, sexuality, able-bodiedness, and citizenship shape contemporary conversations about campus climate, curricular content, organizational structures, decision making and the disparate impacts of related policy changes or stagnation. These conversations shape the everyday experiences of faculty and staff, and ultimately are linked to student success.

Submission Deadline: October 31, 2016

Authorship: Authors are encouraged to collaborate with other faculty and staff members across their university and across campuses involved with diversity projects, particularly as they relate to campus culture and climate, retention, and student success. Interdisciplinary submissions are welcome.

Manuscript Submission:

1. Manuscripts should be in 12 point font, double spaced and generally not exceed 8500 words. To facilitate blind review, authors should incorporate a cover page that includes an article title, author contact information, a biographical statement of 75 words or less, and an abstract of 150 words or less. Format citations, tables, figures and references using American Sociological Association style.
2. 2. Email hjsr@humboldt.edu with a message subject "HJSR: Diversity" and attach your manuscript in .doc or.docx format.
3. 3. Submission implies commitment to publish in HJSR. Authors should not simultaneously submit to another journal. Manuscripts should not have been published elsewhere.

Co-Editors

Meredith Conover-Williams, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology

Joshua S. Smith

Department of Sociology

Co-Managing Editors

Heather Clark

Jennifer Miles



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.