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Newsletter, October 1, 1971

Department of Sociology

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NEWSLETTER

SOCIOLOGY

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001

Vol. 1, No. 1

October 1, 1971

NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED:

This is the first issue of a monthly newsletter the purpose of which is to keep members of the department informed of professional developments. In this issue no "juicy" news is given, either because none occurred or because no one reported it. We'd like to stress the importance of informing the newsletter office (actually, that's Kay Snyder) of any departmental news, university, regional, or national events which take place. Beginning November the newsletter will be issued the first of each month. Please submit all items to Kay at least a week in advance. Remember, too, that suggestions are always welcomed for improvements.

AD HOC NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Executive Council, acting in accordance with the newly accepted Basic Policy Statement, recently appointed an ad hoc committee responsible for beginning the procedure of selecting a chairman. The members of the committee, selected from each academic rank are Stanley Robin, chairman, Morton Wagenfeld, and Cora Marrett.

NEW JOURNAL BEGUN

A new journal concerned with the teaching of sociology is now being prepared. Articles on teaching methods, materials, or other information which could make for more effective teaching are being solicited. If interested write Murray Straus, Department of Sociology, University of New Hampshire, Durham 03824. The teaching of undergraduate and high school sociology will receive attention at the 1972 ASA. Anyone with ideas in these areas should plan to share them at that meeting.

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

A partial list of approaching meetings is given here. Papers are being requested from these organizations, and students as well as faculty are encouraged to participate.

November 12, 1971. The Michigan Sociological Association. Autumn meeting. Wayne State University, Detroit. Send papers and suggestions to Leon Warshay, Department of Sociology, Wayne State University, Detroit 48202.

December 26-31. National Institute of Social and Behavioral Science (in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science). Contact Donald Ray, NISBS, 863 Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20004.

April 20-22, 1972. Midwest Sociological Society. Annual meeting. Kansas City, Missouri. For further information contact Nicholas Babchuk, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68508.

May 4-6. Ohio Valley Sociological Society. Annual meeting. London, Ontario. For information write Dean Knudsen, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. 47907.

August 28-31. The American Sociological Association. Annual meeting. New Orleans. Write Executive Office, 1722 N. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036.

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL MEETINGS

The Sociology Department was well-represented at several national meetings held in Colorado during August. Herbert Smith and Leila Bradfield shared their expertise with other students of the family at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) in Estes Park. Herb served there as seminar leader for the section on Sex Education Resources for Unwed Pregnant Teenagers. The topic is related to the research he has been conducting in the Grand Rapids school system.

After the NCFR meeting, Leila joined several colleagues in Denver. Jerome Manis and Morton Wagenfeld were there as participants in the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). Mort presented a paper on "The Primary Prevention of Mental Illness" and Jerry organized and chaired a session on Psychiatric Sociology. Both Jerry and Mort have been very active in the SSSP, and anyone wanting more information on the organization should contact them. Overlapping the SSSP was the meeting of the Rural Sociological Society which Cora Marrett attended. There she chaired a session and presented a paper on "Policy Making for Economic Development."

The largest representation from the department was at the American Sociological Association meeting. Those attending included the Robins, Paul and Bob Horton, Martha Lambert, Don Bouma, Mike Walizer, Charles Keely (and several others who didn't return the requested form!) At the ASA Keeley presented a paper on "The Delivery System of Black Private Housing" and Marrett read a paper co-authored with Lewis Walker on "Nonparticipation in the Labor Force." To Don goes the distinction of being the only department member with a son participating in the ASA. Gary Bouma, a sociologist at Dalhousie University, shared his knowledge about the sociology of religion with his professional associates. Having completed his Ph.D., Paul Wienir remained on the East Coast to attend the convention of the American Psychological Association. There he discussed the topic, "Utilization of Aggressive Cues."

Although the focus here has been on the August meetings, during the past year Western faculty and students also attended the American Educational Research Association, and the Association of Asian Studies. At the latter Chester Hunt organized and chaired a panel on Filipino Population Problems and Ross Eshleman made a formal presentation.

Plans are already being made for forthcoming national meetings. In addition to papers prepared for the AERA, Gerald Markle is author of a manuscript on "The Sociology of Cigarette Smoking" to be presented at the 1972 meeting of the ASA.

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS

If you haven't filled out a "progress toward degree" form, please do so by contacting Lois Carl in the Center for Sociological Research. The department needs to know the current status of the students enrolled.

DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH ON POPULATION ISSUES
DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CONTINUES IN DEPARTMENT

Charles Keeley, now serving as Associate Director of the Center for Educational Studies, has a substantial interest in problems of immigration. A recently published article, "Effects of the Immigration Act of 1965 on Selected Population Characteristics of Immigrants to the U.S." (Demography, May, 1971) is being followed by "Immigration: Consideration on Trends, Prospects, and Policy" (March, 1972) written for the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. Keeley has also assumed editorial responsibilities for the International Migration Review and is currently preparing an issue of the Review on "Immigration and Population Growth." He now edits the section of the Review containing journal abstracts dealing with migration and ethnicity.

Jerry Markle concentrates on a different set of population problems. A current area of study involves sex predetermination and family structure. Markle has found that Americans overwhelmingly prefer for the first child to be male. What, he asks, are the implications of success in predetermination when preferences can be translated into actualities? This is the area explored in his dissertation, tentatively entitled, "The Potential Impact of Sex Predetermination on Families and Populations." An article, "Sex Predetermination: Its Impact on Fertility," (Social Biology, 18) co-authored with Charles Nam provides an introduction to the research topic.

SERVICE GIVEN TO NATIONAL AGENCIES

Several department members have been active on federal committees. Morton Wagenfeld continues as a member of the Training Advisory Committee, Social Work Training Grant for the National Institute of Mental Health. The position ties him into an agency which remains one of the major funding sources for social science research and training programs.

Cora Marrett is currently serving on the Social Advisory Panel to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a panel organized and sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. The final report from that committee, chaired by Amos Hawley, is to be presented to Secretary Romney and his staff at a forthcoming meeting.

Ross Eshleman was a member of a National Science Foundation panel whose task it was to evaluate 1972 Summer Institute proposals. The choice of Eshleman as participant is unquestionably related to the success of the Summer Institutes he has regularly conducted with Lewis Walker and Milton Brawer here at Western.

PUBLICATIONS

Joint efforts among department members have led to a number of recent publications. The Winter, 1971 issue of Sociological Focus contains an article by Donald Boman and Paul Horton entitled, "The Sociological Reformation: Immolation or Rebirth?" Horton has also combined forces with Robert Horton to produce Planned Learning Aid for Introductory Sociology, published this year by Dorsey Press. William Bennett and Edsel Erickson have written a "Teacher Profile" for the Encyclopedia of Education and have donated copies of the Encyclopedia to the Department. With Clifford Bryan, Erickson has also reported results of research on student dropout forecasting in the August, 1970 issue of Education and Urban Society. Two former office mates, Schellenberg and MacDonald, have issued forth Selected Readings and Projects in Social Psychology.

Several others also seem to like collaboration but have gone outside the department for collegueship. The Horton-Leslie partnership has proved durable, and the pair issued this year a new edition of the Sociology of Social Problems in which appears an article by Bouma on "Pigs and People." Erickson has worked with Brookover and Joiner to produce "Self Concepts of Ability and School Achievement," (Chapter 3 in Banks and Joyce, Teaching Social Studies to Culturally Different Children) and with Joiner, Stevenson, and Crittenden on "A Self-Concept of Academic Ability Scale for Hearing-Impaired Students" (Fifth Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, 1970). A forthcoming issue of the American Sociological Review will contain an article by Markle and Chilton on "Family Disruption and Delinquent Conduct."

Finally, a number of department members have been sole authors of publications. Jim Schellenberg, a student of conflict, wrote "Country Seat Wars: A Preliminary Analysis," for the September, 1970 issue of the Journal of Conflict Resolution. Reflecting his continuing involvement with problems of law enforcement, Bouma contributed to the September, 1970 issue of Law and Order an article on "Police Perceptions of Youth Hostility." David Lewis' study, "A TST Based Technique for the Study of Self-Disclosure," can be found in the Fall, 1970 Sociological Quarterly. The October, 1970 American Sociological Review contains two book reviews written by Western faculty. Morton Wagenfeld reviewed the Plot and Edgerton book on mental illness for the journal, while Straus' volume on family measurement was assessed by Herbert Smith. The book review section of the August, 1971 American Sociological Review seems almost dominated by Paul Horton, for in that issue he reviews twelve Transaction books.

Hopefully, the next issue of the Newsletter will have a more complete listing of department publications. Please keep the Newsletter office informed of your activities.

VACANCIES! VACANCIES!

Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minnesota is searching for two people who have made substantial progress towards the Ph.D. A wide range of courses may be taught and the salary is "competitive."

East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina is looking for an individual with at least a Master's degree. For a nine month period the minimum beginning salary is \$9,000.

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico has an opening for an Assistant Professor to teach Methods and Statistics and/or Theory. The person should have a Ph.D., and the salary range is \$11,000 to \$12,000.

For further information on these openings and on others as they develop contact Helen Nelson's office.

WANTED: WOULD BE ARTICLE WRITERS.

Data is available for a sample of about 1700 Western students on various topics.

Any graduate students interested in publication possibilities are encouraged to see Mike Walizer or Paul Wienir.