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Department of Sociology

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The Socializer

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

March, 1975

Although 1974-75 has become an unexpectedly bad year for the state and the nation, the department has enjoyed perhaps its most productive year to date.

It began with the arrival of Jim Petersen from Iowa via Penn State and Larry Rosen, direct from Penn State, followed in the fall by Lucy Rey from Notre Dame. Jim adds formal organization and political sociology to our offerings, while Larry will be at the core of our developing urban program as well as contributing to our future enrollment, since his wife Gail is expecting in March. Lucy is finishing the field work for her dissertation from a site near East Lansing, while filling in for Jim Schellenberg and Jerry Manis, who are both on sabbatical. Jim returned from his work on the effect of the terror in Northern Ireland on adolescents to marry Chris Alberti in December. They are honeymooning in the Irish Republic at Cork where Jim is teaching social psychology while commuting back to Northern Ireland on his research. He wrote that "We each kissed the Blarney Stone...assuring the fight of Irish eloquence--we'll see." Actually Jim produced the second edition of his social psychology textbook before leaving!

Is the reported tendency for groups to be more risky in their judgements than individuals simply **an artifact** of past procedures of pretesting? Yes, suggests some previous work. **But** Jim Schellenberg, in the October issue of the Journal of Psychology presents evidence that the group effect occurs even after controlling for pretesting.

Jim Schellenberg's studies of American fights over location of county courthouses are included in two recent journals. The June issue of the International Journal of Group Tensions contains his "Factors Associated with County Seat Wars," and the November Journal of the West carries his "Conflict Resolution in County Seat Wars."

Jerry and Laura Manis are in Guadalajara following on Chet Hunt's sabbatical there last year. The Fall 1974 issue of Sociological Focus published an article by Jerry and Bernie Meltzer, Chairman at Central Michigan on "Blumer and Merton: Social Roles and Sociological Focus." Merton wrote Jerry that he "viewed their piece with great interest, informative and even-handed." Social Problems has accepted another paper by Jerry on "Assessing the Seriousness of Social Problems," for publication in 1975. v

THE MONTREAL SCENE:

The fall got off to a resounding start with the department's heaviest participation ever in the joint meetings of the American Sociological Association, Society for the Study of Social Problems, and Rural Sociology in Montreal. Ellen Robin served as Chairperson for the section on Youth and Aging for the ASA-SSSP and organized and presided over three sessions. Mort Wagenfeld, Stan Robin and Bill Schley presented a paper to the Rural meetings and Stan and Mort with Jim Jones offered another at the SSSP. (Mort and Stan have two more joint ones on their national Community Mental Health project scheduled this May in California.) Martha Lamberts, Tilman Cothran, Dave Chaplin, Jerry Markle, Paul Horton and Chet Hunt also read papers or presided over luncheon roundtables at the ASA.

Stan Robin, Mort Wagenfeld and Jim Jones saw their "Structural and Professional Correlates of Ideologies of Community Mental Health Workers," published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior in September as Jim took up his duties at SUNY/Brockport. Their "Rural Mental Health Centers--Are They Different?" appears in the International Journal of Mental Health, Vol. 3, No. 2, 1974.

All of our Criminal Justice area people have been very active consulting and speaking to groups in Michigan. Lloyd Braithwaite and Helen Nelson have attended meetings of the Michigan Criminal Justice Educators Association in order to keep on top of this booming but anarchic area. Lew Walker has given three talks on "New Approaches to Probation Case Work" to the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Service this fall. He is currently working as a board member with the Kalamazoo Adult Probation Authority. Don Bouma gave two keynote speeches on "Family Cultural Patterns and Family Pathology" and "The Generation Gap--Myth or Reality," for all-day discussion groups of 200 juvenile court staff members from throughout the state, sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court at Nazareth College in November. Don also participated in a 12-week in-service training program for the professional staff of the Kent County Skills Center. In addition, he is conducting in-service training sessions for the Barry County professional nurses at the Pennock Hospital in Hastings, focusing on changing family patterns in relation to medical care. Don was appointed Social Science editor last April of Intellect magazine (formerly School and Society). In the December, 1974 issue he contributed a paper on "From Female Superiority to Male Chauvenism". Lloyd Braithwaite lectured on the "Framework for Understanding Delinquency" to the Pegasus in Battle Creek in February. In March Lloyd will be speaking to the Genessee County Juvenile Court in Flint on a "Strategic Juvenile Court Operational Plan". Lloyd has just published "Correctional Services in the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Planning Region III, 1973" sponsored by the School of Social Work. In addition, Lloyd has also lectured on "The Juvenile in Delinquent Society" given to the Ohio Correctional and Courts Service Association, and "Sex Offenders I've Known and Loved", given to the National Policewoman's Association.

Lew Walker has also helped us maintain unbroken our 1970's series of summer institutes for high school teachers. In the summer of 1975 he and Joe Stoltman in Geography will be running an on-campus institute.

Herb Smith is finishing up last summer's off-campus (Grand Rapids) National Science Foundation summer institute for high school teachers with George Vuicich in Geography. This program grew out of the department's long involvement in the Center for Educational Studies in Grand Rapids which is jointly sponsored by Western and the Grand Rapids School system. This institute program was one of only four of this type funded by NSF and one of only two granted to departments of sociology that year.

Chet changed hats, or collars, this fall to marry Don Bouma and Ruby Warner. Wedding bells rang as well for Lloyd Braithwaite and Betty Bollinger who enjoyed a honeymoon in Acapulco. Bill and Sylvia Bennett married last May and are settled into their new home at 1180 Mt. Royal.

Milt Brawer has returned to full-time teaching in the department after his four year stint as Ombudsman. In an area of growing departmental research and teaching, early childhood, Dave Lewis gave a talk to the St. Joseph County Foster Parents Association in Three Rivers on Child Abuse.

WESTERN OVERSEAS

Edsel Erickson and Mike Walizer offered a paper on "An Evaluation of Semantic Conflicts Affecting the Establishment of a Residential School for the Learning Disabled with Multiple Social Handicaps," at the International Federation on Learning Disabilities in Brussels in January. Also journeying over water, if not "abroad", was Jerry Markle, who spoke on "The Development of Future Family Sex Preference Norms Among Children," at the East-West Population Center in Honolulu in December (a paper co-authored with Bob Wait).

Leila Bradfield returned from a stimulating and pleasant leave in Bogota, Colombia to resume teaching and directing the Latin American program this winter. Her return has been commemorated by the publication of the proceedings of the March, 1973 Latin American Studies Conference on Chile-Peru: Two Paths to Social Justice by the Western Michigan University Press. She will be unpacking as Chet Hunt prepares for a Fulbright leave to the Philippines from June through next fall. He will be at Central Philippines University in Iloilo. In November, Chet spoke on "Liberal Utopianism as a Drag on Philippine Development" at the Midwest Asian Studies Association in Lawrence, Kansas.

Paul Friday returned from Europe in September from four months of lecturing and consulting in Germany and Poland to his usual hectic schedule of commuting to Drew University as its Alumni Trustee, squeezing in talks on "An Overview of Criminological Theory" at Louisiana State in October, and on "Deviance: The Problem and Dynamics of Defining Phenomena" at a Public Affairs Symposium in Atlanta in January. Somehow in between Paul happened to have been elected Vice President of the American Society of Criminology. He was already one of its directors and chairman of its International Committee. To keep himself out of trouble for the rest of this year, Paul is Program Director for the ASC's International meetings in Montreal in the summer of 1975.

Dave Chaplin made it only to the foggy coast of San Francisco in participating in the Latin American Studies Association as a director, roundtable chairperson on "Latin American Studies in Russia and Japan," and member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Latin American Studies. As a member of this committee, he has taken on the task of reanalyzing the Lambert-Social Science Research Foundation Report in Annals on foreign area studies programs. This project and a survey of the career patterns of female Latin Americanists will be studied for their policy implications for the organization and funding of foreign area programs (the study has been funded by a Ford Foundation grant). Turning backwards in time, Dave will be presenting papers from his 1951 London Census data to the Family History Colloquium at the Newberry Library in Chicago in March and the Victorian Studies Association in Worcester, Massachusetts in April.

Ellen Robin gave a paper on "Death in Children's Readers" at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society in Portland, Oregon as well as serving as Western's program representative to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and a paper on "Middle Age and Women's Career Patterns" at the Workshop on the Employment of Women, Commission on Human Resources of the National Research Council in Washington in September.

Charlie Keely returned this summer from a very productive leave at Brown on Ford-Rockefeller and Population Council grants for research on U.S. migration Policy (The Estimation of the Immigration Component of Population Growth," International Migration Review, Fall, 1974; and "Effects of U.S. Immigration Laws on Manpower Characteristics of Immigrants," Demography, May, 1975; "Temporary Workers in the U.S.," International Migration, Winter, 1975). He jumped on board wearing a variety of new hats -- as associate chairperson, co-director of the Kalamazoo Center for Metropolitan Research (an all-university activity) and chairperson of the Central Graduate Committee. Some relief should be provided by his forthcoming travels. In April it's off to Seattle to the Population Association of America to present a paper on "The Accuracy of U.S. Data on Immigrants and Resident Aliens." Then in May he will stop off in Kalamazoo on the way to Lake Como, Italy to present a paper in "U.S. Policy on International Migration" to a conference on population policy sponsored by the Ford-Rockefeller Population Program. Then the big dilemma -- to go to Honolulu over the poles, via Japan, or via Kalamazoo. There Charlie will be making his second appearance at the East-West Population Center to present two papers, one a follow-up on his June, 1974 paper and the second an overview of assimilation theory.

Bill Bennett's sabbatical to Wales next fall has just been approved. He has a very promising project on "People Working Professions" with Paul Halmos.

Paul Horton continues his productive publication record by senior authoring a textbook on Basic Principles of the Social Sciences, Learning Systems, 1974. Paul has also brought out the second edition of his readings in the Sociology of Social Problems with Gerald Leslie, Prentice Hall, 1975.

Jim Petersen will be presenting a paper in April at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings on "Organizational Structure and Program Change in Protestant Denominations."

Edsel Erickson is also publishing a book this year with Wilbur Brookover -- Sociology of Education, Dorsey, 1975.

Bob Wait is very productively maintaining the department's tradition of supplying an associate director of the Center for Educational Studies in Grand Rapids, while "selflessly" co-authoring a paper with Jerry Markle which Jerry presented in Honolulu.

Physically, the department will soon be enjoying its long-desired reconstruction. The Center for Sociological Research moved the departmental library into the renovated anthropology rock room. The former library is now a very pleasant and functional conference room. The teletype room and Lois Carl's office space were enlarged, as was the CSR storage room.

Pat Martin and Carolyn Fike will enjoy a proper size headquarters office for two with the absorption of Paul Friday's office (formerly Ross Eshleman's). Paul moved into our old conference room, which barely held five if no one was smoking.

Our graduate students have also been active professionally. Paul Dorsey is on the executive committee of the Michigan Sociological Society. In its November meeting he was organizer and presider over a session in which he and Subhash Sonnad presented a paper on "The Sociological Aspects of Preferential Admission in Affirmative Action."

Rich Ropers will be presenting a paper on "Towards a Social Psychology of Class Consciousness," at the April North Central Sociological meetings in Columbus.

Ken Stewart has just published, "On Socializing Attitudes: A Symbolic Interactionist View," in Sociological Focus (Winter, 1975).

NEWS FROM GRADUATE ALUMNAE

Martha Lamberts served as a discussant in an ASA panel on sex roles, chaired by Cora Marrett, in Montreal, and then moved on to obtaining a position at Washington State University during her first year at Bethany College.

Ellen Robert, Ph.D. 1973, tells us that she will be taking a leave from the University of Minnesota, Morris Campus, to obtain a law degree.

Robert Horton, Ph.D. 1972, has just published his first solo-authorship book, Programmed Learning Aid for Social Problems, one of the Irwin Programmed Learning Aid series.