

On Taking Sociology Public

Kent Sandstrom, Executive Officer

Shortly before completing my Ph.D. ten years ago at the University of Minnesota, I gave a talk to the departmental faculty entitled, “Why Sociology Never Was Sociology to Me.” In this talk I noted that I had returned to graduate school in my early 30s because I saw sociology as a unique calling that blended nicely with my background as a community organizer and social activist. I believed that sociology had something important and valuable to say about the momentous public issues and personal troubles experienced by people in contemporary societies. I saw sociology as a discipline grounded in the critical vision championed by C. Wright Mills—that is, I saw it as a discipline that asked the big questions about the nature and structure of human societies and their impact on individual biographies.

Unfortunately, as I reflected upon my own experiences as a graduate student, I realized that sociology had not really lived up to this vision for me. I had rarely seen my professors or fellow students embrace the radical imagination or big questions advanced by Mills. While giving lip service to the virtues of the sociological imagination, they often glossed over the critical questions that Mills highlighted as central features of that imagination. They also overlooked or downplayed the emphasis he placed on the special opportunity and responsibility that sociologists had to share this imagination with their fellow members of society—and to share it in a way that helps them to better understand the interconnections between their personal troubles and larger public issues.

Of course, sociologists at Minnesota were not distinctive in neglecting Mills’ vision of a radical and publicly relevant sociology. The discipline as a whole did not embrace or pursue this vision. Indeed, many mainstream sociologists happily engaged in research and theorizing that Mills cogently critiqued as “abstracted empiricism.” Moreover, many of the leading sociology journals eagerly published what Ernest Becker, following Mills, called “beside the point sociology—research that is hard-working, well-intentioned, at times deeply hopeful and anxious, but still very much beside the point of the problems of people in contemporary society.”¹ The flagship journals privileged the construction of particular kinds of theory and particular notions of theory-building that directed little attention toward the troubles and issues experienced by people in contemporary societies. In fact, when I conducted a content analysis of the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *American Sociological Review* between 1987 and the mid-1990s, I found that they were virtually silent about such momentous issues as genocide and ethnocide, the environmental crisis, hate crimes, the construction and experience of HIV/AIDS, the destruction of blue-collar and rural communities, the escalating mega-mergers of huge multinational corporations, the exploitation of child laborers in the Third World, and the epidemics of depression and anorexia in American society.

Ironically, I found that some of the best work done on such pressing social issues and their biographical implications was crafted by non-sociologists, as exemplified in Robert Jay Lifton’s analyses of the social psychology of genocide, Jonathon Kozol’s accounts of the experience of homeless people and persons with AIDS in New York City, and Susan Bordo’s analyses of the

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MEMBERSHIP AND DUES NOTICE: To avoid being dropped from the mailing list, membership dues should be up-to-date by January 1, 2005. You now can pay your membership by Visa or Master Card on the Web at <http://www.themss.org/member/forms.shtml>. Persons not having paid dues by January 15 will be dropped from the mailing lists of TSQ and TMS. Voting privilege in the Society are extended only to those whose membership is paid for the calendar year in which the voting takes place. It is also MSS policy that participants in the Annual Program be MSS members in good standing. Send dues to MSS, Dept. of Culture and Society, Drake University, Des Moines, IA 50311-4505.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: Generally, graduate and undergraduate students at any institution of higher learning are eligible for membership. However, persons gainfully employed as sociologists should not be student members in the Society. Students are eligible for any membership category by paying the appropriate dues.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP: All present and prospective members are encouraged to become sustaining members of the Society. Sustaining memberships allows the Society to maintain low student membership rates and supports the MSS Endowment and Minority Scholarship Funds.

NEWS DEADLINE: For the January 2005 issue of *The Midwest Sociologist*, departmental newsnotes, submissions and reports from officers and committees must be received by January 1, 2005. Send to Christine Wolfe, Editor, at midwest-sociologist@uiowa.edu

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Midwest Sociological Society, Dept. of Culture and Society, Drake University, Des Moines, IA 50311-4505. It is now possible to join, renew, and change addresses all ON-LINE at <http://www.themss.org/member/forms.shtml>

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Contact *The Midwest Sociologist* at
midwest-sociologist@uiowa.edu
with contributions, announcements, and articles.

And the Survey Says...

On behalf of the Executive Staff and the Technology Committee, I would like to thank those of you who completed the MSS Member Survey earlier this summer. The survey was completed by almost seven hundred members, and the results will be presented at the Fall Board meeting later this month. The purpose of the survey was to provide the MSS with important socio-demographic information regarding its members, as well as to assist the Society in improving some of its features and services. Again, thank you for your participation and input.

Eric Reed
Chair-Elect
Technology Committee '05-'06

CORRECTIONS

On page 7 of the June 2004 *TMS*, the picture of the Past MSS presidents identifies the person on the right in the back as Alan Booth. It actually is Clark McPhail. On page 8 of the June 2004 *TMS*, the picture of people serving ice cream identifies the person on the left as Clark McPhail — it should say Tony Orum. Our apologies for these mix-ups.

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On Taking Sociology Public

intersections of gender, culture, and eating disorders. Fortunately, recent trends in our discipline suggest that we are becoming more aware of the need to emulate such works and to carve out a more publicly relevant and engaged sociology. A number of prominent sociologists, including ASA President Michael Burawoy, are inviting us to reconsider Mills's vision and to cultivate and expand the critical imagination and questions he highlighted. They are also emphasizing the unique historical opportunity and responsibility we have to do the kind of sociological work and theorizing that Mills envisioned. As Michael Schwalbe has noted, this work includes dismantling "the dramaturgical fronts of the powerful; revealing the non-obvious ways in which domination is perpetuated; generating insights that help people to resist domination; exposing exploitation and other forms of injustice; helping people see how certain social arrangements cause needless misery; and helping people see more clearly the unintended consequences of their actions."²

I believe that the failure to engage in this kind of sociology, especially given the unique opportunities available to us, is an abdication of our responsibilities as sociologists. In turn, I am heartened by Michael Burawoy's call for us to pursue public sociologies and to demonstrate the public worth of our labors. I am also heartened by President-Elect Rob Benford's choice of a pertinent theme, "Mobilizing for Change," for this year's MSS meetings. Implicit in this theme is concern not only for how various publics are mobilizing for change, but also for how we as a profession can connect up with these publics as they seek to make meaningful changes and interventions in their social worlds. I hope that you will take the opportunity to join us in Minneapolis as we consider these important issues.

In concluding, I'd like to pay homage to the power and possibilities of change and note that the critique I directed toward the sociology department at Minnesota a decade ago is no longer warranted. Indeed, under the leadership of Ron Aminzade and others, the department has transformed itself in the past decade and become a model of public sociology in action. This transformation is reflected in its:

- * Commitment to community-based teaching, community service learning, experiential learning, and formation of a capstone course designed to encourage students to "think critically about the role of sociological knowledge in the contemporary world and to reflect on how the knowledge, skills, and insights of the sociological enterprise can be used and applied in their lives and careers outside of the university."³
- * Participation in research that addresses pressing issues of the day, such as the production and consequences of genetically modified foods; immigrant responses to post-9/11 changes in immigration laws; ethnic conflict in Latin America, Africa, and the U.S.; homelessness in European and American cities, adolescent sexual activities; patterns of violence against women; and the global expansion of higher education.
- * Rethinking and changing academic reward structures to facilitate public engagement in both scholarship and teaching.
- * Commitment to making the work of its faculty available in a variety of prominent public forums, particularly through dissemination of research results in local and national news media; consultation with community and advocacy-based organizations, service on boards of NGOs (e.g., Books for Africa and Civic Ventures); and testimony to state legislators.

Most crucially, Minnesota's department offers a source of hope and inspiration to all sociologists who believe in the possibilities of change and aspire to do public sociology. I hope that you will consider it as a model as you seek to improve and transform your own department and the social worlds around you.

Notes:

¹ Ernest Becker, *The Structure of Evil*. New York: The Free Press, 1968, p. x.

² Michael Schwalbe, "The Responsibilities of Sociological Poets," *Qualitative Sociology* 18 (4), pp. 393-413, 1995.

³ Ron Aminzade, "The Engaged Department: Public Sociology in the Twin Cities," pp. 50-51 in *An Invitation to Public Sociology*. Washington, D.C.: American Sociological Association.

42nd Annual MSS Student Paper Competition

In Honor of Nicholas Babchuck

The Midwest Sociological Society takes great pleasure in announcing its 2005 Student Paper Competition. The competition is open to student members of the Midwest Sociological Society. You must be an active member to have your paper considered for an award. Graduate and undergraduate papers are judged in separate divisions with prizes in each division. Prizes consist of a waiver of the MSS Annual Meeting registration fee plus the following amounts to be use to defray the costs of attending the meeting:

1st Prize: \$250

2nd Prize: \$150

3rd Prize: \$100

Students may nominate their own work, or, with the student's permission, advisors may submit papers on their student's behalf. The MSS reserves the right not to award prizes; it may also award second and/or third prizes without awarding a first prize.

The Rules for the 2005 Competition

1. The competition is open to student members of the MSS enrolled in a college or university in Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa or Illinois. Student members of the Midwest Sociological Society from other states and foreign countries also are eligible.
2. Papers may be co-authored by students, but not by students and faculty. A student can be an author or co-author on only one paper in the competition. The maximum length is 20, double-spaced pages of text, not counting an abstract, references, tables, or figures.
3. All papers involving human subjects research must have Institutional Review Board approval, or an equivalent review procedure described in the methodology.
4. The name, institutional affiliation, and the graduate or undergraduate status of the author(s) must not appear in the text or the abstract. The title of the paper, however, must be repeated at the top of the first page of the text.
5. The name, telephone number, mailing address of the student's advisor and the undergraduate or graduate status of the student must be included on a cover page.
6. Students who submit papers to this competition may submit the same paper to sessions at the Annual Meeting and/or to the editor of *The Sociological Quarterly* for publication consideration.
7. Submission must be received by **January 15, 2005**. Papers must be submitted **electronically**, as an email attachment, to:

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2004 Committee Reports

The following MSS committee reports are from the April 2004 Meetings in Kansas City.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Glenn W. Muschert

Present: Daryl Kelley, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Chair; David Bills, University of Iowa; Linda Evans, Drake University; Shelby Krzyzak, ITT Technical Institute; Glenn Muschert, Miami University; Eric Reed, University of Iowa; Kent Sandstrom, University of Northern Iowa; and Martha Thompson, Northeastern Illinois University.

MSS Website: The committee discussed the future management of the MSS website. The committee recommended the continuation of current status of the web site for an unspecified amount of time, while we explore possible options for the future. The members identified web site content needs. Including association by-laws, policies and procedures, history, and committee pages with live links to contact info for chairs. The committee agreed that the website is boring and has numerous redundancies. We should do whatever we can to clean things up.

In addition, we identified the following technical needs: new database management software, a secure on-line registrations process that provides confirmation of credit card transactions, a secure environment for private information entered into registration pages. Prior to the 2005 meetings, the committee agreed to engage in a number of discussions regarding the website's content and technical needs.

The committee is unsure who is responsible for overseeing the website and the webmaster's performance. At present the website is administered by a graduate student who receives an honorarium. It is unclear to whom within the MSS, which committee and/or person(s), the webmaster must report. The committee recommends the MSS Board discuss this at the 2005 meetings.

Discussion of New MSS Committee Structure: Under future committee restructuring, the committee noted that it would be disbanded and that its functions would be absorbed within other standing committees. First, the committee felt that most of the mandates of the committee might adequately be absorbed by the

Publications and Communications Committee and by the Teaching and Learning Committee. There were reservations regarding the ability of any new committee to absorb the technology issues related to research, e.g., which software packages people use for research purposes. The committee recommended that some of its members be assumed into these standing committees, when the association restructuring occurs.

Use Internet to Publish TMS: We discussed the use of electronic means to disseminate information, specifically TMS. Proposal is to have TMS primarily online, which is in keeping with the practices of most other regional associations. The committee proposed the exclusively virtual publication of TMS.

Committee Membership: The committee thanked Daryl Kelley (Chair 03-04) for his service to the MSS. Glenn Muschert (Chair 04-05) expressed that he was looking forward to working with the committee in the next year. Eric Reed was unanimously selected as Chair-Elect (05-06).

The committee decided to add two new members for (08). One new member was selected: Laura Crank (University of Missouri, Columbia). We will ask Linda Evans for a name of another possible member.

Committee Sponsorship of 3 Sessions at the '05 Meetings:

~Session on the use of technology/multimedia for teaching sociology. We want to promote the awareness and utilization of technology for teaching SOC 101. Daryl Kelley volunteered to organize a session where publishers show up to show off their software.

~Session on technology in qualitative research, committee wants to sponsor an additional session on the use of software packages for qualitative analysis. Such a session would be in keeping with the interpretive intellectual tradition heavily present in the Midwest. Glenn Muschert agreed to organize this session.

~Session on how rural and urban communities utilize computers for civic purposes. Daryl Kelley and Laura Crank agreed to host this session.

MINORITY SCHOLARS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Eduardo T. Pérez

Present: Eduardo T. Pérez (04), Teresa Guess (07), Afroza Anwary (06) and Anthony Lemelle (07)

The most important order of business for the Minority Scholars Committee (MSC) was a discussion regarding the very existence of the MSC within the Midwest Sociological Society. First, the committee discussed its responsibilities in the absence of Jazz Night commensurate of their service to the society. Second, the committee agreed with the standing charge of the MSC, but felt that the available resources available to actualize this charge needed re-examination. Finally, the committee held lengthy discussions on whether the MSC needed to be dissolved due to the increasing inactivity of minority and non-minority scholars regarding its affairs. Action items included the committee's decision to continue discussions throughout the year. We will address these matters to the Board at the 2005 annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For these reasons, the 2005 meeting is crucial, as committee members will hear recommendations from the MSS Board on the necessity--as well as demand for--the Minority Scholars Committee's continued existence.

Thank You

The Executive Committee, the Publications Committee, and members of the Midwest Sociological Society would like to extend a special thanks to Kevin Leicht, University of Iowa, for his dedicated commitment as Editor of *The Sociological Quarterly*, the academic journal of the Midwest Sociological Society. We would also like to welcome Peter Kivisto, Augustana College, as the in-coming Editor of *TSQ*.

Both Kevin and Peter continue the long tradition of excellence that has become a marker of the quality of scholarship supported by the Midwest Sociological Society.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FOR THE

MINNEAPOLIS

MIDWEST

SOCIOLOGICAL

MARCH 31-APRIL 3, 2005

SOCIETY

2005 ANNUAL MEETINGS

AT THE MARRIOTT MINNEAPOLIS CITY CENTER

Last Call for Participation in the
**2005 Annual Meetings of the
Midwest Sociological Society**
March 31-April 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Program Theme:
Mobilizing for Change

The June issue of *The Midwest Sociologist* carried the official “Call for Participation” for the annual meetings of the Society next March 31-April 3 in Minneapolis. In the following pages, you will find the final list of sessions, consisting of all 193 open sessions and panels, divided into 38 topical categories. The Preliminary Program will be available on the MSS website in mid-January, and will list all participants and include several additional thematic sessions and special events. The Program Committee hopes that the various sessions arrayed here will entice you to participate in one or more regular sessions, panels, or roundtables. We are committed to finding a place on the program for each and every member or potential member. The list of sessions can also be found in full on the Society’s website, <http://www.themss.org/>.

If you have not yet committed to presenting your scholarly work at the meeting, take a minute to browse through the program. Regardless of your sociological interests, I feel confident that you will find sessions that will serve as excellent venues for sharing your work. If you have never presented a paper at scholarly meeting, the MSS meetings in Minneapolis will provide the ideal environment for your first presentation. The MSS has earned a well-deserved reputation as the friendliest and most supportive place to embark upon and sustain a scholarly career.

To participate in the program, send a title and abstract to the session organizer in your area of scholarship along with complete contact information. **The deadline for submitting this information to the session organizers is October 30th.** Contact your session organizer(s) *before* October 30th if you anticipate any deadline difficulties. By December 3rd we will have assembled the final list of all sessions and presenters. **If you are not a member of MSS, you need to become one in order to participate in the meetings before the Final Program goes to press in early February.** For membership application and additional information, see the inside cover of this issue of *TMS* or check out our website: <http://www.themss.org/>. Completed papers should be sent to discussants by March 3rd so that your discussant has a chance to develop thoughtful, constructive comments on your paper and to draw connections among the papers in your session.

I cordially invite the 1,200 teachers, researchers, practitioners, and students who are already members of the Midwest Sociological Society, as well as any who would like to join us, to come to Minneapolis. Share your knowledge, research, and ideas. Partake in the Twin Cities’ splendid history, art, music, and food. I hope to see each of you there.

Rob Benford
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Aging and the Life Course

Sociology of Aging

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Aging and Intergenerational Relationships

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Youth and Aging:

Adventures Through the Life Course

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Children and Youth

Looking at Kids, Crimes, and the

Chaos of Labels

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Kids in Peer Groups

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The Experience of Adolescence

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The Sociology of Children's Literature

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Collective Behavior

Fads, Fashions, and Other

Short-Term Enthusiasms

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Community and Urban

Urban Sociology

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Urban-Rural Sociology and its Links

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Comparative and Historical**Comparative Historical Sociology**

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Crime, Law, & Criminal Justice**Issues in the Contemporary Study of Crime**

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Fear of Crime

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Assessing Policies in Criminal Justice Agencies

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Ethnography of Crime and the Justice System

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The Prison Industrial Complex

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The Politics of Crime and Punishment

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Ethics in Sociology and Criminology

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Gender and Crime

Co-Sponsor: Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society

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Punishment and Discourse

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Culture and Cultural Studies**Carnivalization of the World**

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Critical Cultural Studies

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**Sociology of Art and Culture:
Linking Culture and Structure**

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**The Dynamics of Art and Literature in
Social Change**

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Deviance

Deviance, Inequality, and Contested Social Control

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Corruption: Conceptions and Reflections

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The Changing Drug Scene: Policy, Markets, and Users

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Deviance: Thought, Emotion, and Action

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Disabilities

Sociology of Disability

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Education

Educational Institutions and Policies: Challenges and Changes for the 21st Century

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Globalization**Indigenous Peoples:****The Fourth World and Globalization**

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Television Reality: Reflections of Life?

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Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender in Media*Co-Sponsor: Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society*

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Mental Health**The Sociology of Mental Health**

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Providing Change Beyond the Medical and Individual Sphere: Sociological Contributions to the Study of Mental Health

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Doing Feminist Research

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**Organizations, Occupations,
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Diversity and Feminism in an Organizational Setting: What Does It Mean?

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From Private to Public: Gendered Violence, Militarism, and War

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Militant Politics, Traditional Cultures: The Fourth World, Survival, and Revivalism

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Race, Gender, and Class

Race, Class, and Gender

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Race and Ethnicity

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Computing and Information Technologies: Changing Identities, Interactions, Inequalities, and Institutions

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Internet Politics: Political Awareness, Participation, and Activities

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Sexualities

Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality

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21st Century Sexualities: New Boundaries, New Communities

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Social Change

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America, the Arab World, and Arab-Americans in a Global Context: Alternative Views and Explanations

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Roundtable on Troubleshooting Academic-Activist Partnerships

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Social Change through Violence: A Question of Being Right or a Question of Peace

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Social Movements

Power in Social Movements: Coalitions, Factions, and Social Change

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Cultures of Resistance and Empowerment: Anarchism, Feminism, and Agency

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Problematizing Movement Ideology: Frames and Discursive Fields

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Identities in Social Movements

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On-line Mobilization: The Changing Nature of Collective Action

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Hacking Social Movements: Online Activism, Hactivism, and Mobilization

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Children and Social Movements

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The White Power Movement

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The Interplay of Social Movement and Counter-movement Organizations

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Creating Spaces for Student and Faculty Activism in Sociology Departments

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Social Problems**The Sociology of Troubles**

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Media and the Construction of Social Problems

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Social Psychology**Interaction Processes and Social Relationships**

Co-Sponsor: Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
 Dan E. Miller
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The Sociology of Everyday Life

Co-Sponsor: The Dennis Brissett Memorial Lecture Series
 Janelle Wilson
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The Sociology of Grief and Grieving

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Emotions and Society

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Identity Transformation and Social Change

Co-Sponsor: Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
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Contested and Liminal Selves

Co-Sponsor: Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
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Sociological Practice

Community-Based Research: Policy, Practice, and Civic Engagement

Co-Sponsor: Social Action Committee

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Job Opportunities in the Non-Profit Sector for College Graduates With Undergraduate Degrees in Sociology

Co-Sponsor: Social Action Committee

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Evaluation Research and Policy Based Studies

Co-Sponsor: Sociological Practice Committee

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Researcher/Community Collaborations to Counter Racism

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Stratification

Stratification: Theories and Research on Social Class

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Social Inequality and Class

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Risk and Resiliency Factors among the Homeless

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Social Constructionism and Social Inequality

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Social Capital, Social Class, Social Inequality, and Social Change

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Teaching and Learning

Teaching Roundtables

Co-Sponsor: Committee on Teaching and Learning
Discussion leaders are being sought to guide discussions about specific sociology courses.

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Graduate Student Research

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Undergraduate Student Research

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Graduate and Undergraduate Research: Student Poster Session

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State Associations' Undergraduate Student Paper Presentations

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Undergraduate Student Research Roundtable

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Feminist and Anti-Racist Pedagogies

*Co-Sponsors: Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society
and Committee on Teaching and Learning*

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Cirque Du Soc: Juggling Teaching and Research

Co-Sponsor: Committee on Teaching and Learning

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Classroom Exercises and Developing Critical Thinking and Sociological Imagination

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Capturing and Maintaining Student Interest in Sociology: Instructional Tactics and Techniques
(Roundtable)

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Online Criminal Justice Education: Trends and Challenges

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Teaching in the Two-Year College: Challenges and Choices
(Panel)

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Graduate Students as Instructors: Challenges and Opportunities

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Cultivating the Sociological Imagination through Experiential Education: Internships, Service-Learning and Off-Campus Learning

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Using Student Travel to Teach Sociology

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Sociologists Teaching First Year Courses: Passing on Skills and Values

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The Current State of the Conflict Perspective in Academia: Classroom Experiences

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Theory

Sociological Theory

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History of Sociology and Sociological Theory

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Contemporary Social and Political Theory

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Ethnomethodology/Conversation Analysis

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Sociological Theory and Practical Applications: How Theory Informs Praxis

Co-Sponsor: Social Action Committee

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The Status of the Body and Physicality in Sociological Theory

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Pragmatism and Sociological Theory

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The Impact of Post Modern Theory on Mobilizing for Change

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Peter M. Hall Lecture Series:**Symbolic Interaction, Sociology, and Changing Society—Critical Issues and New Directions**

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Victimology**Sociology of Domestic Violence**

Co-Sponsor: Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society

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Women Survivors

Co-Sponsor: Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society

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INVITATION

The Midwest Sociological Society Visiting Scholar Program supports two- or three-day visits to colleges in the region by scholars whose research and writing are of special interest. Your school is eligible for a grant if you do not have a Ph.D. program and if you are in the nine-state Midwest Sociological Society region (The Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas). The Midwest Sociological Society will provide transportation and incidental costs for the scholar, the host school provides room, meals, hospitality, while the scholar contributes his or her time and skill.

Visiting Scholars may, among other things, participate in:

- Seminars on special sociological topics
- Public lectures on current issues
- Conferences with faculty members on their research
- Meetings with students interested in advance work
- Classroom presentations

Application requires only a letter containing a plan for the visit, a tentative schedule of dates and times, and an estimated cost to the society. You may name one or more scholars you would like to have for a visit. (Note: Visiting scholars must be members of the Midwest Sociological Society.) If you have no nominees, indicate the fields or specialties of particular interest to your students and faculty, and the Committee will seek to recruit a scholar for the visit. Your request needs to be endorsed by the Dean or President. To apply, write: Julie Harms Cannon, Texas Tech University, Dept of Sociology/Anthro/SW, Box 41012, Lubbock, TX 79409. Phone: 806-742-2401 x232. Email julie.cannon@ttu.edu

Apply for a Midwest Sociological Society Scholarship

The MSS Scholarship Development Committee offers small grants to support innovative research and theoretical inquiry. We award four grants of \$1000 to MSS members. Graduate students and junior faculty, among others, are welcome to submit applications to explain their proposed research, which must be at an early stage of development.

Proposals (up to 1200 words in length, not counting attachments) must include: a statement of the research problem and theoretical framework (with a modest literature review), a summary of the methodology and research design, and an itemized budget with brief budget justification.

Attachments should include a CV and a list of references, but no letters or supporting documents. APPLICANTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE MIDWEST SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN ORDER FOR THEIR APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.

Proposals for 2005 are due by March 15, 2005. Send proposals to Gail Wallace, Chair, Midwest Scholarship Development Committee, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, 107 East Hall-Sociology Department, Ames, Iowa 50011-1070. Email gwallace@iastate.edu or phone at (515) 268-1576.

CALL FOR 2005 NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL ACTION AWARDS

The MSS Social Action Committee invites MSS members to nominate (or solicit nominations) for two annual \$1000 Social Action Awards. Nominated organizations should be located in the MSS region. The purpose of the awards is to recognize grassroots work that exemplifies the social justice and social change principles that underlie the Social Action Committee's focus on social issues. These awards will be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN and in keeping with tradition, the Committee would like to give at least one of the awards to a community-based organization in the host area. To facilitate this we ask that MSS members submit nominations to Stephen Muzzatti by January 31, 2005. Nomination packages should include the organization's name, address, phone and fax numbers; name of a contact person; and a brief (1-2 page) description of what the organization has done that merits this award, as well as any supporting materials (pamphlets, newspaper clippings, etc.).

TO NOMINATE A COMMUNITY-BASED organization, SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: (a) organization's name, address, phone and fax numbers; (b) name of a contact person; and (c) a brief (1-2 page) description of what the organization has done that merits this award.

Submit your nominations by January 31, 2005 to: Stephen L. Muzzatti, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2K3 Canada. Email: muzzatti@ryerson.ca

The MSS Minority Scholarship Fund

The Midwest Sociological Society Minority Scholarship Fund provides support to minority students through the Minority Fellowship Program of the American Sociological Association. The ASA's Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) provides a predoctoral training program that delivers national coordination for minority students engaged in mental health research in institutions of higher education throughout the U.S. From recruitment and placement to training, mentoring, and monitoring, the MFP Program offers graduate students support that complements and extends the education and professional development provided by their home departments. Funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the MFP seeks to attract talented minority students interested in mental health issues and to facilitate their placement, work, and success in graduate programs throughout the U.S. Sociological research on mental health and mental illness is germane to core areas of emphasis within the NIMH specifically, and the National Institutes of Health more generally. The MFP takes seriously the need to train and mentor minority graduate students in mental health and to mobilize sociologists in graduate departments and research settings to make this ambition a reality.

In addition to providing financial support, the MFP works with Fellows and their faculty mentors to help prepare the Fellow for a career in the sociology of mental health. Also, the MFP plans workshops and paper sessions at scholarly meetings, offers travel support to scientific conferences, and fosters the development of formal and informal networks for Fellows in the sociology of mental health. While the MFP does not select schools for applicants, or place students in particular graduate programs, the Program will work with the applicants in identifying departments with strong research programs in the sociology of mental health. Students are encouraged to examine and apply to doctoral programs as early as possible.

Donations to the fund may be sent to the Midwest Sociological Society Treasurer. When making a donation, please specify to which fund you want your donation applied. Send donations to: Sheryl Grana, MSS Treasurer, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, 10 University Dr., 228 Cina Hall, Duluth MN 55812-2496. Email inquiries to: sgrana@d.umn.edu. More information about the program may be obtained at the American Sociological Association website at: <http://www.asanet.org/student/mfp.html>

The Midwest Sociological Society

2004 Membership Form

The MSS membership year is a calendar year (January-December). **RENEW NOW** to ensure that you receive information about the 2005 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Complete and mail this form in the enclosed envelope to:
Midwest Sociological Society, Dept of Culture and Society, Drake University, Des Moines, IA 50311-4505
Please complete address information or attach business card or mailing label

Name _____
First
Middle
Last

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Affiliation (part of the address? _____yes _____no)

To help us better understand the composition of our membership, please provide the following information:

Sex: _____Male _____Female

Race/Ethnicity: The MSS is committed to increasing diversity in all aspects of the organization.

_____ Street Address (required)

_____ Address (continued)

Please check the category with which you identify

_____African American _____Asian American

_____Euro American _____Latino/Latina

_____Native American International/Other (please identify)

_____ City and State

_____ Zip Code

_____ Country (if not U.S.A.)

Student Status: _____Undergraduate _____Graduate

_____ Phone

Check here if you are employed primarily as an applied sociologist. _____

_____ Email Address - please print clearly

Check here if you are interested in being involved in committees or other organizational activities. _____

_____ Area of Acad. Specialization

Note: If you are willing to review articles for *The Sociological Quarterly*, please contact Editor Peter Kivisto at <tsq@augustana.edu> with your substantive areas of interest.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check appropriate category)

- Student/Unemployed \$20
 Regular \$50
 Joint (at same residence) \$65
 Sustaining* \$100 or more
 Sustaining and Joint \$115 or more
 Contributing Life Member Any amount

* Supports MSS Endowment and Minority Scholarship Funds

PAYMENT INFORMATION

MSS Membership payment \$ _____

Contributions:

MSS Minority Scholar Fund \$ _____

MSS Endowment Fund \$ _____

Postage for addresses outside

North America = \$20 \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT

\$ _____

Please Support MSS - Contributions are tax deductible
 Federal Tax ID # 42-6084813 MSS is 501 (c)(3)

MSS Minority Scholarship, through the ASA, supports a minority scholar enrolled at a Midwest graduate program.

MSS Endowment Fund secures the future of the MSS and funds the Visiting Scholar Program which supports MSS scholar visits to non-doctoral, Midwest institutions.

FORM OF PAYMENT

Check Number/Money Order Number _____

International checks and money orders must be in US dollars.

Make checks payable to *Midwest Sociological Society*.

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LIST OF SESSIONS
for the
MSS
2005 Annual Meetings
Minneapolis, MN
March 31-April 3, 2005
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and
ON THE WEB
www.themss.org

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Stigmatized Individuals & the Process of Identity	Kaufman & Johnson
Managing Trouble & Crack Use on Campus	Jackson-Jacobs

The Midwest Sociologist is available on-line at www.themss.org

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