

# ASA

American Sociological Association

## COMMUNITY SECTION NEWSLETTER

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Vol. VIII, No. 1

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Editor: Philip Olson

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### Community Section New Look

The newly designed masthead signals a new editor, and if all goes as planned, a frequent and helpful Newsletter for Section members. Section Chair, Sylvia Fava, hopes to revitalize a sometimes slow Section on Community through more active participation of the members. We plan to use the Newsletter as a means of informing members of forthcoming events in which they can participate.

### Call for Assistance on the Newsletter

We hope the Newsletter will provide information on a wide variety of events of interest to member: forthcoming meetings in which sessions on community related issues are being presented, new publications, employment opportunities, research programs, grant funds available, reports from members, etc. If you have material for future Newsletter issues pertaining to any of these areas, or other ideas you believe to be of interest to the membership, please send them to the Editor, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO 64110. Space permitting (we are limited to 16 pages per year of Newsletter copy), we will print all materials received.

### Newsletter Committee 1978-79

The purpose of the Newsletter committee is to assist in preparing material for the Newsletter and to deal with matters arising over its policies. For the current year, the members are: Irving Allen, University of Connecticut; Arthur Anderson, Fairfield University; Joseph Galaskiewicz, University of Minnesota; Edward Laumann, University of Chicago; Darrel Montero, University of Maryland; Tahi Mottl, Harvard University; and Chris Wyatt, Midwest Research Institute.

### 1979 ASA Meetings

Wednesday, August 29, has been set aside as section day by the ASA for the 1979 meeting in Boston. The program being developed by the Community Section includes the following:

1. Two one-hour roundtable sessions. The roundtables are traditionally one of the most popular sections of our program. They provide the opportunity for sociologists to interact and discuss a wide range of community-related phenomena. Organizing the roundtables this year are:

Maynard Robison  
Department of Sociology  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

Michael Grimes  
Department of Sociology  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

If you have any suggestions for appropriate roundtable topics or discussion leaders, please contact Maynard Robison or Mike Grimes. Roundtables involve a brief informal presentation by a "presenter" and a general discussion among the roundtable participants. Suggestions for presenters, topics, etc. should be sent to Professor Robison or Grimes by January 10, 1979.

2. A two-hour panel on "New Directions in Urban Political Economy." John Walton is organizing this panel and will be inviting key scholars in this area to participate.
3. A two-hour panel on "A Long View of Community Sociology." This panel is still being organized. It will focus on the origin of the field, its most notable achievements and failures, and possible avenues for future development. We hope to include on the panel some of the people who have substantially affected the development of community sociology.
4. A one-hour council meeting, and
5. A one-hour general business meeting, followed by social hour and cocktails.

The ASA's general sessions include a large number of topics appropriate for urban-community papers. The August, 1978, Footnotes has a full list of the general sessions and organizers, but a selected list is provided below. These sessions are not under the auspices of our Community Section, but should represent additional avenues of program participation for our members. Those interested should contact the Chairperson(s) immediately for further details because many sessions tend to fill early and are also subject to early deadlines. This procedure also allows time for slotting your paper into the most appropriate session.

Community: Albert Schaffer, Department of Sociology, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Micro-Communities: Albert Hunter, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Comparative Development: Daniel Kubat, Department of Sociology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1.

Human Ecology: H. H. Winsborough, 3224 Social Science Building, Center for Demography & Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Population Growth, Stability, and Decline: Barbara Anderson, Department of Sociology, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

Racial and Ethnic Community: Reyes Ramos, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Texas, Box 19069, Arlington, Texas 76019.

Rural Sociology: Glenn V. Fuguitt, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 240 AG Hall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Urban Growth and Decline: Roland Liebert, 3535 Devon Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.

Urban Problems: Robert Dentler, School of Education, Boston University, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215.

Any questions or comments about our Section's 1979 program should be directed to: Larry Lyon, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76703.

#### Other Professional Meetings

The following information may be of interest to members of the Section who wish to submit papers during the coming year. In several cases, only partial information is available at this time. In those cases write to the contact person for more detailed information on program sessions, deadlines for submission of papers, and dates and places of the meetings.

#### D. C. SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

For information contact: Laura M. Sharp (President-Elect), Bureau of Social Science Research, 1990 M Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

#### EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting: March 16-18, 1979, Statler Hilton, New York City.  
Paper Committee Chair: James Wright, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003.

#### MIDWEST SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: April 25-28, Downtown Radisson, Minneapolis.  
Paper Deadline: December 1, 1978.  
Sessions of Interest: Urban/Suburban: Dean Roncek, University of Illinois, Chicago 60680; Community: Gene Summers, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706; Rural: Gordon Bultena, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011; All Other Sessions: Dorothy Lee, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61761.

#### NORTH CENTRAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

For information contact: Ruth Hill Useem (President-Elect), Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

#### PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting: April 4-8, 1979, Sheraton-Anaheim Hotel, Anaheim, California.  
Contact: Robert Dubin (President), Graduate School of Administration, University of California, Irvine, California 92717.

#### SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: April 4-7, 1979, Sheraton Builtmore, Atlanta.  
Contact: Orville Cunningham, Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

#### SOUTHWESTERN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

For information contact: Marie M. Fuller (President-Elect), Department of Sociology, Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas 76204.

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Annual Meeting: August 24-27, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, preceding the ASA meetings.

Paper Deadline: February 1, 1979.

Sessions of Interest: The Community Research and Development Division is developing 3 panel topics: 1) Neighborhood revitalization, 2) Politics of community development, and 3) Service delivery systems. Send papers to: Claire Kohrman, James Madison College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting: August 22-26, 1979, Burlington, Vermont.

Contact: Michael Nolan, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65201.

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE SMALL CITY AND REGIONAL COMMUNITY

To be held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, March 15-16, 1979.

Interdisciplinary; and both scholars and practitioners are invited to participate. For more information, contact Robert Wolensky, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481. Deadline for abstracts: January 1, 1979.

Community Section Committees 1978-79

Program: Larry Lyon, Chair; Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Other members are mentioned above.

Nomination: Chair to be announced.

Other members: Al Hunter, Northwestern University; Elizabeth Huttman, California State University, Hayward.

Research Inventory: Michael Grimes, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Special Awards (ad hoc): Arthur Vidich plus two volunteers.

Liaison: Jon Van Til, Chair.

Members interested in serving on committees, this year or next, contact Sylvia Fava, Chair: Department of Sociology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York 11210.

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Community Section  
of the American Sociological Association

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Bonjean, Chairperson, at 4:44 p.m. in the California-West Room, of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco, California, September 6, 1978. Since John Walton was unable to be present, George Hillery was asked by the chair to assume his duties earlier, and thus Hillery acted as secretary for this meeting. Present: Charles Bonjean, Sylvia Fava, Harold Kaufman, Herman Turk, Jack Kasarda, Jacqueline Scherer, Arthur Vidich, Lynne Zucker, Albert Hunter, Michael Grimes, George Hillery and Philip Olson (by invitation).

The minutes for last year were approved. The announcement was made to the Council that the ASA was scheduling all Section meetings on one day next year in

Boston. The day will be Wednesday. There appeared to be a possibility of losing program sessions otherwise.

The Newsletter editor, Roland Liebert, has resigned. Philip Olson was suggested as his successor. Turk moved that Olson be elected by acclamation, and the motion passed. Olson encouraged discussion of the content of the Newsletter. Bonjean suggested that Olson be permitted to appoint his own Board members. There were no objections.

Michael Grimes, as the chair of the Committee on Current Research, said that he had 100 replies to the request he made to the membership for the research inventory, which he felt was not a sufficient response. Accordingly, the last Newsletter contained another copy of the research inventory. The small amount in the treasury (\$26.10) prohibits free distribution. It was suggested that \$5.00 per copy be charged for the final inventory. The suggestion was made to solicit orders for the directory in advance. Another suggestion was made to have a social hour in Boston to pay for the directory. Fava volunteered to take charge of this project.

Fava, the Program Chair, noted that attendance at the sessions of the Section was down, but attendance at the convention itself was also down. There were probably too many roundtables; the program was spread too thin.

For next year's committees, it was decided to appoint the Chairs now and fill out the members later. Current Research: In view of the importance of the ongoing research inventory, Mike Grimes should continue. His appointment was approved by acclamation. Nominations: Al Hunter would continue on the committee as the previous chair. Fava suggested D'Antonio as the new chair, since he is familiar with the Section. Beth Huttman was suggested, as was Digby Baltzell. Fava, as the new Section Chair, was granted carte blanche to appoint new members in the event of refusals. Program: Larry Lyon as Chair, John Walton as Co-Chair. Art Vidich was suggested as a member. Liaison: Jon Van Til as Chair. One person is to be appointed from each region in order to facilitate communication. In addition, one person is to be appointed from related societies, particularly the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Rural Sociological Society, Community Development. The committee should be large.

Under new business, the new award structure of the ASA was discussed. Since Sections can give awards, we want to consider establishing an Ad Hoc Committee in order to decide whether we need one. No name and no money can be attached to the award. The suggestion was moved, seconded, and passed. The new chair would be the incoming chair-elect, Art Vidich.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Hillery, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the General Business Meeting of the  
Community Section of the American Sociological  
Association

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Bonjean, Chairperson, at 5:40 p.m. in the California-West Room of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco, California, September 6, 1978. (Twenty-five persons were present when the meeting was called to order; 35 were present when it adjourned.) The minutes of last year's meeting were approved. The relation between the Section and the Association was discussed. The Council of the ASA considered limiting Section meetings to two. One of the suggested alternatives was having all of the sessions meet on the same day. In response to a question from the floor concerning the percentage of the Association that belongs to Sections, it was noted that this proportion was 40 per cent. It was moved that we support the recommendations from the Section on the Family. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The resignation was announced of Roland Liebert as editor of the Newsletter. Philip Olson is to replace him, who asked for help and ideas.

Mike Grimes reported on the Research Inventory and Member Directory. He noted that he had sent a questionnaire concerning research to the members, and that only 100 had replied. A second questionnaire was mailed in the Summer Newsletter.

We have \$26.10 in the treasury. In an effort to raise funds to pay for the Directory, a cocktail party in Boston was discussed. Sylvia Fava pointed out that we could not have one this time but will in Boston. The possibility of raising dues to cover cost was raised, but it was noted that the ASA is raising due any way. Suggestion was made to have two kinds of rates for the Party--drinking and nondrinking, on an honor system.

Sylvia Fava, Program Chair, commended her committee for its hard work. There were three sessions this year: a panel on "Carter Administration Policy on Urban Issues," organized by Beth Huttman and Susan Fainstein; a papers session on "Racial Inequalities in American Urban Life: Consequences for Women," organized by Gerda Wekerle and David Popenoe; and the roundtable discussions, organized by Larry Lyon, Chair, Tahi Mottl, Maynard Robison, and Ronald S. Burt. Sylvia indicated that the roundtable sessions will be continued since they provide an opportunity for all to participate.

The new Committee Chairs were announced: Newsletter: Philip Olson; Current Research: Mike Grimes; Nominations: Bill D'Antonio, Chair (hopefully), Al Hunter, and Beth Huttman; Program: Co-Chairs, Larry Lyon and John Walton; Liaison: Jon Van Til (hopefully) and the members of each region of the Society and members of other organizations; Ad Hoc: Awards: Art Vidich (the purpose of this committee is to examine the feasibility of giving awards in the field of Community). Other Committee members will be announced.

New Business: There is to be a special addition of Urban Affairs: Inner City Revitalization. June 1, 1979, is the deadline for papers. The editor is Bruce Landon, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22041.

Sylvia Fava announced that February 15, 1979, is the ASA deadline for complete program material to arrive in the ASA office. Material must reach the Community Section Program Committee by January 10 so they can complete their work in time for the ASA deadline. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Report on 1978 Community Section Panel on Urban Policy

By: Peggy Wireman

Elizabeth Huttman, California State University, and Susan Fainstein, Livingston College, Rutgers University, arranged a panel discussion on the "Carter Administration's Policy on Urban Issues" at the ASA meetings. Dr. Fainstein began with a brief overview of the policy. Both Chester McGuire, then Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Lynn A. Curtis, Special Assistant to the Secretary (HUD) stressed the symbolic and practical significance of having an urban policy for the first time. Dr. McGuire pointed out that this ends a "near-decade-long policy of no policy for the cities" but warned that "the urban challenge will not be met unless we can concurrently eliminate the vestiges of housing discrimination." Dr. Curtis noted the importance of plans to modify and coordinate existing programs through such steps as creation of an Inter-agency Coordinating Council and requiring urban impact analyses of Federal actions. He expressed concern that social scientists are "not adequately involved in the policy process." He recommended that graduate schools utilize the models of law and public administration schools as a means of preparing students for the option of government service. Dr. Wireman suggested points of contact for sociologists interested in influencing policy but warned about the sociological differences between the bureaucratic and academic work environments. The authority system, reward system, control over work products, and pace and timing of activities differ. Sociologists would be more influential if their research was on topics perceived by policy makers as relevant and presented more clearly in policy terms. Their greatest opportunity for active involvement may be at the state and local level where it is easier to participate on a regular basis.

Donald I. Warren, Chairperson, Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, also urged sociologists to become involved. He described the sociology of policy making as "not a rational set of activities, but a compromise among the values of political interest groups." Sociologists are not trained to understand or participate in this process. The emphasis on neighborhoods which was achieved did not result from the analytical contribution of community sociologists, but from the lobbying efforts of neighborhood groups.

Ann Markusen, Assistant Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, criticized both the specifics of the urban policy and what she called the anti-urban bias of Carter's overall approach. She said that the energy bill and tax reform proposals both encouraged capital migration from older urban areas to newer rural ones. Moreover, the major thrust of the proposals in the urban policy are subsidies for capital rather than for jobs. She stated that there is "a discrepancy between the apparent commitment of the policy and the actual content given that tax incentives in the past have not proved their effectiveness in creating jobs." The capital subsidies the proposed development bank could eliminate as many jobs as they create without relocation benefits to displaced workers.

For information on the specific content and current status of the urban policy proposals, write to: Urban Policy Staff, Room 7144, The Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410. Dr. Curtis' paper can be obtained from him in Room 6228 at the same address. Dr. Markusen's paper is available at the Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.

Peggy Wireman is a sociologist who participated in developing the urban policy and coordinating the Neighborhood Task Force. She currently is employed as a program analyst in the Office of Environ. Quality HUD. Dr. Wireman participated and writes here as a sociologist. Her reviews do not necessarily represent those of HUD.