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# ASA

American Sociological Association

## COMMUNITY SECTION NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII, No. 3

Summer 1979

Editor: Philip Olson

### Section Council Members Elected

Two persons were elected to three year terms this spring to the Community Section Council: David Popenoe, Rutgers University, and Sandra Schoenberg, Washington University.

According to George Hillery, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer and official ballot counter, 287 votes were cast, including 22 write-in votes.

### Section Award to Nels Anderson

The Award Committee of the Community Section, chaired by Art Vidich, announces that the first recipient of the ASA Section on Community Award for Distinguished Scholarship is Nels Anderson. Born in 1889, Dr. Anderson's first published work, The Hobo appeared in 1923. He continues an active sociological career as an Honorary Research Associate at the University of New Brunswick and he is expected to accept the award in person. Art Vidich, Chair-Elect of the Section, will present the award at the business meeting which will be followed by a reception open to the membership.

### New ASA Sections Board

In an effort to respond to the growing interest (and power?) of the Sections, the ASA Council created a Sections Board, composed of Section Chairs, Chairs-Elect, and Secretaries of all ASA Sections. It is scheduled to meet Monday, Aug. 27. A Convenor will be elected from among its members, who will sit on the ASA Standing Committee on Sections to represent sectional interests and views. Sylvia Fava, Chair of the Community Section will report on the proceedings of the meeting at our business meeting on Wednesday. The potential import of this new Board for the strengthening of the Sections will make her report all the more important to us.

### Boston's Communities: Persistence and Change

During the ASA Convention Peter Langer of the Boston University Department of Sociology will conduct walking tours of three different areas in central Boston that are of particular interest to sociologists. Each tour will be one and a half hours in length, free to interested ASA participants, and will begin and end at the Sheraton-Boston convention site.

The tours will be:

1. Downtown Redevelopment and the North End (Monday and Friday, 10:30 AM)  
Starting at the new government center plaza, we will proceed through the Faneuil Hall market complex, and contrast this affluent waterfront area with the neighboring North End and its Italian working-class residents. (Whyte's Street Corner Society)

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2. Beacon Hill and the Old West End (Tuesday, 10:30 AM)  
Beacon Hill has remained a model of Federalist architecture and resistance to 20th Century redevelopment. The adjacent West End was radically altered by market forces. (Gans' The Urban Villagers)
3. Back Bay and the South End (Thursday, 10:30 AM)  
Two planned Victorian urban developments with radically different histories. The Back Bay has remained as planned, while the South End became an immigrant stopover, then a 'slum,' and now is the focus of young professionals moving back to the city.

All tours will begin at the Shopping Plaza entrance to the Sheraton-Boston, in front of the FAO Schwartz store (toys).

### Community Section Business Meeting and Party

Immediately following the last session on Wednesday afternoon the Section will hold its annual business meeting, followed by a party for Section members and their guests. Sylvia Fava, Chair, invites and encourages your attendance at both events. The business meeting will include a report on the new Sections Board, discussion of next year's program (in search of members' interests for topics), a report on Section Council activities, introduction of new Council members, the presentation of the Section Award to Nels Anderson, and other items currently being detailed.

Following the meeting, members are invited to a party, a revival of our annual get-together. Since the Section Treasury is nearly dry, a \$3.00 per person charge will be made to those attending -- a bargain considering the food, drink, and conversation that will be available. Section Chair Sylvia Fava will host(ess?) the party in her suite at the Sheraton-Boston. A reservation form for the party will be found on the last page of the newsletter with instructions when and where to send money. In order to plan realistically, Sylvia needs a good estimate of the number attending and she encourages you to send your name(s) and money in advance. Those who are uncertain at this time about whether they will be in Boston may pay at the door. The suite number at the Hotel will not be known until Sylvia checks in during the week of the meetings. It will be announced at the business meeting on Wednesday, or can be obtained at the guest information desk at the hotel.

### Section Directory

Under the direction of Michael Grimes and Dianne Craig, the Section on Community 1979 Membership Directory is now available. Courtesy of the Hogg Foundation at the University of Texas (thanks to Chuck Bonjean), the Directory was printed and distributed to Section members. If you did not receive a copy, write to Mike Grimes.

### News Notes

The Connecticut Commission on the Arts awarded to Karol H. Borowski, who is Director of the Institute for Continuing Social and Religious Education, Middlebury, a grant to study the arts resources and needs in Western Connecticut communities.

Prepublication orders are currently being accepted for the proceedings of the second annual Conference On The Small City and Regional Community. This is a softbound volume published by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Foundation Press. The prepublication price of \$7.00 can be mailed to Robert P. Wolensky, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481. The publication price will be \$9.50.

Jack Kinton is general editor of the annual series entitled American Communities which started last year. This is published through Social Sciences and Resources, a not for profit organization. Its primary focus will be on small town revivals and controlling suburban growth.

Dr. Thomas Glynn writes, "I would appreciate being placed on the ASA Community Section mailing list. I am trying to develop and maintain a file of social scientists in the area of community studies whose work is either directly connected with, or applicable to, the study of substance use/abuse. One way of doing this, of course, is to keep abreast of the activities of, and involved individuals in, relevant organizations. This file is to be used to establish contact with researchers whose work may be eligible for grant support by NIDA." He can be reached at: National Institute on Drug Abuse, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, Phone: (202)655-4000.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology publishes The Neighborhood Works, a publication identifying appropriate technologies for urban neighborhoods. It is for people who are re-creating the city in terms of human technologies. For more information, write to: The Neighborhood Works, 570 Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60606.

The Urban Interest is a new biannual publication that has been established to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners, and teachers who have a shared interest in the policies and administration of local governments. A major assumption of the journal is that clear communication between practitioners and academics will contribute to a better understanding of municipal problems and approaches to their solutions. The editorial board of The Urban Interest combines both practitioners and academics. The journal aims to maintain a balanced mix of analytical papers, empirical research, position papers, literature reviews, and case studies. For more information, write to: Cheryl Swanson, Editor, Political Science Department, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

### Recent Research on Community Social Networks

By Joseph Galaskiewicz  
University of Minnesota

One of the more refreshing aspects of the renewed interest in social network analysis is that research is now done almost entirely in the field and away from laboratory settings and college dorms. One of the beneficiaries of this development is the student of the urban community. Wishing to alert our readers to the most recent research on social networks in the community, we provide the following bibliography of published works. All entries are for the years 1977, 1978, and 1979. As it will probably turn out, we have missed some pieces that our readers are privy to (or perhaps have published). If so, we hope that readers will send in titles and abstracts so that they might be published in the next edition of this newsletter.

Many of the entries were taken from Connections, the Bulletin of the International Network for Social Network Analysis.

Community Interorganizational Networks

Herman Turk. Organizations in Modern Life: Cities and Other Large Networks. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1977.

The monograph undertakes an analysis of organizational behavior in the modern urban community. Drawing on macro-sociological theory, Turk identifies different structural components of a field of organizations and argues that these components will co-vary with one another. Special attention is given to the effects that extra-local linkages have on community organization activity. The data for the study were for 130 cities which had populations over 100,000 in 1960.

Findings are discussed and explained within the context of classical structural theory.

Edward O. Laumann, Joseph Galaskiewicz, and Peter Marsden. 1978. "Community structure as interorganizational linkages." Pp. 455-484 in The Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 4, edited by R. Turner, J. Coleman, and R. Fox. Palo Alto: Annual Reviews, Inc.

This article is a comprehensive review of the research done on community inter-organizational networks. After tracing the development of the literature, it proceeds to caution the prospective researcher about certain problems that researchers have often overlooked. The authors then outline a detailed agenda for future research, focusing on several network processes and the interface between interorganizational networks, status groups in the community, and community elites.

Joseph Galaskiewicz and Peter Marsden. 1978. "Interorganizational resource networks: Formal patterns of overlap." Social Science Research, 7:98-107.

The authors examine three types of resource transactions between 73 organizations in a medium-sized, Midwest community. Asymmetric transactions of money, information, and moral support are summarized in a six-variable contingency table. Following Davis, the authors attempt to identify the preponderance of symmetric, exchange, and multiplex exchange relationships among the 73 organizations. Unlike Davis, the authors use hierarchical, log linear models to identify these effect parameters.

Joseph Galaskiewicz. 1979. "The structure of community organizational networks." Social Forces (June).

Interorganizational networks in a medium-sized, Midwest community are examined. Smallest space analysis is used to describe the money, information, and support flow patterns among a wide range of formal organizations. Actors central to these networks are described in detail, and path analysis is used to examine the relationship between organizations' centrality and influence in community affairs.

Joseph Galaskiewicz. 1979. Exchange Networks and Community Politics. Beverly Hills, California: Sage.

This monograph outlines and tests a set of propositions related to the social organization of a community interorganizational network. It describes and attempts to explain the positioning of organizations in networks of information, money, and support transactions. It also shows the effects of organizations' position in the network on their becoming active and "winning" and "losing" in different community issues.

### Community Elite Networks

Ronald Burt. 1977. "Positions in multiple network systems, Part One: A general conception of stratification and prestige in a system of actors cast as a social topology." Social Forces, 56:106-31.

This article extends Burt's earlier work to address the case of actors' positions in multiple network systems. It also outlines a general conceptual approach to stratification and prestige within a structural framework.

Ronald Burt. 1977. "Positions in multiple network systems, Part Two: Stratification and prestige among elite decision-makers in the community of Altneustadt." Social Forces, 56:551-575.

Three basic research issues are addressed concerning the structure of relations among elite community decision-makers as an illustrative application of the conception of a system of actors as a social topology given in Part One: (1) What is the form of the role-sets defining statuses across which the elite are stratified? (2) What is the substance of the relations differentiating the community elite? (3) How is the possession of resources associated with the distribution of prestige among the community elite? The data are taken from E.O. Laumann and F. Pappi's study, Networks of Collective Action (1976).

Edward O. Laumann, Peter Marsden, and Joseph Galaskiewicz. 1977. "Community influence structure: Replication and extension of a network approach." American Journal of Sociology, 83:594-631.

The conception of community leadership structure, as a regularized exchange of information pertinent to community affairs, is used to study political decision-making in three medium-sized communities - Altneustadt and two Illinois communities. Building on the earlier work of Laumann and Pappi (1976), the network of regularized communication contact is related to issue-specific discussion patterns and to outcome preference and activation on specific issues.

Peter Marsden and Edward Laumann. 1977. "Collective action in a community elite: Exchange, influence resources, and issue resolution." Pp. 199-250 in Power, Paradigms, and Community Research edited by Roland Liebert and Allen Imershein. Beverly Hills, California: Sage.

The authors study influence patterns within the community elite of a medium-sized midwestern town - Towertown. Following Coleman, a purposive action model of decision-maker behavior is outlined and made operational for an actual community decision-making situation. Special attention is paid to the impacts of various influence resources and the existing network of communication exchanges that existed among actors in the elite on specific issue outcomes.

Ronald Breiger. 1979. "Toward an operational theory of community elite structures." Quality and Quantity, 13:2;-57.

This paper presents reanalysis of data on a West German community elite (Laumann and Pappi, 1976) and identifies implications of a multiple network analytical strategy ("block-model analysis") for the study of community structures in general. It suggests that diverse theoretical and empirical studies of community power structures may be unified as special cases of block-model images role interlock tables and takes some first steps in providing the necessary operational definitions.

Ronald Breiger and Phillipa Pattison. 1978. "The joint role structure of two communities' elites." Sociological Methods and Research, 7:213-226.

Block-model analysis offers a perspective for developing operational theories of role interlock across multiple networks. The authors identify precisely those features of role interlock that are shared by the elites of two medium-sized midwestern cities (Illinois) (see Laumann, Marsden, and Galaskiewicz, 1977). This joint role structure is then interpreted with the aid of an algebraic model that they formulate on the basis of Granovetter's (1973) "strength of weak ties" argument.

Friendship in a Community Context (Titles only)

Barry Wellman and Barry Crump. 1978. "Networks, neighborhoods, and communities: Approaches to the study of the community question." Urban Affairs Quarterly (December).

Barry Wellman. 1979. "The community question: The intimate networks of East Yorkers." American Journal of Sociology, 84 (March).

Lynne McCallister and Claude S. Fisher. 1978. "A procedure for surveying personal networks." Sociological Methods and Research, 7:131-48.

Claude Fisher, Robert Max Johnson, C. Ann Stueve, Kathleen Gerson and Lynne McCallister Jones with Mark Baldassare. Networks and Places: Social Relations in the Urban Setting. New York: Free Press, 1977.

Henry Irving. 1977. "Social networks in the modern city." Social Forces, 55:867-880.

Leslie Kennedy. 1978. "Environmental opportunity and social contact: A true or spurious relationship." Pacific Sociological Review, 21:173-86.

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Mail to:

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Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me at the Community Section party on Wednesday, Aug. 29, 1979, immediately following the Section business meeting. The party will be held in the Sheraton-Boston Hotel suite registered in Sylvia Fava's name. Enclosed is \$3,00 for each place I am reserving. Please send check or money order ONLY, made payable to Philip Olson.

Checks must be received by  
AUGUST 20, 1979.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_