

2009 Annual Conference

The Sociologists of Minnesota
(www.sociologistsofmn.org)



“Our Favorite Addictions: Business, Government, Public, and Personal Responses”

Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3, 2009

Inver Hills Community College

Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

Conference events take place in Heritage Hall, at the south end of campus, off College Trail, with adjacent parking in the South Parking Lot. Accessibility is good, and all rooms have an LCD projector, overhead projector, and microphone.

Friday, 2 October

Friday, 11:30-12:30pm

Conference Registration—Room 317

Todd Paddock, SOM; and Leda Nath, WSA

Friday, 12-1:30pm

Concurrent Sessions 1

Session 1A—Room 306

Teaching and Learning Session, “Missing Standards and Other Issues: Teaching High-School Sociology”

Session Organizers and Presenters:

- **Linda Havir, Professor of Sociology; Co-Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. Cloud State University**
- **Kyle Ward, Director of Social Studies Education, St. Cloud State University**
- **Gina Asplund, Paige Duncan, and Stephanie Rice, St. Cloud State University**

In this session, future Social Studies teachers who plan to teach high school sociology will speak out on how they became interested in sociology and how sociology informs their other courses. Unlike disciplines such as history or economics, there are no standards for high school sociology courses. This session will focus in part on how to address this problem, as well as other content and standards issues.

Session 1B—Room 307

Applied Research Session, “Feast, Famine, and Fast-Food: Food Issues both Local and Global”

Session Organizer/Chair: Carol Miller, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

- “Food Security and Local Food Pantries” (Greg Peter, University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley)
- “Food Banks or Meal Sites? Which Clients are Hungriest?” (Carol Miller, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)
- “McDonald's in China: A ‘Lesson’ on the McDonaldization of China” (Lynn Guenette, Rochester Community and Technical College)

This session explores a fascinating juxtaposition of food-related issues across two very different nations: the U.S. and China. In the U.S., the problem of food insecurity persists despite an overabundance of food and wealth for a majority of citizens. Two papers in this session report the results of studies meant to address this genuine need. On the other side of the globe, China is a model for reducing hunger, but may also be following the path of the U.S. The third paper describes the spread of McDonald's in China and its impacts, noting that it may be related to a sharp rise in childhood obesity.

Session 1C—Room 309

Student Research Session: “Alcohol, Drugs, and Firearms”

Session Organizer/Chair: Tim Thornton, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

- “Views on Gun Permits in the United States” (Erik Ludwig, Student, Carthage College)
- “Culture Conflicts over Legalization of Marijuana” (Chris Nierman, Student, Carthage College)
- “Drinking and Drugging among Adolescents: Social Variables that Predict Alcohol and Substance Use” (Tyler Kroll, Student, Carthage College)

In this session, we explore attitudes toward drugs and alcohol and factors influencing their use. We also explore public attitudes toward firearm legislation.

Friday, 1:45-3:15pm

Concurrent Sessions 2

Session 2A—Room 306

Research Session, “Geeks, Gamers, and Sex Workers: Social Interactions in the Online World”

Session Organizer/Chair: Todd Paddock, Winona State University

- "Explaining the Attraction of Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPGs)" (Brian Aldrich, Winona State University; Todd Paddock, Winona State University; Emily Kittelson, University of St. Catherine; Tim Moen, Winona State University)
- "Consumer Society and the Simulation of Sex Work in a Virtual World" (Justin Allison Martin, Mankato State University)"

An increasing portion of social interactions now take place in virtual, online worlds. In this session we describe, explore, and explain two kinds of these worlds as well as the social interactions, communities, and societies that result. We focus on MMORPGs (such as World of Warcraft) and the parallel virtual world Second Life, wherein members interact principally as avatars (3D representations of their selves) in a virtual, online world. We mine the rich data produced by these online social interactions and structures and draw on theories of many kinds to offer analysis and explanation.

Session 2B—Room 307

Student Session, “From Dependency to Sovereignty and Places in Between”

Session Organizer/Chair: Carla Norris-Raynbird, Bemidji State University

- "Native Harvest: A Food Path to Sovereignty" (Nikki Crowe, Bemidji State University)
- "Through the Eyes of my Granddaughter: A Feminist Story" (Mona Glassman, Bemidji State University)

In this session, students share personal connections to 'mobilizing grievances' as they present proactive and reflective perspectives on social change that moves individuals and collectives away from dependency and toward sovereignty.

Session 2C—Room 309

Research Session, “Gender Interplay”

Session Organizer/Chair: Leda Nath, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

- “Hyper-Masculinity Amongst Biracial African-American Males” (Ronald Ferguson, Ridgewater College)
- “Gender Play: Holistically” (Elisabeth F. Callahan, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)
- “Nail Polish and Message Boards: Gender Prescriptions in Motherhood and Parenting” (Trina Smith, University of Minnesota)

In this session, we will use gender as an orienting place while considering social life, including motherhood and race.

Friday, 3:30-5pm

Concurrent Sessions 3

Session 3A—Room 306

Teaching and Learning Session, The Sociological Classroom: Teaching, Learning, and Assessing Across the Curriculum
Session Organizer/Chair: Jackie Clark, Ripon College

- “Assessing Student Development/Personal Growth Across and Within Groups That Are Part of an Introduction to Sociology Course” (Scott Magnuson-Martinson, Phyllis Goudy Myers, Brooke Thaden-Koch, Normandale Community College)
- “Did You Really Need a U-Haul to Move into the Dorm? Teaching Students to Think Critically About Their Consumption Behaviors” (Jackie Clark, Ripon College)

In this session, we focus on the scholarship of teaching. Specifically, we examine creative strategies for teaching and assessing critical thinking skills. We also consider how the classroom can be a site for sociological analysis.

Session 3B—Room 307

Research Session, “Violence and Gang Membership”

Session Organizer/Chair: Tim Thornton, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

- “Firearm Involvement Influences on the Recidivism of Gang Members Compared to Non-Gang Members” (Daniel Scott, Student, University of Wisconsin-River Falls)
- “Domestic Violence among Immigrant Populations: The Meaning of Ethnicity and Culture with Regard to Domestic Violence Issues” (Colin Wang, University of Wisconsin-Colleges-Marathon County)
- “Teachers and Student Violence: A Look at Fear of Students Committing Violent Acts” (Rick Niesen, Student, Carthage College)

In this session, we explore violence in a wide variety of contexts, including domestic violence, school violence, and gang violence. We also discuss social and cultural factors that influence the risk of victimization, the perpetuation of violence, and the risk of recidivism.

Session 3C—Room 309

Applied Session, “Learning to Collaborate: Breaking Patterns of Power”

Session Organizer/Chair: Carla Norris-Raynbird, Bemidji State University

- Panel Members: Janet Prater, Criminal Justice, Bemidji State University
- Carla Norris-Raynbird, Sociology, Bemidji State University
- Nikki Crowe, Bemidji State University Student Researcher

In this session, we explore the service role of facilitation in academic collaboration with tribal populations and service agencies. Panel members will discuss their experiences with justice initiatives, research initiatives, and the challenges of 'walking between two worlds.' We will open discussion following panel members' brief presentations.

Friday, 5-6pm

Social Hour with Cash Bar—Room 203

Friday, 6pm

Dinner—Room 203

Friday, 7:15pm

Keynote Address by Peter Kivisto, Augusta College
“Addicted to Cheap Labor: Exploring the Interconnected Roles of Business Owners, Consumers, and Citizens”

Friday, 8:30pm to ?

Social Get-Together, Location TBA

Saturday, 3 October

Saturday, 8-9am

Conference Registration—Room 317

Todd Paddock, SOM; and Leda Nath, WSA

Saturday, 8:30-10am

Concurrent Sessions 4

Session 4A—Room 306

Career Session, “Is There Life After a Sociology B.A.?”

Session Organizer/Chair: Jenna Covey, Associate Director for womenwinning, Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund

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- Dan Buck, Grassroots Organizer, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota
- Jenny Wangstad, Nursery School Teacher, Apple Valley, Minnesota
- Additional panel members to be announced

Are you a sociology student making plans for your professional life after graduating? A professional with a bachelor's in sociology? A sociology educator? Come listen to advice and experience from former sociology majors who have taken various paths after obtaining their bachelor's in sociology, and be part of our discussion of “Life after a Sociology B.A.”

Session 4B—Room 307

Workshop, “Professing Public Sociology: Writing to be Read”

Organizer: Monte Bute, Metropolitan State University

This interactive workshop compares and contrasts two ideal types of sociology: “professional” and “public.” Each is engaged in what Howard Becker calls “telling about society” (2007). However, their rhetorical stances differ in two essential ways: audience and voice. First, what audience are they telling their story to—sociology for whom? Second, how are they telling their story—whose voice? After a brief presentation, the audience will discuss the practical implications of this distinction.

Session 4C—Room 309

Career Session, Authors Meet Critics: “Presenting Yourself as a Teaching Sociologist on the Job Market”

Session Organizers and Presenters:

- **Meg Wilkes Karraker, University of St. Thomas**
- **Charlotte Kunkel, Luther College**
- **Susan Ferguson, Grinnell College (co-author, but unable to attend)**

This session is aimed at three audiences: the novice sociologist, the experienced sociologist, and the developing sociologist. We begin with assumptions (inspired by Boyer) on the place of the teaching enterprise in the academy. We then describe the construction of teaching as professional identity, processes for acquiring meaningful teaching experiences, documentation through the teaching portfolio, and, finally, presentation of the teaching self. In this ‘author meets critics’ forum, we welcome feedback from both those who are placing themselves ‘on the market’ and those in a position to hire.

Saturday, 10-10:30am

SOM Past-President, Scott Foster

Working Session—Room 309

Composition of SOM Board. All SOM members, old and new, are encouraged to take part.

Saturday, 10:30am-12pm

Concurrent Sessions 5

Session 5A—Room 306

Student Research Session, Caroline Rose Undergraduate Paper Contest Winners

Session Organizer/Chair: Janet Enke, Metropolitan State University

- “Liberation Theology and the Political Economy of Modernizationist Capitalism: The Historical Case Studies of Nicaragua and the Philippines” (Zach Lamb, St. Cloud State University)
- “Urban Ghost Towns: Neighborhood Characteristics and Foreclosure: The Case of Minneapolis, Minnesota” (Matt Burdick, Augsburg College)

Session 5B—Room 307

Applied Forum, “What We Have Been Working On Lately”

Session Organizer/Chair: Paul Schmid, U.S. Bank; Consultant, HR Metrics and Org. Dev.

- “Emergency Preparedness: Sociology and Emergency Planning—Nasty Floods, Nuclear Fallout, and the H1N1 Flu” (Suzanne Gaines, Hennepin County, Public Health Supervisor, EMS Unit)
- “Which Type of Internet Geek are You? Behavior Patterns in Online Communities” (Monica Wiant, U.S. Bank, Collaboration Consultant)
- “Human Resource Metrics: Making Hard Numbers Out of the Soft Stuff” (Paul Schmid, U.S. Bank; Consultant, HR Metrics and Organization Development)

Applied social scientists are commonly asked, “What do you do at work?” Well, come to this session and find out. Join us as we share some of our current work. Tell us what you are up to. The topics vary from public health to metrics development to a social media study. Let’s see what else we are doing in the applied world.

Session 5C—Room 309

Research Session, “Defining, Forming, and Maintaining Collectives”

Session Organizer/Chair: Wayne Thompson, Carthage College

- “The Continuing Significance of Deaf Ethnicity in the 21st Century” (Richard Clark Eckert, University of Wisconsin-Richland)
- “Basics for Revitalizing Collective Life, Part 2: Clarity for a Necessary Social Movement” (George Floro, Sul Ross State University)
- “Blessed Be the Ties That Bind, Twist, and Break: Denominationalism and Outreach in Lutheran Congregations” (Wayne Thompson, Carthage College)

In this session, one author advances in our understanding of ethnicity by advancing an argument for the continued significance of deafness as an *ethnos*. A second author outlines possible components for a sociological odyssey of practice and inquiry that can also revitalize collective life. A third author describes how existing collectivities—Lutheran congregations—are both maintained and strained by denominationalism and outreach.

Saturday, 12-1:30pm

SOM President, Suzanne Gaines

Luncheon, Recognition, and Business Meeting—Room 203

Saturday, 1:30-2:30pm

New SOM President, Todd Paddock

Executive Board Meeting—Room 306