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Important Dates:

- Fall SOM and WSA Meeting at Inver Hills Community College, Inver Hills, MN October 2 & 3, 2009
- Paper Proposal Deadline: September 15, 2009
- Nominations for Student Paper Competition Awards: September 15, 2009
- Student Travel Grant Application Deadline: September 15, 2009

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Sociological Imaginations Call for Submissions



WISCONSIN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer/Fall 2009

Newsletter

"Our Favorite Addictions: Business, Government, Public, & Personal Responses"

This year's fall conference is jointly sponsored by the Sociologists of Minnesota and the Wisconsin Sociological Association. The theme for the 2009 conference is "Our Favorite Addictions: Business, Government, Public, and Personal Responses." The conference will be held at Inver Hills Community College, at Inver Hills, MN (near the Twin Cities) Friday and Saturday, October 2 & 3, 2009.

The SOM/WSA conference organizers are finalizing panels, roundtables, paper sessions, and other activities. Sessions relating to the conference theme and topics of interest to sociology students are particularly encouraged. While the conference emphasizes addiction, all sociology topics are encouraged and will be represented. We welcome applied sociologists, faculty, students, and all others who use sociology to understand the world around them. How do we use sociology to address addictions? How do we use sociology to investigate the subject of addictions? How do we use sociology to offer new approaches and perspectives on the his subject? Send in your ideas to 2009 conference chair Todd Paddock at

tpaddock@winona.edu

See the call for sessions and papers enclosed with the newsletter or at the WSA website (www.uwrf.edu/wsa) The SOM and WSA are having an Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Students are strongly encouraged to present their projects and submit papers for consideration. The SOM and WSA meeting is an excellent place for students to network with fellow students and faculty, exchange ideas, learn about recent activities in the region and gain valuable experience presenting research.

To help support student attendance at the meeting, WSA is offering four student travel grants up to \$100

each. Just return the completed travel grant form to the WSA treasurer, Leda Nath, UW-Whitewater, by September 15, 2009. Student Travel Grant and Session Organizer Forms for the 2009 meeting at Inver Hills Community College are enclosed with this newsletter. The WSA membership form is included on page three of the newsletter. Please consider joining or renewing your membership today by completing and returning the form.

Your attendance and involvement is appreciated and will help keep WSA on track for what should be a great conference this fall and in the coming years!



The WSA executive committee at the 2008 Conference held at Rockford College in Rockford, IL.

President's Message By Wayne Thompson-WSA President

As summer fades and fall rushes in with crisp mornings it is time for the WSA annual conference again. This year is especially exciting as we will be meeting jointly with the Sociologists of Minnesota at Inver Hills Community College at a convenient location in a suburban setting near St. Paul, Minnesota. What we have planned is an all-day Friday and half-day Saturday conference this year, a schedule meant to be friendly to those of us who have classes to teach or attend. The Twin Cities provide a diverse and intriguing backdrop for our conference with opportunities for interaction with other interesting people, learning about each other's research and lots of good discussion about teaching, learning, research and other topics. Beyond the conference itself, the urban setting gives us options to explore ethnic neighborhoods, visit museums, savor restaurants and even indulge in the guilty pleasure of a trip to the Mall of America.

There is a lot in this year's conference to satisfy our intellectual curiosity, both for students, faculty and practitioners of the sociological discipline. We will have paper sessions, teaching sessions, a research poster session and a keynote banquet address from Peter Kivisto, President-Elect of the Midwest Sociological Society. We really could not have put together two organizations more dedicated to sociology and bridging across student, faculty and practitioner audiences for and from our discipline. Keep in mind some timelines – September 14 for hotel reservations, September 15 for paper or session proposals, September 28 for banquet and awards luncheon reservations and, of course, the conference on October 2 (Friday) and October 3 (Saturday morning). Details are available elsewhere in this edition of the WSA newsletter.

Welcome to a great year and conference

with not one but two wonderful professional associations where students, faculty and sociological practitioners work together as a learning community. What could be better for us, our students and our colleagues? Sociology has so much to offer in community betterment and the quest for knowledge about our world; our subject matter is compelling and we are excited about making our association strong as we look to what I believe will be a bright future for the WSA and sociology in the academy and the broader world.

Peace,

Wayne Luther Thompson
Carthage College

“Sociology has so much to offer in community betterment and the quest for knowledge about our world.”

Membership in WSA includes a subscription to the semiannual journal *Sociological Imagination*, informative WSA Newsletters, and the Roster of Wisconsin Sociologists. Also, please consider making a donation to the WSA Endowment Fund (any amount), which serves as a critical resource for funding student awards, student travel grants, and for meeting rising costs of the publication of *Sociological Imagination*.

Please Type or Print Legibly:

This application is for WSA year:

Member Information			
First and Last Name:			
School/Organizational Affiliation:			
Complete Preferred Mailing Address for <i>Sociological Imagination</i> and other business:			
Phone:			
E-mail (for newsletters):			
Membership Fees Total			\$
	Sustaining (supports reduced student fees)	\$60.00	
	Regular	\$30.00	
	Student	\$10.00	
	Retired/Emeritus	\$25.00	
Annual Conference Fees Total (Held October 2 & 3 at Inver Hills Community College)			\$
	Sustaining or Regular Registration	\$30.00	
	Retired/Emeritus Registration	\$25.00	
	Student Registration	\$10.00	
	Friday night meal (students \$20)	\$25/20	
	Saturday lunch (students \$15)	\$20/15	
Institutional Journal Subscription Only (e.g., Library)			
	National	\$40.00	
	International	\$50.00	
Grand WSA Total: (Make check payable to WSA)			\$

Optional WSA Endowment Fund Donation: \$
 (Make a **separate check** payable to *UWSP Foundation*)

Mail your check(s) and this completed form to:
 Leda Nath, WSA Treasurer; Soc, Anthro & CJ Dept; UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI 53190

Visit us on the web at:
<http://www.uwrf.edu/wsa/>

President Wayne Thompson,
Carthage College
wthompson@carthage.edu

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“Gonna Have to Face It We’re Addicted to...” By Carol Miller-WSA President Elect

The theme of this year’s WSA joint conference with the Sociologists of Minnesota is "Our Favorite Addictions: Business, Government, Public, and Personal Responses." In this time of economic crisis, such a theme may not seem relevant. However, it is my belief that much of our country’s current crisis is the result of our addiction to affluence or consumerism. Many times an addiction masks another problem of which we are in denial.

For quite some time, our society has been in denial of the fact that globalization was decreasing the standard of living for the working and middle classes. As manufacturing and even high technology jobs got shipped overseas where workers could be paid next to slaves’ wages, no one wanted to ask how we were able to sustain such high levels of consumption. With real wages stagnating how were we able afford newer and bigger SUV’s and McMansions, along with all the junk on display at any big box store popping up in every community? Of course, the

answer was bogus credit. Many of us were living beyond our means, with houses, cars, electronics and more that cost more than we were earning each year, but it didn’t matter because as long as we could borrow against the fake equity in our homes, the banks would feed our addiction.

Well, the dealers were recently busted and our supplies were cut off, so now we have no choice but to sober up and face reality. Maybe some good will come from this current crisis. Maybe people will recognize the fallacy in the system and demand change. To some extent, they already have. Of course, there’s the possibility that they won’t like living within their means and will start “jonesing” for the high they got right after purchasing something they secretly knew they couldn’t afford. It’s just a matter of time when another pusher materializes.

That’s what makes our classroom lessons about inequality, exploitation and the crises of capitalism so important. Sociology could be a cure for many social addictions because it allows us to understand that which we wish to deny. I look forward to the many presentations directly or indirectly related to this year’s conference theme. I hope you’ll join us to meet up with colleagues in Wisconsin and Minnesota to discuss what we’re researching and teaching and how we’re serving our communities during these difficult times.



Recap of the 2008 ISA/WSA Conference at Rockford College

On October 23 & 24th, 2008, the Illinois Sociological Association along with the Wisconsin Sociological Association hosted the annual meeting at Rockford College in Rockford, IL. The conference theme was "Sociologists Making a Difference." Over 50 panelists and presenters discussed a variety of diverse topics, from crime, gender, and poverty, to issues of teaching and evaluating sociology, visual sociology, collaborative and active learning strategies, community involvement, and social class and job loss. Undergraduate student research was featured prominently throughout the conference sessions. Undergraduate paper competition winners Alex Thompson from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse, James Huettig from Northwestern University, and graduate student paper competition winner Glenance LaVerne Green from Loyola University highlighted their research findings. Louise W. Knight provided the keynote address "Citizen Jane: Jane Ad-

dams, A Social Scientist Who Made A Difference" from the very institution from where Jane Addams received with bachelor's degree (Rockford College). All in all, the conference provided an excellent glimpse into the fresh and exciting research being conducted by Midwestern students and faculty alike.

Undergraduate student research presentations were among the highlights of the 2008 fall conference at Rockford College.



Call for Submissions!

Sociological Imagination wants your interesting sociological research or theory article. Get valuable feedback on your manuscript and get your article published in WSA's official peer-reviewed journal.

For submission guidelines go to: <http://www.uwrf.edu/wsa/journal.htm>

Send submissions to:
 Tricia Davis, Editor
 Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice
 UW-River Falls
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 River Falls, WI 54022
 Phone: 715-425-3260
 Email: sociologicalimagination@uwrf.edu