

ASA Section on Aging & The Life Course

Section Business Meeting - 2002

The Business Meeting of the Section on Aging and the Life Course convened on Sunday, August 18, 2002 at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association held in Chicago. Linda K. George (Section Chair) presided.

2001 Minutes

The minutes of the 2001 meeting (taken by Deborah Gold) were distributed. No corrections or changes were made. Section members unanimously agreed to accept them as presented.

Cost of Section Newsletter:

\$ 445.00	March 2002 only
\$ 925.66	March and July 2001 issues only
\$1,280.71	2001 total cost

Report of the Treasurer (Eleanor Palo Stoller):

Net Assets:

\$7,150.00	June 30, 2002
\$8,787.82	June 30, 2001
\$6,936.02	June 30, 2000
\$7,689.81	June 30, 1999
- \$1,637.82	Change (2002-2001) (-18.6%)
\$1,851.80	Change (2001-2000) (+26.7%)

Dues Income:

\$1,121	2002
\$1,433	2001
\$1,353	2000
\$1,296	1999
- \$ 312	Change (2002-2001) (-21.8%)
\$ 80	Change (2001-2000) (+5.9%)

Reception and Annual Meeting Costs:

\$ - - -	August 2002 (not yet available)
\$1,818.99	August 2001
\$1,681.21	August 2000
\$1,250.00	August 1999
\$ 137.78	Change (2001-2000) (+8.2%)
\$ 431.21	Change (2000-1999) (+34%)

ASA Allocation for Section:

\$1,960	2002
\$2,224	2001
\$2,224	2000
\$2,126	1999
- \$ 264	Change (2002-2001) (-11.9%)
\$ 0	Change (2001-2000) (no change)
\$ 98	Change (2000-2001) (+5%)

Note: The budget reflects decreases in revenues as well as a continued (but now gradual) increase in expenditure associated with the annual meeting. The only budget category in which our expenditures exceeded budgeted funds was the costs associated with the 2001 Annual Meeting. However, it is important to note that our expenditures still exceeded revenues.

The major budget declines represent a decline in membership, from a high of 571 in July 1999 to 443 in July 2001. As a result, both dues income and the section budget allocation from ASA were significantly reduced.

Last year, in devising the budget for 2002, we decided to dip into section revenues. This decision will result in a projected decline of Net Assets to \$3,502 by December 2002 (an absolute decline in net assets of \$1,649 and a percentage decrease of 32.0%). We need to address strategies for both increasing revenues and/or minimizing expenses in what is already a budget of restraint. On a positive note, membership as of July 2002 was 463 -- 20 more members than last year at this time.

Election Results

Chair of the 2001-2002 Nominations Committee was Eva Kahana, and members were Janet Giele, John Williamson, and Steve Cutler.

Chair-Elect:	Eileen Crimmins
Council:	Dale Dannefer
Council:	Karl Pillemer
Student Member:	Adam Perzynski

fall 2002

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Chair*

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Home Page:

[www.asanet.org/
sectionaging](http://www.asanet.org/sectionaging)

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Life Course**

Chair

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Lawrence, KS 66045-2830

Chair-Elect

Eileen Crimmins
Andrus Gerontology Center
Univ. of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191

Past-Chair

Linda K. George
Department of Sociology
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708

Secretary/Treasurer

Eleanor Palo Stoller ('04)
Center on Aging and Health
Case Western Reserve
University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7124

Council

Jacqueline Angel ('03)
Kenneth Ferraro ('03)
Duane Alwin ('04)
Ellen Idler ('04)
Dale Dannefer ('05)
Karl Pillemer ('05)

Student Members

Joy Pixley ('03)
Adam Perzynski ('04)

Book Raffle Committee

After several years of dormancy, the section's book raffle was revived by **Maxi Szinovacz** with assistance from **Cheryl Elman** and **Bill Lane**. The raffle included 51 books and 2 journal subscriptions, and raised over \$650 for the section.

Student Committee

Student representative **Joy Pixley** said that she and fellow student representative **Adam Perzynski** will be working to get more students involved in the section. It is now possible to distinguish students from other members in the Section membership listing, and they plan to initiate a student listserv. Joy asked members to encourage students to become more active in the section.

Awards and Recognition

Student Paper Award (presented by Award Committee Chair Deborah Gold; Committee members were Jacqueline Angel and Kenneth Ferraro):
Tay McNamara, Boston College.

Distinguished Scholar Award (announced by Selection Committee Chair, Dave Ekerdt; Committee members were Jay Gubrium and John Miles):
Martin Kohli, Free University of Berlin.

Recognition for Service Contributions to the Section (presented by Linda George):

Certificates of appreciation were presented to outgoing section Chair **Eva Kahana** and to outgoing Council members **Cary Kart** and **Judith Treas**.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to outgoing section newsletter editor **Ron Abeles**, who has written the newsletter for "so long that there is no official record of when he began serving in this position." Section members gave Ron a standing ovation in recognition of his contributions to the section.

Linda George transferred leadership of the section to **David Ekerdt**, new chair of the section on Aging and the Life Course.

Information for the Section Business Meeting notes was provided by Eleanor Stoller and David Ekerdt.

Roundtables and Research Groups

Among the section's sessions at the 2002 ASA meeting in Chicago were Discussion Roundtables and Research Groups. Duane Alwin and Ellen Idler organized this year's session and provide the following comparison to prior years. The Roundtables continue to be a popular, well-attended, and successful part of the Section's program. Each Roundtable had a Presider and 3 – 5 papers. The Research Groups are organized independently and meet at the same time as refereed Roundtables. (See page 6 of this newsletter for a list of the Research Groups and their Chairs.)

	2000	2001	2002
REFEREED ROUNDTABLES			
Number of papers submitted	?	23	23
Number of papers accepted	24	22	23
Number of tables	13	6	6
RESEARCH GROUPS			
Bioethics, Aging and the Life Course	Did not meet	Met	Did not meet
Gender and Aging	Met	Merged	Did not meet
Aging Well	Met	Did not meet	Met
Parent-Child Relations in the Later Years	Met	Met	Met
Comparative Social Gerontology	Met (2 tables)	Met	Met
Older Women in Academic Settings	Did not meet	Merged	Did not meet
Work and Retirement	Met	Met	Met
The Life Course	Met	Met	Met
Race and Ethnicity across Life Course	---	Met, first time	Did not meet

Membership Report

(Marc Musick):

(The following report elaborates information provided by Musick at the annual meeting.) As membership chair I have worked on a method to track section members over time. The goal of this work is to better understand who our members are, how often we recruit new members and how well we do keeping existing ones. Using data provided by ASA, I have been able to construct a chart that tracks individual members and allows the computation of summary statistics for section membership. The following tables present some of the findings that have resulted from this tracking process.

Table 1. Overall Section Membership Figures

Oct 1999	Oct 2000	Oct 2001	Aug 2002
612	562	483	484

Table 1 presents membership totals for the section by year. According to these figures, membership was at a high of 612 for the four years under examination. Membership fell to 562 the following year, then to 483 in 2001. According to sources at ASA, some of the drop-off in membership in 2001 was due to overall declines in ASA membership that year. For 2002 we have seen somewhat of a rebound, and given that the membership year does not end until October, it is still unclear how much membership will increase this year. (ASA's final count was 490 members.)

Table 2. Number of Years as a Section Member

One	Two	Three	Four	Total
320	178	135	265	898

Table 2 shows the number of people who have been members of the section over different periods of time. According to this table, 320 were members for a single year of the four, 178 were members for two of those years, 135 for three years, and 265 for all four years. The total number of unique members in the section over the past four years was 898. These findings appear to indicate that the section does a relatively good job of recruiting new members, but that retention of members over longer periods of time is somewhat more difficult.

Table 3. 2002 Section Return Status by ASA Membership Category

	New	Ret	Total
Regular Members:	36	265	301
Associate Members:	4	23	27
Student Members:	56	71	127
Emeritus Members:	1	28	29
	97	387	484

Finally, Table 3 shows membership totals for 2002 by return status and membership category. 2002 was the first year for which I could get membership status data; however, those data will now be available to the section every year, allowing future membership chairs to track members in different categories. Of the 301 regular members of the section, 265 had previously been members of the section (between 1999 and 2001) and 36 were new members. Of the student members, 71 were returning and 56 were new.

Based on these figures, the section does not appear to be in danger of falling below the 400 member mark and losing a session in the annual meetings. However, the section also needs a substantial number of renewals or new members to bring it back up to the 600 member mark, at which point the section will receive an additional session at the annual meetings.

In the council meeting this past August, the council discussed several options for increasing membership in the section. Section members should see some of these new ideas implemented in the upcoming months.

Listserv Update

(Marc Musick):

This past year we moved the listserv from its Duke home to one at ASA. In the new form, the listserv is actually composed of two parts. The first, an announcement listserv, is maintained by ASA and contains all members of the section. Members do not have to add or remove themselves from this list as it will be done automatically by ASA based on section membership status. Because this list is populated by all section members, we will only use it to distribute messages concerning section business. If you have section business that you would like posted to the list, please mail it to aging-announce@listserv.asanet.org.

The second list maintained by ASA has been called the discussion listserv. It is likely that we will rename this listserv to better reflect its function, but that name remains to be decided. This listserv allows section members and nonmembers to distribute information or announcements related to the field. Anyone can be a member of this list, including those who are not members of the section. To become a member of the listserv, interested parties must add themselves or have the listserv maintainer do it for them. If you would like to send out a message over this listserv or would just like to contact the listserv maintainer, please send a message to aging@listserv.asanet.org.

Editor's note

Many thanks to Ron Abeles for his kind assistance in helping to smooth the transition in the newsletter editorship.

From the Section Chair

Though it is early fall, I'd like to ask members of the section to look ahead to next summer's ASA meeting in Atlanta. In particular, you should consider bringing your research and scholarship to the program. There are ample opportunities to participate, as detailed in the Call for Papers to be issued by the end of October (see the ASA website). Individual program submissions will be due by January 15, so now is the time to prepare them.

Our "section day" in 2003 will fall on the fourth or last day of the ASA meeting, on Tuesday, August 19. The ASA gives sections an extra session when they fall on the last day, so Aging and Life Course will have four sessions in 2003. One will combine our Business Meeting with the Distinguished Scholar lecture by **Martin Kohli** of the Free University of Berlin. One session, as always, will be given to roundtables and research groups. There will be an open paper submission session on the theme of work and retirement. Finally, I will organize a symposium on a topic that deserves more attention, aging and consumption. In addition, our man in Atlanta, **Don Reitzes**, along with his colleagues, will help us think about some hospitality for section members who come to town.

The ASA program will also feature "regular sessions" on aging, life course, family, health and illness, population, and numerous other substantive interests of members. The organizers of these open submission sessions welcome your papers. Again, all is explained in the Call for Papers, and we will use the section listserv to remind you of these opportunities as time goes by.

This fall we welcome some new people to service in the section. These include our new section officers—Chair-elect **Eileen Crimmins**, Council Members **Dale Dannefer** and **Karl Pillemer**, and Student Member **Adam Perzynski**.

After many years of service to the section, **Ron Abeles** has stepped down as editor of the section newsletter. We're very happy to have **Laurie Hatch** (University of Kentucky) succeed him, starting with this issue. Ron will continue to tend the section homepage on the Web, and it remains the authoritative source about our activities and history.

Marc Musick originated a listserv for the section several years ago while he was a graduate student and he has overseen its transition to ASA management. This fall you will be seeing a new name passing announcements and information along to you, **Tay McNamara** of Boston College. Marc Musick also brought his characteristic thoroughness to the section's Membership Committee. We are delighted that **Deborah Carr** (Rutgers University) will be taking over from Marc as Chair of the Membership Committee this fall. So in the coming year, Deborah, Tay, and Laurie will have major roles in maintaining our community of scholars.

Finally, there's another way in which the future looks good. At our Business Meeting in Chicago, after receiving the virtual gavel from past section chair, **Linda George**, I asked the meeting if any jobs were coming open in aging and life course. Quite a few members stood up to mention positions, many of them at the assistant professor level. From that, our student members can take heart and dive into the *ASA Employment Bulletin*.

- David Ekerdt

Section Officers, Committees, and Other Assignments: 2002-2003

Chair

David J. Ekerdt

Chair-Elect

Eileen Crimmins

Past-Chair

Linda K. George

Secretary/Treasurer

Eleanor Palo Stoller

Council

Jacqueline Angel ('03)

Kenneth Ferraro ('03)

Duane Alwin ('04)

Ellen Idler ('04)

Dale Dannefer ('05)

Karl Pillemer ('05)

Council Student Members

Joy Pixley ('03)

Adam Perzynski ('04)

Program Committee

David J. Ekerdt

(+ 2 members to be appointed)

Committee on Nominations

Linda K. George

(+ 2 members to be appointed)

Distinguished Scholar Award

Eileen Crimmins

Jacqueline L. Angel

Kenneth F. Ferraro

Graduate Student Paper**Award**

Merril Silverstein

Duane Alwin

Ellen Idler

Committee on Research Groups and Roundtables

Dale Dannefer

Karl Pillemer

Membership Chair

Deborah Carr

Listserv Manager

Tay McNamara

Homepage Manager

Ronald P. Abeles

Newsletter Editor

Laurie R. Hatch

News of Members

Ron Abeles, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, NIH, received the National Institutes of Health Award of Merit "for exceptional leadership in advancing a program of research to understand and apply knowledge about the relationship between psychosocial factors and health." He also was elevated to Fellow status in the Gerontological Society of America.

Glen Elder and Rand D. Conger received the William J. Goode Award for distinguished books from 2000-2002, for *Children of the Land: Adversity and Success in Rural America*, University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Brian Gran has joined the sociology faculty at Case Western Reserve University.

Jeylan Mortimer, University of Minnesota, was quoted in an article in USA Today, August 27, 2002, about teen part-time job stress and the development of coping skills for later life, which she presented in a paper at the American Psychological Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, August 23.

Joy Pixley has joined the sociology faculty at the University of California, Irvine.

Stephanie Robert (University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work) has received NIH funding for "Community Context and Health Over the Life Course." The grant is co-funded by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research.

Recently Published

Hans-Peter Blossfeld and **Sonja Drobnic** (Eds.), *Careers of Couples in Contemporary Societies: From Male Breadwinner to Dual Earner Families*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

Carroll L. Estes & Associates (Robert L. Alford, Elizabeth A. Binney, Julia E. Bradsher, Liz Close, Chiquita A. Collins, Anne Hays Egan, **Charlene Harrington**, Karen W. Linkins, Marty Lynch, Jane L. Mahakian, David N. Pellow, **Steven P. Wallace**, and Tracy A. Weitz), *Social Policy and Aging: A Critical Perspective*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2001.

Richard Settersten and Timothy J. Owens (Eds.), *Advances in Life Course Research: New Frontiers in Socialization*. London: Elsevier Science, 2002.

Richard Settersten (Ed.), *Invitation to the Life Course: Toward New Understandings of Later Life*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Co., 2003.

University of Kansas **Ph.D. Program in Gerontology**

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Rhonda J.V. Montgomery, Sociology

Susan Kemper, Psychology

David Ekerdt, Sociology

Mark Mathews, Human Development

Mary Lee Hummert, Communication Studies

Virgil Adams, Psychology

Now accepting applications for Fall 2003

For more information contact:
Rhonda Montgomery, Director
(rmontgomery@ku.edu)
Gerontology Graduate Program,
Gerontology Center,
1000 Sunnyside Ave., #3090
Lawrence, KS 66045-7555
Phone: 785/864-4130

Position Announcement

CORNELL UNIVERSITY Chair, Department of Human Development COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

The Department of Human Development in the College of Human Ecology invites nominations and applications for the position of Chair of the Department of Human Development and Helen G. Canoyer Professorship. The Chair provides leadership with the faculty and staff in the planning, development and implementation of the multi-disciplinary teaching, research and outreach/extension programs of the department.

The Dept. of Human Development is a multidisciplinary faculty who study human development over the life course and in the contexts in which it occurs. Areas of research include psychological, biological and sociological aspects of development from conception throughout the life course.

Qualifications for the position include: outstanding scholarship and an established reputation of leadership in the areas of development and/or the life course; achievements commensurate with a named professorship; demonstrated ability for administration; and a commitment to multi-disciplinary programs.

Application reviews will begin December 7, 2002 and continue until the position is filled. Please send nominations or a letter or email indicating interest and a CV to:
Chair of the Search Committee, 142 MVR Hall
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853
(blh5@cornell.edu)

Research Groups

Presently the section has nine research groups. The research group meeting at the section's roundtable session often is an informal discussion of relevant topics, such as research those present are doing or planning; recent books and articles of interest; ideas for possible funding sources; or where the cutting edge is and what research needs to be done next. For some research groups, formal papers are presented at the research group meeting.

A listing of the section's current research groups is provided below. If you are interested in joining any group, please contact the chair of that group and attend its meeting (in connection with the section's roundtable session) at the next annual meeting of the ASA. If you would like to be considered for a program listing in connection with your participation in the research group, please contact the chair of the group well in advance of the deadline listed for all regular ASA paper submissions.

Starting a Research Group

If you have an idea for a new research group, please contact Dale Dannefer or Karl Pillemer, Co-Chairs of the Committee on Research Groups and Roundtables, to discuss what is involved in starting a research group.

Dale Dannefer	Karl Pillemer
University of Rochester	Cornell University
Warner Graduate School	Human Development
Dewey Hall, Rm. 1-210	& Family Studies
Rochester, NY 14627	MVR Hall
716/275-0386	Ithaca, NY 14853
dale.dannefer@	607/255-8086
rochester.edu	kap6@cornell.edu

Current Research Groups

Aging Well

Chair: **Tanya Fusco Johnson**
Home Safety Monitoring Program
University of Hawaii-Hilo
Hilo, HI 96720
808/961-9002 (Phone/Fax)
tanyaj@hawaii.edu

Bioethics, Aging and the Life Course

Co-Chairs:

Susan E. Kelly	Duane Matcha
Dept. of Sociology	Dept. of Sociology
University of Louisville	Siena College
Louisville, KY 40292	515 Loudon Road
502/852-6836	Loudonville, NY
502/852-0099 (Fax)	12211-1462
skelly@louisville.edu	518/783-2944
	518/782-6548 (Fax)
	matcha@siena.edu

Comparative Social Gerontology

Chair: **Eldon L. Wegner**
Department of Sociology
University of Hawaii-Manoa
2424 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822
808/956-7693; 808/956-3707 (Fax)
wegner@hawaii.edu

Gender and Aging

Chair: **Katherine M. Condon**
Southeast Florida Center on Aging
Florida International University
Miami, FL 33179
condonk@fiu.edu

The Life Course

Chair: **Cheryl Elman**
Department of Sociology
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-6894
303/972-6894; 303/972-5377 (Fax)
cheryl2@uakron.edu

Older Women in Academic Settings

Chair: **Judith Bograd Gordon**
Department of Sociology
University of New Haven
300 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
800/DIAL-UNH
jbgordon@charger.newhaven.edu

Parent-Child Relations in the Later Years

Chair: **Deborah Merrill**
Department of Sociology
950 Main Street
Clark University
Worcester, MA 01610-1477
508/793-7284
dmerrill@clarku.edu

Race and Ethnicity Across the Life Course

Chair: **Sherrill Sellers**
School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1350 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
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slsellers@facstaff.wisc.edu

Work and Retirement

Chair: **Maximiliane E. Szinovacz**
Glennan Center for Geriatrics and
Gerontology
Eastern Virginia Medical School
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Norfolk, VA 23507-1912
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