

ASA Section on Aging & The Life Course

FALL 2005

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Students frequently depict *development* as a downward trajectory, high at birth and childhood, trailing off to nothing by middle age (the actual age of which varies, depending on THEIR ages). *Aging* they tend to see as an increasing trajectory, beginning in the 40s or so (again, depending on THEIR ages) and escalating geometrically in the 60s, 70s, 80s and beyond. Unfortunately, this is too often the way developmental psychologists and gerontologists also divide the life course. That is why our section is unique, in that we recognize that both processes are two sides of the same coin, operating throughout lives.

Sociologists studying aging and the life course are also path breaking in showing that a complex web of historical, institutional, and relational forces serve to separate age from development and vice versa, creating taken-for-granted age divisions even as they reinforce other divides – by gender, race, class, access, and participation.

ASA President Cynthia Fuchs Epstein's theme for 2006 is *Great Divides: Transgressing Boundaries*. Epstein elaborates on the theme by pointing out that, in addition to their divisive nature, boundary construction "is central to the working of societies and to the ability of individuals to develop their senses of self and community" (ASA website).

Building on ASA's theme, our section's theme for 2006 will be: *Institutional Boundaries and Convoys*. I am especially interested in the fact that lives are lived within Institutional "convoys" as much as social convoys. This is a crucial but sometimes neglected topic by American scholars of aging and the life course: the role of institutional arrangements – in the state but also in the workplace, in education, in families, and in health care – in shaping life course paths. I would also like to capture the fact that institutions as well as individual lives experience change, but sometimes at cross purposes or uneven rates, resulting in what Matilda White Riley called structural lag.

Moving on to Montreal! For those of you not focusing on next year's ASA, it has moved from San Francisco to **Montreal** and will be held August 11-14. Our section day is **Sunday, August 13**.

We are allotted two sessions, but I have partnered with Jane McLeod and the Section on Children and Youth to parley this into three sessions, with two cosponsored by both sections. I have asked Karl Ulrich Mayer to organize and open the session on *Institutions in the Life Course*. And Dale Dannefer will organize a session, co-listed with the Section on Children and Youth, on *Life-Course Convoys and Institutional Dynamics*. In return, we are co-listing a session organized by Jeffrey Alexander, *Divided Lives: Stratification and Life Chances*.

A reception and dinner will be near the hotel but not in the hotel. Amélie Quesnel-Vallée promises a fantastic, convenient place in her home city.

See you in Montreal!

Phyllis Moen

Section Business Meeting - 2005

The Business Meeting of the Section of Aging and the Life Course convened on Saturday August 14th, 2005, at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ken Ferraro, Section Chair, presided.

2004 MINUTES

The minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting (taken by Eliza Pavalko) were distributed and approved.

Report of the Treasurer

Net Assets:

\$6,162.00	June 30, 2005
\$8,256.00	June 30, 2004
\$8,031.00	June 30, 2003
\$7,192.00	June 30, 2002
\$8,787.82	June 30, 2001
-\$2,094.00	Change (2005-2004) Decrease of 25.4%
\$ 225.00	Change (2004-2003) Increase of 2.8%
\$ 839.00	Change (2003-2002) Increase of 11.7%
-\$1,595.82	Change (2002-2001) Decrease of 18.2%

INCOME

Dues Income:

\$ 549	2005 (estimate of 1 st and 2 nd quarter only; comparable figure for 2004 was \$451)
\$ 1,087	2004
\$ 1,238	2003
\$ 1,199	2002
\$ 1,433	2001
\$ 98	Change (2005-2004 estimate) Increase of 21.7%
\$- 151	Change (2004-2003) Decrease of 12.2%
\$ 37	Change (2003-2002) Increase of 3.1%
\$- 234	Change (2002-2001) Decrease of 16.3%

ASA Section Allocation:

\$1,981	2005
\$2,027	2004
\$1,980	2003
\$1,960	2002
\$2,224	2001
\$ - 46	Change (2005-2004) Decrease of 2.3%
\$ 47	Change (2004-2003) Increase of 2.4%
\$ 20	Change (2003-2002) Increase of 1.0%
\$ - 264	Change (2002-2001) Decrease of 11.9%

Other Income – Actual:

\$2,000	2005 (adds from booklet minus estimated cost of production and mailing)
\$ 670	Proceeds from 2004 Book Raffle

EXPENSES

Reception and Annual Meeting Costs:

\$ 2,185	August 2005 (estimate of combined expenses for annual meeting, including \$1500 donation from Duke and <i>Research on Aging</i> and estimated payments for banquet dinner; award expenses)
\$ 2,584	August 2004 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$ 2,668	August 2003 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$ 2,668	August 2003 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$ 1,263	August 2003 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$1,818.99	August 2001 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$- 399	Change (2005-2004) Decrease of 15.4%
\$ - 84	Change (2004-2003) Decrease of 3.1%
\$1,405	Change (2003-2002) Increase of 111.2%
\$1,597	Change (2002-2001) Increase of 126.4%

Cost of Section Newsletter:

\$ 349	2005 (1 st and 2 nd quarter only; comparable amount last year was \$385)
\$1,254	2004
\$1,270	2003
\$1,359	2002
\$1,280.71	2001

SUMMARY

The section is in strong financial shape. Although the balance is approximately 25% lower than this time last year, this balance reflects a required down payment for the banquet, but it does not reflect the \$2625 in tickets sold for the banquet or a generous \$1500 contribution provided by Duke University and *Research on Aging* to sponsor the reception after the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Lecture. Advertisements for graduate programs in the centennial booklet are also estimated to produce approximately \$2000 in income for the section. Finally, the book raffle continues to produce income for the section, with last year's raffle netting \$670 in income. Thus, although council approved higher reception costs to celebrate the centennial meeting, extraordinarily successful fundraising efforts are expected to cover most, if not all, of these costs.

Book Raffle Committee (Amy Pienta):

The raffle included 25 books and journal subscriptions contributed by publishers, which is an increase over last year. The drawing was held on August 23, 2005 and winners were notified via email on August 30, 2005. Books have been mailed directly from the publishers. If you already have the book and do not want it, or want to donate it to a student, contact Amy Pienta (apienta@umich.edu).

The 2005 Section on Aging and Life Course Book Raffle was a success this year thanks to the generosity of several academic publishers and organizations and many Section members and friends who purchased 142 raffle tickets. This year the raffle raised \$710 to support Section activities.

We would like to recognize the publishers who donated prizes for the book raffle. In total, we received 4 journal subscriptions and 21 books to award as prizes. We thank the following publishers for their generosity in supporting our fundraising efforts:

Roland Littlefield
Johns Hopkins Press
University of Chicago Press
Sage Publications
Temple University Press
Baywood Publishing
The Haworth Press Inc.
Westview and Perseus Books Group
Duke University Press

Thanks to all who supported our fundraising event this year.

Awards and Recognition

Graduate Student Paper Award (presented by Janet Wilmoth)

The selection committee for the student paper award included Chris Himes, Jessica Kelley-Moore, Debbie Street, Andrea Wilson and Fred Wolinsky. This year's winner is Yang Yang, who recently received her PhD from Duke University, and is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago. The title of her paper is "Is Getting Old Depressing?" Yang Yang thanked Linda George and her mentors from Duke for all of their support.

Matilda White Riley Award (presented by Phyllis Moen)

This year's committee included Phyllis Moen, Karl Pillemer Dannefer. The 2005 winner is Chuck Longino, from Wake Forest University. Letters supporting Chuck noted his commitment to mentorship of both students and non-students as well as his expertise on aging and migration. Phyllis also noted his unique ability to skillfully bridge gerontology and sociology.

Membership Report (Deborah Carr):

Debbie has done a wonderful job as membership chair. Last year at this time membership was 484 and the goal was to get 525 members. We are currently at 545! Debbie is confident and enthusiastic that we can get to 600 by September 30th and she challenged Gordon Streib's hypothesis that we have not reached 600 since the section name change.

Debbie suggested a number of strategies for encouraging students to join the section including 1) announcing invitations to join at sections, 2) checking new and old membership lists to identify lapsed members, 3) contracting Mercedes Rubio to find out whether the Minority Fellows receive free memberships to ASA and inviting those students to join and 4) encouraging current faculty members to sponsor student members with a message on the listserv.

Communications

A. Newsletter (Laurie Hatch, Renée Beard)

Laurie is turning over the newsletter to Renée Beard as our new newsletter editor. Laurie wanted to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter, particularly graduate students Maureen Benjamins and Shalon Irving for their contributions.

B. Homepage (Adam Perzynski)

Adam has begun website management after Ron's careful work setting up the system. Adam encouraged all members to send him information for the website and he promises to put up some of the materials from the banquet.

C. Listserv (Tay McNamara, Amélie Quesnel-Vallée)

Amélie is pleased to assume responsibilities for the listserv from Tay McNamara. Everyone should have received a message from Amélie inviting submissions and instructions. Ken noted that Amélie was also a winner of the ASA dissertation award in 2005. Amélie also reminded everyone that there are two listservs. The first is for everyone who is a member of the section for official notices; there is also a second optional listserv for discussion. She will remind everyone to sign up for the 2nd one. Amélie will also send digests of listserv activity.

Kenneth Ferraro transferred leadership of the Section to and Dale **Phyllis Moen**.

Information for the Section Business Meeting notes was provided by Eliza Palvako.

(continued)

Election Results

The 2004-2005 Nominations Committee included Eileen Crimmins, Ken Ferraro and Melissa Hardy.

Chair Elect: Jacqueline Angel
Council: Deborah Carr
Council: Sid Stahl
Student Member: Miles Taylor

Section Announcements

Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee of the Section on Aging and the Life Course welcomes nominations, including self-nominations, for the election of officers in 2006. We seek nominees for the following elected positions:

Chair
Council (two positions)
Student Council Member

We are also seeking recommendations, including self-nominations, for two positions to be appointed by the Section Chair:

Co-Chair, Membership Committee
Coordinator, Research Groups

Submit written nominations to the Chair of the Nominations Committee:

Ken Ferraro (e-mail: ferraro@purdue.edu).
Professor of Sociology
Purdue University
Stone Hall, 700 W. State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059
Deadline for nominations is October 28, 2005.

Upcoming workshop

2005 GSA PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP
November 18, 2005

QUALITATIVE AND MIXED METHODS RESEARCH:
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SCIENCE AND
ADDRESSING HEALTH ISSUES OF DIVERSE POPULATIONS

Brought back by popular demand!

This full-day preconference workshop brings together a nationally-recognized faculty of investigators, journal editors, and funding agency representatives to focus on elevating the quality of research proposals, enhancing the standards of research methodology, and improving the caliber of resulting publications. A central focus concerns how these methods help illuminate the meaning of the experiences and needs of special populations, including ethnic and racial minorities and vulnerable elders.

Targeted to researchers and advanced students involved in qualitative and mixed methods research. A limited number of scholarships are available.

For information about the workshop, contact Renee_Shield@Brown.edu

Join a Research Group, or Start

Research Groups have been part of the Aging and Life Course Section's activities since 1990. In that time, many section members have participated in Research Groups, networked, made good professional friends, and had an ongoing place on the annual meeting program. Research Groups are the intersection of the scholarly and the social.

Sociologists with similar interests meet during the Section's Roundtables session to discuss members' current or planned research, recent books and articles of interest, ideas for funding sources, and where the cutting edge is in their specialty. With some of the groups, formal papers are presented; with others the exchange is more informal. New faces are always welcome at the table.

Six Research Groups are active in the Section and organizing for the 2006 program. The groups and their chairs are:

Research Group on Aging Well – Tanya Fusco Johnson, tjohnson@uscupstate.edu

Research Group on Comparative Social Gerontology – Eldon Wegner, wegner@hawaii.edu

Research Group on Disability – Eva Kahana, eva.kahana@case.edu

Research Group on the Life Course – Cheryl Elman, cheryl2@uakron.edu

Research Group on Parent-Child Relations in the Later Years – Deborah Merrill, dmerrill@clarku.edu

Research Group on Race and Ethnicity across the Life Course – Sherrill Sellers, slsellers@wisc.edu

Research Group on Work and Retirement – Maxi Szinovacz, maxres@visi.net

For 2006, some of the Research Groups will be organized around paper submissions and some will be conducted as informal discussion tables. If you are interested in the areas listed above, contact the chair to find out how you can participate. If you want to start a Research Group around a new topic, please contact David Ekerdt (dekerdt@ku.edu) or Jill Suitor (jsuitor@purdue.edu) for details.

Recent Publications

Kahana, B., Harel, Z., & Kahana, E. (2005) *Survivors of the Holocaust: Aging and Adaptation*, New York: Kluwer/Springer Press.

The members of the Wayne State University End-of-Life Interdisciplinary Project have published a new book: Gelfand, Raspa, Briller, and Schim (eds) (2005) *End-of-Life Stories: Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries*, New York: Springer Publishing.

Zalenski, R.J., Finn, J.W., Kovach, T. and Meert, K.L. (2005) Stories of Three Veterans: Spectrum of Palliation in Gelfand, Raspa, Briller, and Schim (eds) *End-of-Life Stories: Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries*.

We need your help!

- Ideas about teaching aging and the life course you are willing to share in a “Tricks of the Trade” column.
Advice about careers, aging, family, the profession.

*** CONTEST: Name the Section’s advice column...

Winner gets *The Career Mystique: Cracks in the American Dream* written by our Section’s new chair, Phyllis Moen) AND free advice!

- Ideas about how to corral senior members of section with more junior ones in an informal setting.
(Phyllis Moen tried *Breakfast with Linda George* on for size, but Linda says she gets up for breakfast with no one!)

*Please send your thoughts and ideas to our list serve at owner-aging@listserv.asanet.org.

Dear Dr. SALC

I have been offered the opportunity of publishing a conference presentation in an edited book. However, my co-author and I were thinking of sending the final version of this paper (we presented only part of the analyses to the conference) to a peer-reviewed journal. Is there any way to do both and still respect copyrights - and ethical - guidelines, or do we just have to decline the certainty of a book chapter for the uncertainty of a peer-reviewed publication?

Sincerely,
Newly minted PhD

Dear “Newly Minted:”

Congratulations on having such a well-received paper! You are right, a peer-reviewed journal publication is valued more highly than a book chapter, unless (depending on your university/college/department) the edited volume is also peer reviewed and/or highly valued (like the Annual Reviews of Sociology). But having a book chapter is better than having nothing published at all.

From my vantage point, the ethical issue is clear: you can only submit to the journal if the paper is *not* being submitted elsewhere. HOWEVER, lots of researchers typically do a lot more analysis than what ends up in the final paper. For the chapter you could write a more descriptive piece from the stuff left on the cutting-room floor. In that chapter, you could cite the paper you presented at the conference. By the time the chapter finally gets published (it always takes longer than you think), the paper may have accepted by the journal. If not, you can still cite it as a presentation at a conference, work on improving it, and submitting it to another journal.

Good luck!
Dr. SALC

Faculty Positions

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) invites applications for two faculty positions both beginning August 23, 2006. 1) A full-time tenure-track assistant professor position (pending funding). Primary research interests should be in the sociology of health and/or aging. Preferred teaching specialties include research methods and/or statistics. 2) A full-time tenure-track assistant or associate professor position. Primary research interests should be in the anthropology of health and/or aging and/or disability. Teaching specialties and areas are open. Our department has undergraduate major programs in sociology, anthropology, and health administration and policy; an M.A. program in Applied Sociology; and is part of an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Gerontology. In addition, faculty have the opportunity to be involved in Ph.D. Programs in Public Policy and in Language, Literacy, and Culture. Candidates are expected to have an active program of research and to seek grant funding. UMBC is a research university classified by the Carnegie Foundation as Doctoral/Research-Extensive. It has 12,000 graduate and undergraduate students and is located in the Baltimore-Washington area. Salary and benefits are competitive. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and vitae, and have three letters of reference sent. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2005 but will continue until the position is filled. For position 1, send materials to Jere Cohen (cohen@umbc.edu), Sociology Recruitment Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250 (www.umbc.edu/sociology). For position 2, send materials to Professor Bob Rubinstein (rrubinst@umbc.edu), Anthropology Recruitment Chair, at the same address. UMBC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Georgia State University

Gerontology Institute

The Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in the psychology of aging, to begin August 2006. Ph.D. in psychology or related field is required at time of appointment. We seek a person with research and teaching interests in the psychology of aging and urban health, including such topics as health behavior, chronic disease, health service systems, prevention and intervention, and mental health. We are open to candidates from a variety of psychological perspectives, including those trained in clinical, community, or social psychology. Responsibilities include undergraduate and graduate teaching in gerontology and research in the area of aging and health. We are seeking applicants who can contribute to the University's Partnership in Urban Health Research (<http://urbanhealth.gsu.edu>), an interdisciplinary collaboration to increase health research on urban populations.

Appointment will be in the Gerontology Institute, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences. A joint appointment in the Department of Psychology is anticipated and encouraged. Information about the Department of Psychology can be found at: www.gsu.edu/psychology. The Institute has 4 full time faculty members, 3 of whom are non-tenure-track research faculty, and 17 affiliated faculty in 10 departments representing all colleges of the university. The Institute has awarded 440 graduate and undergraduate certificates in gerontology since 1973 and began a new master's program in gerontology in fall, 2004. The Institute's current research programs are federally funded and focus on health behavior in three-generation African American families and the quality of long-term care, especially in assisted living. The Institute maintains a research and teaching partnership with Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. Further information about the Gerontology Institute is available on our website: www.gsu.edu/gerontology. Georgia State University is building a culturally diverse faculty and enthusiastically encourages applications from minorities.

Candidates should submit: 1) a letter outlining their qualifications; 2) a curriculum vitae; 3) graduate transcripts; 4) a sample of scholarly work; 5) evidence of teaching effectiveness (e.g., course syllabi, student evaluations, and statement of teaching philosophy); and 6) three letters of recommendation. Send materials to:

Dr. Frank Whittington
Gerontology Institute
Georgia State University
P. O. Box 3984
Atlanta, GA 30302-3984

*Review of applications will begin January 10, 2006, and continue until the position is filled. Georgia State University, a unit of the University System of Georgia, is an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution and an EEO/AA employer.

Looking for a Tax Deduction? Donate to the Section

You may make a donation to the Section on Aging and the Life Course and include it in your tax deductions. Your donation will help the Section by providing funds for its annual activities, especially the Student Paper Award. Make your check payable to the American Sociological Association. Mail your check, along with a brief letter requesting that the donation be placed into the account of the Section on Aging and the Life Course, to:

American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-4701

Calls for Section Award Nominations

Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This award honors a scholar who had shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the candidate's contributions to the study of aging and the life course. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations should be submitted by April 5, 2006 to: Phyllis Moen, McKnight Presidential Chair, Sociology, University of Minnesota, 267 19th Avenue South #909 SST, Minneapolis, MN 55455; phone: 612-625-5483; email: phylmoen@umn.edu

Graduate Student Paper Award

The Section on Aging and the Life Course invites original student papers on any topic related to sociology of aging and the life course. Papers co-authored with faculty members are ineligible. Papers already published are eligible if they appeared in print after January 1, 2004. Self-nominations are encouraged. An award of \$250 is presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the ASA Annual Meeting in August of each year. Send three (3) copies of the nominated paper in the ASA format by May 3, 2006 to: Janet M. Wilmoth, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University, 426 Eggers Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244; phone: 315-443-5053; email: jwilmoth@maxwell.syr.edu