

ASA Section on Aging & The Life Course



Fall 2007

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Home Page:

www.asanet.org/section_aging

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Coming of Age

This was the byline on the lead article in the Sunday Sept. 16 *Washington Post*, in which the *Post* staff-writer considered the fact that the "brave new boomers" are a generation that won't call itself old, opting to do things in ways different from the past, such as not planning to "retire," intending to stay put in the suburbs, away from transit and health services, and expecting the world to be rebuilt around their lifestyles. Planning and policy discussions of the needs of the graying boomers are underway in this and other countries. The so-called Baby Boomers have come of age.

There are a number of ways in which we as a section (at least since I got involved in the 1980s) have "come of age." We are an active multi-generational (in at least three meanings of the term) group of scholars, with a strong organizational structure, an active network of research groups, and a distinct identity and mission, formed around the work of a handful of early leaders. We have reached a level of maturity as an ASA section—we can now focus less on what we know about the past and more on what will happen in the future.

Based on these and other considerations, I have chosen "The Future of Aging" as the theme of the SALC program for the 2008 annual meeting. Researchers in our field have often looked backwards—figuring out how things worked in a past or present world, using data gathered in the past as the basis on which to consider how social processes may work in the future. We, both as citizens and as researchers, have a vested interest in knowing what the future will be like.

Around this theme, in addition to our vibrant roundtable and research group meetings, our Riley Award lecture (to be given this year by Len Pearlin), and business activities, our section program will include two sessions that directly and indirectly deal with the future of aging.

The planned sessions are: (1) a submitted paper session on "The Future of Social Inequality, Health and Aging" (co-organized by Dale Dannefer and Angela O'Rand), and (2) an invited paper session, organized by Ken Ferraro, titled "The Future of Aging: Integrating Demographic and Developmental Perspectives." Both sessions will build upon the theme of the future of aging and aging research, one focusing specifically on issues of health and inequality, and the other focusing on a general set of topics, including such potential topics as globalization, cognitive aging, work and retirement, and changing lifestyles of older members of society.

There are several additional things I want to accomplish this year, including continuing the fine efforts of section leaders in mentoring our students and younger colleagues, moving forward with the SALC decision to explore publication options for the section, and improving communications, with particular attention to our website. With regard to "communications," in the next issue of the *Newsletter* I will outline some of the issues before us, especially as we age into new technologies.

In closing, as I look forward to an intense year of activities and our renewal of a commitment to the mission of our section, I wish to register, once again, the enormous debt I owe to Jacqui Angel, past-chair of the section, and Eliza Pavalko, past secretary-treasurer and currently chair-elect of the section, as well as to other past and present section officers and volunteers, who have contributed to the impressive growth of our section. I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

Duane Alwin

2007-08 Section Chair

SALC Treasurer's Report - 2007

Jacqui Angel, Section Chair, presided over the Business Meeting on Tuesday August 14, 2007 at the Annual Meeting in New York City

2006 MINUTES

The minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting (taken by Eliza Pavalko) were distributed and approved.

Report of the Treasurer

\$12,163.00	May 30, 2007
\$12,115.00	June 30, 2006
\$6,162.00	June 30, 2005
\$8,256.00	June 30, 2004
\$8,031.00	June 30, 2003

INCOME

Dues Income:

\$ 574	2007 (estimate of 1 st and 2 nd quarter only; comparable figure for 2006 was \$689)
\$1,447	2006
\$1,443	2005
\$1,087	2004
\$1,238	2003

ASA Section Allocation:

\$2,206	2007
\$2,196	2006
\$1,981	2005
\$2,027	2004
\$1,980	2003

Other Income:

\$9,519	2007 (estimate): donations for MWRDSA from Social Forces, UNC Department of Sociology and Ron Abeles; donations for Mentoring program (some is set aside for 2008); ticket sales for mentoring dinner, and money from 2006 raffle
\$1,510	2006: donations from GSA and Wake Forest University for the MWRDS; \$250 from University of Minnesota for outside reception
\$7,565	2005 included ads from booklet; tickets for outside dinner; \$1000 donation from Duke University; \$500 from Research on Aging for Reception and proceeds from 2005 book raffle

EXPENSES

Reception and Annual Meeting Costs:

\$11,000	August 2007 (estimated meeting expenses include \$600 for council breakfast; \$7000 for mentoring dinner and reception, \$2500 for MWRDS reception, \$500 for awards and plaques, \$400 for printed program)
\$3,057	August 2006 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$4,520	August 2005 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$2,584	August 2004 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$2,668	August 2003 (combined expenses annual meeting)
\$1,263	August 2002 (combined expenses annual meeting)

Cost of Section Newsletter:

\$ 350	2007 (1st and 2nd quarter only to May 31; last year amount was \$441)
\$1,395	2006
\$1,170	2005
\$1,254	2004
\$1,270	2003

SUMMARY

The section is in excellent financial shape despite the fact that we are doing much more. The section has increased its activities at the annual meeting dramatically and this year we will hold 2 receptions inside the hotel and an outside mentoring dinner. The increased costs have been offset by very generous institutional and individual support for both the Matilda White Riley Reception and the mentoring program reception and dinner. The book raffle also continues to produce significant income for the section. The cost of in0hotel receptions has continued to skyrocket and these costs have far outpaced regular section allocation and dues income. We will continue to need to seek institutional and individual support if we are to continue this level of activity; this support is especially crucial for in-hotel reception.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eliza Pavalko
Secretary-Treasurer

(continued)

Section on Aging and Life Course Business Meeting

August 14, 2007

1:30 – 2:10 pm

Hilton Hotel, New York, NY

Call to Order: Jacqueline Angel 1:30

Award Announcements and Presentation

Outstanding Paper Award

Chair, Angela O'Rand, Duke University
Phyllis Moen, University of Minnesota
John Mirowsky, University of Texas at Austin
Fredric Wolinsky, University of Iowa
Dennis Hogan, Brown University

Last year the Council voted to create a new award for an outstanding publication related to aging and the life course. The wording of the award is as follows:

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course. Eligible publications include original research reports, theoretical or methodological developments, and policy-related contributions. The outstanding publication can be an article, chapter, or book published within the last three years. The committee will consider nominations and self-nominations. The award will rotate between a book and an article or chapter at least once every three years. A selection committee of three section members will be appointed by the Section Chair and will include a Past Section Chair.

This was the first year for this award. The criteria considered for the award were: originality, theoretical and methodological rigor, and importance. The winning publication for 2007 is:

Brian Powell, Lala Carr Steelman and Robert Carini. 2006. "Advancing Age, Advantaged Youth: Parental Age and the Transmission of Resources to Children." *Social Forces* 84: 1359-1390.

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Chair, Christine Himes
Deborah Carr, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Sidney Stahl, National Institute on Aging
Stephen Cutler, University of Vermont
Terrence Hill, University of Miami

The winner of this year's outstanding graduate student paper award is Daniel Carlson, Ohio State University, for "The Stress of Non-Marital Events."

Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

Chair, Duane Alwin, The Pennsylvania State University
Merril Silverstein, University of Southern California
Jill Sutor, Purdue University
Jill Quadagno, Florida State University

Leonard Pearlin is the 2007 winner of the MWR Distinguished Scholar Award.

He will present the lecture at the 2008 annual meeting.

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Section Business

Secretary's Minutes from 2006 Annual Meeting: Eliza Pavalko, Indiana University

Last year's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eliza Pavalko, Indiana University

As of May 30 the section had a balance of \$12,163 and had raised or had commitments of nearly \$10,000 in individual and institutional donations. A full treasurer's report is attached.

Planning Committee Report

Chair, Jacqueline Angel, University of Texas at Austin
Carroll Estes, University of California, San Francisco
Steven Wallace, University of California, Los Angeles
Deborah Merrill, Clark University
David Ekerdt, University of Kansas
Abigail Sewell, Indiana University
Karen Lincoln, University of Washington (now at USC)
Michael Roemer, University of Texas, Austin
Dale Dannefer, Case Western Reserve University
Yang Yang, University of Chicago
Norval Glenn, University of Texas, Austin

The 2007 section program focused on the theme of aging, inequality and the life course. The program included 4 open submission sessions (totaling 16 peer-reviewed papers), 2 of which were co-sponsored with the Section on Medical Sociology, 1 invited session focusing on the frontiers in aging and the life course, and a session featuring 10 refereed roundtables and research group discussion tables. The program also included the Matilda White Riley Lecture and Reception, business meeting and award ceremony, and a mentoring reception and dinner

Book Raffle Committee Report:

Chair, Amy Pienta, University of Michigan
Pam Herd, University of Wisconsin, Madison

This is an important fundraising activity for the section that helps to subsidize student activities at the meeting. In Montreal, had a slight dip in amount of money raised for book raffle because of Montreal location and because took Canadian dollars for raffle. Raised \$419 for book raffle last year. This year we have 19 books and publications for raffle. Tickets are \$5.

Drawing will be held on Aug 20 – winners will get an email and arrange for book to be sent.

Nominations and Election Results:

Chair, Phyllis Moen, University of Minnesota
Eva Kahana, Case Western Reserve University
Melissa Hardy, The Pennsylvania State University
Ronald Angel, The University of Texas at Austin

Election winners are:

Eliza Pavalko, Indiana University, Chair Elect
Anne Barrett, Florida State University, Secretary-Treasurer
Victor Marshall, University of North Carolina, Council
Jessica Kelley-Moore, Case Western Reserve University, Council
Jori Sechrist, Purdue University, Student Representative

(continued)

Resolution passed: “The council of the Section on Aging and the Life Course (SALC) would like to consider sponsoring the Elsevier annual book series, “Advances in Life Course Research.” Tim Owens of Purdue University has served as Series Editor, but he will step down after the 2010 volume. The series has firm footing, circulation of approximately 300 volumes, and is catalogued in major social science databases. Tim Owens brought to the Section leadership the idea of developing a formal relationship between the Section and this series upon the completion of his tenure as Editor.

With this resolution, the Council seeks approval from SALC members to develop a proposal that would outline the relationship between the Section, the ASA, and Elsevier, as the publisher of “Advances in Life Course Research.” If a satisfactory relationship can be negotiated, a later resolution would provide SALC members an opportunity to vote on whether to accept the terms of that proposal.”

Thanks to outgoing council members Jill Sutor, Merrill Silverstein, Miles Taylor and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée for their service on council.

Membership Committee Report:

Chair, Noelle Chesley, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Diane Brown, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Membership has risen over past 5 years and now have over 600 members for 2nd year in a row. It is a challenge to keep membership above this level; attrition from section has remained steady despite membership growing. Hope to add a student input to the committee and increase focus on recruiting and retaining junior scholars.

Ad Hoc Committee On Mentoring:

Co-Chair, Victor Marshall, University of North Carolina
Co-Chair, Miles G. Taylor, North Carolina
Sara Moorman, University of Wisconsin
Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University
John Williamson, Boston College
Kyriakos Markides, University Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
Deborah Carr, Rutgers University
Shiri Noy, Indiana University

Mentoring reception and dinner were very successful – faculty tickets \$20; student \$10 – 96 attendees attended mentoring reception and dinner. Dinner averaged \$58 per person, the rest was covered by individual and institutional donations (enough money was raised to carry over for future mentoring activities). The committee has been working towards developing a strategic plan for mentoring and is exploring a 1 on 1 mentoring program (see attached report).

Communications Reports:

Newsletter Editor, Renée L. Beard, University of Chicago, Illinois
Webmaster, Adam T. Perzynski, Case Western Reserve University
Listserv Editor, Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, McGill University

Last year we were under page limits on newsletter and we have now filled page limits – we can now include photos and make newsletter more exciting. Encourage everyone to send materials to the newsletter. For example, announcements regarding life course transitions (births, deaths, and job promotions, etc.) and the USC Feschrift seminar honoring Vern Bengston’s retirement are welcome.

Listserve entries have been active all year. Student members said they do find job postings helpful. The listserve is very successful and well-organized.

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New Business

Ad Hoc Committee on Publications:

Cheryl Elman (Chair)
Duane Alwin
Jill Sutor
Rick Settersten

After the passage of the resolution Elsevier reported that it was interested in turning *Advances in Life Course Research* into a journal. ASA has very specific criteria for section journals and a proposal for a section journal would be a major undertaking. Four options were presented at the business meeting and on the listserv and section members are invited discuss their views on these. The options are (1) to explore book series with other publishers, (2) pursue a section-sponsored journal with Elsevier or some other publisher, (3) do both 1 and 2 or (4) do neither.

Members need to sign up for listserv if not already signed up.

Introduction of the New Section Chair: Jacqueline Angel

In-coming Chair, Duane Alwin, Pennsylvania State University: Many thanks to outgoing chair Jacqui Angel for an outstanding job running the section and putting together a fantastic meeting for this year.

Date for next year's meeting in Boston are August 1-4. Section day is August 1st (1st day of meetings). Theme is "*Worlds Of Work*" so Duane Alwin is exploring connections between section and theme. We get 4 sessions next year; 1 devoted to business, 1 to roundtables; explore cooperating with other sections. Possibilities are a demography of aging session with population section; Dale Dannefer has agreed to help plan a session for theory and possibly we will have a session on methods; policy is also an area of interest. Duane will be putting together a planning committee. We will continue tradition of mentoring dinner and Duane looks forward to section members input, cooperation and attendance.

Announcements:

Thanks to planning committee for all their planning work.

Rebecca Adams mentioned that there would be a regular session on aging, and she hopes to receive lots of papers. If she receives papers that have a coherent theme she might be able to argue for multiple sessions. aging session regular session (topics where several people submitting – argue for coherent session) – do in next day first come first serve.

Maxi: U Mass Boston will have a visiting Gerontology Institute Fellow Position: 3 months, 24K, no teaching but Fellow is expected to participate in colloquia. Also rank open position in Gerontology Dept this fall. Looking for someone this spring. Anyone interested contact Maxi.

There is also a new Handbook of Syllabi on Aging and the Life Course, edited by Dale Dannefer, Robin Patterson and Rick Settersten.

Merrill Silverstein: Vern Bengston retired this spring – USC will have a Feschrift seminar honoring Vern and all are welcome to attend.

Announcements of various job searches.

SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

New resource on The Life Course to members of SALC:

Patterson, R., Settersten, R., & Dannefer, D. 2007. THE LIFE COURSE: A Handbook of Syllabi and Instructional Materials. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

This edition contains 29 undergraduate and graduate syllabi and 22 exercises and assignments for instruction on the life course.

E-book: ASA Members: \$9, Non-members: \$12

Hardbook: ASA Members: \$17, Non-members: \$20

Can be purchased through the ASA website, following links to Bookstore > Syllabi Sets > Life Course

(one link for hardbook, one link for e-book)

New From Norton Publishing, in the Contemporary Societies series edited by Jeffrey Alexander:

Biography and the Sociological Imagination: Contexts and Contingencies by Michael J. Shanahan & Ross Macmillan

This book introduces readers to life course sociology, an imaginative framework with which people can think about how their lives reflect the imprint of society, how this imprint reflects the intersection of social changes and personal development, and how these processes are greatly complicated by each person's unique location in society. Because life course sociology is an imaginative framework, Biography and the Sociological Imagination is less about "what we know" about the life course and more about "how to think" about changing societies and personal development and aging. Drawing from the latest research and a multitude of case studies, Shanahan and Macmillan spur readers to imagine alternative ways of organizing society and the implications of these alternatives for the biography. The book is framed as a response to C. Wright Mills's famous call for the study of personal tensions as reflecting broader social tensions, but extends this idea into the realm of social change and personal change.

New Research Group Forming on Age and Consumption:

The American Sociological Association's Section on Aging and the Life Course sponsors several Research Groups that function as interest groups and informal networks within the Section. There are plans to form a new Research Group on Age and Consumption in 2008. The collective welcomes scholars:

- * with an interest in age and all phases of the consumption cycle: markets; production, acquisition, possession, and disposal;
- * who study all manner of commodities and goods, such as housing, financial services, leisure and travel, fitness, and self-care, but also a host of other consumer items;
- * who focus on consumption from the perspective of the enterprise, the consumer, or both;
- * who theorize the intersection of life course, identity, and consumption.

Whether you are a Section member or not, student or faculty, the organizer, David Ekerdt, would welcome a note of inquiry. If there is sufficient interest, the Research Group could have its first meeting at the ASA meeting in Boston, in conjunction with the Aging and Life Course section's Roundtable session on August 1, 2008. Possible presentations at that session would be eligible for listing in the ASA meeting program.

Please direct inquiries and expressions of interest to David Ekerdt at the University of Kansas (dekerdt@ku.edu)

Mark your calendars for key dates

Paper submissions due on January 16, 2008

SALC meeting day Friday, August 1, 2008

Keep our Numbers Growing!

by Noelle Chesley

Membership in the Aging and Life Course Section has been growing in recent years and underscores the vibrancy, energy, and dedication of our scholars. Section membership is an inexpensive and easy way to stay in contact with a broad intellectual community (and we have fun parties, too!). To obtain our renew your membership online, visit:

<http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Join+or+Renew&name=Join>

Membership in the Aging and Life Course section is available to all members of the American Sociological Association. A one-year membership is \$13.00 for regular members and \$6.00 for student members. Further inquiries about section membership can be directed to Noelle Chesley (414-229-2398; chesley@uwm.edu).

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:

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Victor W. Marshall (10)

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Sara Marian Moorman (08)
Jori Sechrist (09)

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Linda Wray

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