

# SECTION ON AGING & THE LIFE COURSE

## 2001 Program for ASA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Sociological Association will take place on August 18-22 in Anaheim, California. (No wise cracks, please, about Anaheim and Disney Land!) Section Chair Eva Kahana and her committee have organized a full program for us. Aging Section Day is Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. As we "go to press," we do not as yet have the Program with times and locations of our activities.

### Symposium on The Elderly of the 21 Century: Changing Faces, Resources, and Lifestyles.

**Organizer:** *Eva Kahana*, Case Western Reserve University

*Eleanor Stoller*, Case Western Reserve University. "The Prism of Diversity: Refracting Difference through Social Space, Historical Time, and Individual Biography."

*Toni Calasanti*, Virginia Polytechnic. "Applying the Prism of Diversity to Changing Patterns of Work and Retirement."

*Monika Ardelt*, University of Florida and *Leah Polkowski*, University of Florida. "Rediscovering Internal Strengths of the Aged: Their Sense of Wisdom, Mastery, and Purpose in Life."

*Eva Kahana*, Case Western Reserve University and *Boaz Kahana*, Cleveland State University. "Emerging Lifestyles and Options for Identity Maintenance in Later Life."

**Discussant:** *Robert Atchley*, Naropa University

### Symposium on Social Spaces and Adult Lives: New Perspectives on Socialization

**Organizers:** *Richard Settersten*, Case Western Reserve University; *Timothy Owens*, Purdue University

**President:** *Timothy Owens*, Purdue University

*Elaine Wethington*, Cornell University. "Work Transitions as Contexts for Socialization in Adulthood: Perceived Turning Points and Psychological Growth."

*Norella M. Putney and Vern L. Bengtson*, University of Southern California. "Socialization and the Family Revisited."

*Dana Rosenfeld and Eugene B. Gallagher*, University of Kentucky. "The Life Course as an Organizing Principle and a Socializing Resource in Modern Medicine."

*James J. Dowd*, University of Georgia. "Die Bildung of the Warrior Class: Socialization and the Acquisition of Cultural Resources."

*Janet Giele*, Brandeis University. "Life Careers and a Theory of Action."

**Discussant:** *Richard Settersten*, Case Western Reserve University

### Poster Session on Advances in Research in Aging and the Life Course

**Organizer:** *Gary R. Lee*, Bowling Green State University

*Debra Dobbs-Kepper* (University of Kansas) and *Rosemary Chapin* (University of Kansas). "Examining the Capacity for Older Adults to Age in Place in Assisted Living."

*Amy Hequembourg* (SUNY-Buffalo). "Caring for Aging Parents: An Exploratory Study of Adult Sibling Caregivers."

*Catherine Richards* (Syracuse University). "Social Networks and Retirement."

*Brent Taylor* (San Diego State University), *Giarusso, Roseanne* (University of Southern California), and *Bengtson, Vern L.* (University of Southern California). "Cohort Continuities and Changes: Father Involvement in 1971 and 1997."

*Leslie Gordon* (Clemson University). "Demographic and Attitudinal Differences Between Parents and the Voluntarily Childless."

SUMMER  
2001

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## SECTION ON AGING & THE LIFE COURSE

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Jacqueline Angel ('03)  
Student Members  
Krisie M. Long ('01)  
Jody A. Wilkinson ('01)  
Andrea Wilson ('02)

## Refereed Roundtables and Research Groups

Organizers: *Jacqueline Angel*, University of Texas at Austin; and *Kenneth F. Ferraro*, Purdue University

### Refereed Roundtables

#### 1. Housing and Care Arrangements Across the Life Cycle

Table Presider: *Sonia Miner Salari*, University of Utah

Intergenerational Partnerships in Adult Day Centers: Importance of Age Appropriate Environments and Behaviors, *Sonia Miner Salari*, University of Utah

Constructing and Deconstructing a Reservation Nursing Home: A Community Study of a Pueblo Tribe, *Pamela G. Monaghan*, Case Western Reserve University

The Viability of Long-Term Care Insurance, *Melissa Barnett*, Florida State University

Home-Ownership and Class over the Life Course, *Mark Edwards*, Oregon State University

#### 2. New Perspectives on Caregiving Systems

Table Presider: *Vern Bengtson*, University of Southern California

The Demographic Causes of the Aging U.S. Population, Its Major Characteristics, and Future Long-Term Care Needs, *Mary Jo Huth*, University of Dayton

Caregiving Burden and the Future Burden of Elder Care in China: A Life Course Perspective, *Heying Zhan*, Georgia State University

Theoretical Frameworks for Studying Race and Caregiving, *Melinda Goldner*, Union College, and *Patricia Drentea*, University of Alabama-Birmingham

#### 3. Subjective Well-being and Age-Related Role Changes

Table Presider: *Leonard Pearlin*, University of Maryland

The Feminist Mystique: Culture, Social Change, and the Attitude-Identity Paradox, *Pia Peltola*, *Melissa A. Milkie*, and *Stanley Presser*, The University of Maryland, College Park

The Effect of Age on Relationship Quality and Psychological Well-Being, *Anna Campbell* and *Debra Umberson*, The University of Texas at Austin

Older Men's Faith: The Importance of Retirement or Late Life Masculinities, *Edward Thompson*, Holy Cross College

The Phenomenology of Reminiscence, *Jerry Williams*, Stephen F. Austin State University

#### 4. Sociology of Aging and Health in the New Century

Table Presider: *Fredric D. Wolinsky*, Saint Louis University

Menopause: Another Reproductive Process That Deserves More Study, or a Sign of Women Getting 'Old'?, *Heather Dillaway*, Michigan State University

A Simulation Model of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Persons 65 and Older, *Aaron M. Sayegh* and *James G. Anderson*, Purdue University, and *Marilyn Anderson*, Anderson Consulting

The Changing Definition of Self: Identity and Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease, *Renee Beard*, University of California at San Francisco

Predictors of Concern About Developing Alzheimer's Disease Among Children of Parent with Alzheimer's Disease, *Lynne Gershenson Hodgson*, Quinnipiac University and *Stephen J. Cutler*, The University of Vermont

#### 5. Retirement Policy in Comparative Perspective

Table Presider: *Mark Douglas Hayward*, Pennsylvania State University

The Changing Role of Government in Old Age Provision: The Integration of Occupational Pensions with Public Social Security Systems in Australia, Denmark, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, *Shannon McDermott*, Boston College

On Defining Retirement: Comparing Retirement Outcomes Derived from Definitions Prominent in Retirement Literature, *Isabel Araiza*, Boston College

The Role of Health and Disability in Individual and Joint Retirement Decisions, *Tay McNamara*, Boston College

Women's Participation in Defined Contribution Plans and Private Savings Retirement Plans in Early to Mid Life Course, *Pamela Herd*, Syracuse University

#### 6. Immigration and Aging

Table Presider: *Ronald Angel*, The University of Texas at Austin

Constructing Deservingness: Newspaper Coverage of Elderly Immigrant Welfare Recipients, *Grace Yoo*, San Francisco State University

The Role of Community Context in Immigrant Elderly Living Arrangements: Korean American Elderly, *Jibum Kim* and *Diane S. Lauderdale*, University of Chicago

The Making Of National Identity In Old Age: The Case Of Estonian In The United States, *Peeter Tammeveski*, Pennsylvania State University

**7. Research Group on Parent-Child Relations in the Later Years**

Table Presider: *Deborah M. Merrill*, Clark University

**Senior Children Caregivers: Older Adult Children Caring for Their Parents**, *Twyla Hill*, Wichita State University

**Defining Obligations of Affinal Kin: The Case for Daughters-in-Law**, *Deborah M. Merrill*, Clark University

**Ambivalence in Parent-Child Relations in Later Life: Results of an Exploratory Study**, *Karl Pillemer*, Cornell University

**Parents' Marital Status Changes and Relations with Adult Children**, *Adam Shapiro*, University of North Florida

**Caring for Older Parents: How Caregiving Impacts Employment Performance Differences for Sons and Daughters**, *Judy Singleton*, College of Mount St. Joseph

**But I Thought Mom Loved ME Best: Differences in Perceptions of Parental Favoritism Within and Across Generations**, *J. Jill Sutor*, Louisiana State University and *Karl Pillemer*, Cornell University

**8. Research Group on Comparative Social Gerontology**

Table Presider: *Eldon L. Wegner*, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Aging, Multiple Roles and Distress in Japan: Life Stage as Social Context**, *Saeko Kikuzawa*, Shikutoku University, Japan

**The Aging Issues in a Global World: Dignity or Poverty?**, *Ju-Li Hsieh* and *Shu-Fen Tseng*, Yuan Ze University, Taiwan

**Family Satisfaction with Residential Care Provision: Key Findings from a Cross-National Sample**, *Debra Dobbs-Kepper*, University of Kansas

**9. Research Group on Work and Retirement: Gender Issues in Later-Life Work and Retirement Experiences**

Table Presider: *Maximiliane E. Szinovacz*, Eastern Virginia Medical School

**Gender differences in organizational cultures of retirement**, *Melissa Hardy*, Florida State University

**Linking life course, gender, and organizational norms to the timing of anticipated retirement transitions**, *Phyllis Moen* and *Stephen Sweet*, Cornell University

**The effectiveness of employer accommodations for men and women with work disabilities**, *Amy Pienta*, University of Florida

**Gender similarities and differences in the personal significance attributed to the worker, spouse, and parent roles: Importance,**

**centrality, and balance**, *Donald Reitzes*, Georgia State University and *Elizabeth J. Mutran*, Research Triangle Institute

**Gender differences in retirement contexts—their implications for modeling retirement transitions**, *Maximiliane E. Szinovacz*, Eastern Virginia Medical School

**The privatization of old age security and pensions in the United Kingdom: Some lessons for the debate in the United States**, *John B. Williamson*, Boston College

## **Informal Discussion Roundtables**

**10. Research Group on Aging and the Life Course**

Table Presider: *Cheryl Elman*, University of Akron

Discussion Topic: Challenges in Studying the Life Course

Participants: *Julia Gwynne*, University of Chicago, *Heather Hoffmeister*, Cornell University

**11. Research Group on Bioethics, Aging, and the Life Course**

Table Presiders: *Susan E. Kelly*, University of Louisville; and *Duane Matcha*, Siena College

**12. Research Group on Gender and Aging**

Table Presider: *Katherine M. Condon*, Florida International University

**13. Research Group on Aging Well**

Table Presider: *Tanya Fusco Johnson*, University of Hawaii at Hilo

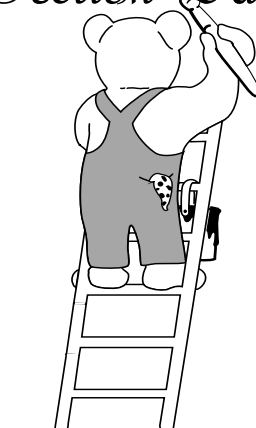
**14. Research Group on Older Women in Academic Settings**

Table Presider: *Judith Bograd Gordon*, University of New Haven

**15. Research Group on Race and Ethnicity Across the Life Course**

Table Presider: *Sherrill Sellers*, Florida State University

Welcome to Aging Section Day



## CALL FOR PAPERS



### Special Issue of Gender & Society

Global Perspectives  
on Gender and  
Carework

Deadline for  
submissions:  
December 15, 2001

Guest Editors Jacquelyn Litt, Iowa  
State University (Jlitt@iastate.edu) Mary  
Zimmerman, University of Kansas  
(mzimmerman@ukans.edu)

The last half of the twentieth-century has witnessed major transformations in world economic and welfare systems, migration, and the role of the state. Unprecedented international networks and markets and the expansion of low-wage economies affect the lives of women in both developing and developed countries. Transformations in carework are a critical aspect of these changes. We invite papers for submission to a special issue of *Gender & Society* on the allocation, meaning, and experiences of paid and/or unpaid carework in relation to globalization. Among the key questions are 1) How has globalization affected the organization of women's and/or men's unpaid carework in families and households? 2) How have deindustrialization, globalization and structural adjustment policy reinforced the gender, racial and national inequalities embedded in carework and/or given rise to new patterns of stratification and activism? 3) What are the diverse experiences of women's carework in international and/or globalizing contexts? 4) What are the theoretical implications for feminist research of the comparative and global study of carework? Submit papers, including \$10.00 (US) submission fee payable to *Gender & Society*, to

► Professor Christine Bose, Editor  
*Gender & Society*  
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Albany, New York 12222

## National Institute on Aging Seeks Applications for Small Grant on Data Analysis and Archiving

The National Institute on Aging announces that small grant (R03) applications are being sought to stimulate and facilitate: 1) secondary analyses of data and data archiving related to demography, economics, and behavioral research on aging; 2) preliminary projects using secondary analysis that could lead to subsequent applications for other research project grant award mechanisms; 3) rapid analyses of new databases and experimental modules for purposes such as informing the design and content of future study waves; and 4) development, enhancement and assembly of new databases from existing data.

Applicants may request either \$25,000 or \$50,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years. International comparative analyses are of interest. High risk, innovative projects with potential

Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign organizations/institutions (academic, for-profit, and non-profit), units of state and local governments, as well as eligible agencies of the Federal government.

Racial/ethnic minority individuals, women, persons with disabilities, new investigators, researchers new to the field of aging, and investigators at minority institutions are especially encouraged.

The full announcement can be viewed at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/pa-01-082.html>. This announcement (PA-01-082) updates and replaces a previous Program Announcement, *Secondary Analysis in Demography and Economics of Aging* (PA-99-160). For additional information, contact:

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# Graduate Student Column

## Transition from Graduate School to Career An Interview with Madonna Harrington Meyer

*Andrea E. Willson*

*Kristie M. Long*

For this edition's student column, we interviewed Madonna Harrington Meyer for advice on some of the issues faced by graduate students during the transition from graduate school to a career in academia. Harrington Meyer is a prominent scholar in aging research and active member of the Aging and the Life Course Section. She is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology, Director of the University Gerontology Center, and Senior Research Associate at the Center for Policy Research at Syracuse University, and has published widely on the topics of aging, health policy, and gender.

*What's one thing you really wish you had done as a graduate student to prepare for the job market?*

One thing I wish I would have done earlier in my training would have been to look at the job market. The first time I opened an *ASA Employment Bulletin* was to search for jobs for myself. By looking at the postings earlier, you can see ways to prepare yourself for certain kinds of jobs. Maybe there are a lot of jobs in qualitative methods or theory, for example, and you could specialize in both your substantive area and one of these core aspects of the discipline.

Preparing for the job market begins the first year of graduate school. As soon as you can, use a class or an independent reading to do some original research or analysis. Present your paper at a meeting and then submit it for publication. It may not get accepted, but that is fine. You'll learn a lot from the referees comments and you can revise and resubmit it.

A good way to prepare is to look at the vitae of someone who was recently hired as a junior faculty member at a school similar to the one you would like to go to some day. How many papers have they written and where are they published? How many classes have they taught? What kinds of service have they done? Then start building each part of your vitae so that you have as many of the same strengths as possible by the time you get your degree.

*Beyond the job talk, what suggestions do you have for preparing for an interview, such as meetings with faculty, department chairs, and deans, and students?*

I do think that the informal meetings are at least as important as the formal presentation in making a hire. Once for a hiring workshop, we actually made a list of possible questions you may be asked, as well as the questions you should be sure you ask. I think people can brainstorm with faculty, especially those most recently on the market, about what the questions are like. As an example, I'll pick just one area and list some questions you might be asked about how you would work with graduate students: (1) What graduate classes would you be prepared to teach? (2) Would you pursue funding for RAs? (3) Would you co-author with graduate students? (4) Would you do independent studies, etc.?

You should also be prepared to talk briefly about your research agenda during individual meetings. Often you'll be asked about your five year plan, and faculty want to know what projects you will do after your dissertation. Here I can pass on the advice I received from my own DGS – for each question you will be asked, prepare a 1 minute version of the answer and a 5 minute version of the answer. If they are still interested after the 1 minute version, then proceed to the longer one. If not, move on.

*What things should women and men who are interested in having children early in their careers consider when accepting a job offer? After they've accepted?*

I am glad you asked about this because it is a big issue for many of us, but few people ever talk about it openly. My advice to women and men who are concerned about balancing careers and children is that you should go ahead and have a baby when you want to. There will never be a perfect time. I had my first child during graduate school and it was wonderful – not easy – but definitely doable. Graduate students actually have more flexibility and less stress than junior faculty who are on the tenure clock.

Most universities still have archaic benefit policies and fail to provide a semester off with pay. I am continually frustrated that even this most basic of benefits is often not available to new parents. You can talk to other new parents who have had children at your prospective school to see how they arranged their schedules. Or you can call the benefit office and ask what the official policies are. I generally did not talk about these issues at interviews because I did not want them to be held against me...though I am not sure if they would have been. Now as a senior faculty member I talk about these issues all the time, refusing to attend many meetings scheduled late in the day, pressing for paid parental leaves, etc.

*Do you have any advice on negotiating a job offer? Are there certain things a candidate should ask for (e.g. travel funds, computer)?*

I think it is important to be prepared for this before you go on the interview because these questions often come up while you are there. You need to know the going salary for similar schools, the normal offers for start up funds or course reductions, etc. Before you go, find out the cost of the computer you want, the cost of moving your furniture from your town to theirs, the cost to buy out of a class or to hire an RA, etc. When I went on the market, my very kind department chair actually sat down with me and went through the two most recent hires our own department had made, letting me know the approximate salaries, computer budgets, course reductions, moving funds, etc. This kind of sharing of information is so helpful but is seldom done. Because he was open about salaries and other benefits, I was able to state very specific requests and to negotiate with some confidence that my requests reflected the market.



*How did you prioritize your time when you began your first faculty position? Do you have any advice for balancing research, teaching, and service responsibilities?*

This is difficult because there are many different aspects to the job and yet there are only so many hours in the day. I will tell you that the first fall I received a list of faculty meeting times and threw it away without thinking. On the day of my first faculty meeting a colleague came to my door and asked why I wasn't coming to the meeting. It had not crossed my mind that I was supposed to start going to faculty meetings.

Prioritizing is difficult. The best advice I have is to sit with your chair during that first fall and list out your responsibilities in research, teaching

and service. Ask your chair to prioritize them by number. My first chair did that for me once and the message was clear: publish in top refereed journals. Everything else was secondary. I held on to that numbered list and when I was asked to do things that interfered with the top priorities I just pointed to the paper. It seems particularly difficult to balance requests for committee work and other types of service. My suggestion for this is to look over the various committees or service assignments and see which one seems to suit you, where your abilities will be put to good use, and then volunteer for that one. Then say no to nearly everything else.

People employ lots of time-saving strategies and I have used many over the years. Once when under a big deadline I put a stack of library books in my visitor chair so that no one could sit in my office. Some people close their doors. Some people make sure they do their own research first thing in the morning, every morning. Others devote Tuesday and Thursday to teaching and service and keep Monday, Wednesday and Friday open for research. Some only answer e-mail one time a day. It is good to ask your chair and other faculty what tips they have for managing your time. I want to make it clear though that while it is difficult to juggle all the components of the job, part of why I like my job so much is that it includes many diverse responsibilities.

The entire process of getting a Ph.D. and then getting tenure is long and stress-filled. For most of us it takes at least a decade. Because it is such a lengthy journey, I think that it is important to live your life fully during those years...in other words, don't give up or delay everything for the goal. Maintain some balance. Enjoy the journey. Take care of yourself along the way. So to such questions as should I have a baby, or should I take this trip, or should I stay home when I am sick, my answer is always yes.

## **Just Published...**

James H. Schulz, *The Economics of Aging*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Westport, CT: Auburn House, 2000. ISBN 0-86569-294-7. 376 pp. \$79.95 (hardcover) or \$24.95 (paperback)

Karen A. Roberto and Deborah T. Gold, *Chronic Pain in Later Life: A Selectively Annotated Bibliography* Westport, CT: Auburn House, 2000. ISBN 0-313-31099-8. 296 pp. \$74.95

Kathleen Call and Jeylan Mortimer, *Arenas of Comfort: A Study of Adjustment in Context*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2001. ISBN 0-8058-2786-2. 176 pp. \$49.95