



The President's Corner-Anne Marengo, College of the Canyons

I attended the AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) with eight of my colleagues from College of the Canyons last month in Washington, DC. First of all, the weather was beautiful, a light snow several days we were there. This was a much welcome change from the Southern California "winter." During the three days following the conference, I visited two new (new to me) museums, one a commercial venture focused on espionage and spies throughout history with a little James Bond thrown in, very fun. The second was the National Museum of American History. This museum has a variety of exhibits, some large, some small. Money, transportation, food, and presidents were some of the exhibits. If you find yourself in DC I recommend this museum if you have not already seen it.

Now, about the conference, I attended many sessions, and one whole day at the end, on e-portfolios. I had heard of and seen a little bit of e-portfolios in the past, but not gotten on board. Our college had a dog and pony show with five e-portfolio vendors a few weeks prior to the conference so I was primed for the conference and the "conversion." I am usually a details person, but I get the big picture with e-portfolios. And what I get out of it is you don't need an e-portfolio to do the job, you just need a paradigm shift. I was focused, like most of my colleagues, on the students learning the content of my class, with a little life skills thrown in for good measure. I have incorporated life skills into classes for a while because our local businesses tell us they need students to be able to communicate orally and in writing, think critically and creatively, and to relate to others in the workplace. But e-portfolios are perfect for making those skills apparent to the student as well as to potential employers. A big part of this e-portfolio movement is in the self-reflection that students do. They don't just place artifacts in their e-portfolios, they reflect on why they choose an artifact and how an artifact demonstrates a particular skill. Wow! That would have been so useful when I was in school. I am piloting e-portfolios in one of my classes this semester and am excited to see how it goes. Perhaps a session in November on e-portfolios? [Anne](#)

Theme and Call for Proposals for 2015 Conference-President-Elect and Program Chair-David Smith, UC Irvine

It is my pleasure to be this year's President of the California Sociological Association! I have attended several past meetings, participated in sessions, and been a member for a few years – I've also encouraged my graduate students to become involved (and this is particularly appealing for many of them when the annual meetings are held at the Mission Inn in Riverside, just an hour's drive from UC-Irvine). While (I confess!) I have never been to a CSA meeting in the northern half of the state, I am looking forward to this year's November conference in Sacramento (at the Holiday Inn, Central Plaza) near Old Town. While it may not draw the attention of tourists like the coastal "Bay Area" does, Sacramento has its charms and sights to see – and the mid-fall weather should feature pleasant sunny days and cool nights, really a wonderful time to visit there! So I hope that many of you will plan to attend this event, participate in sessions, and join us for a dynamic keynote address by William Robinson of UCSB and the reception buffet on Friday night. The theme I've selected for the conference in 2015 is "Social Realities, Social Change: The Importance of Global Context."

Sociology in the US became a thriving enterprise in the mid-twentieth century. But, looking back now, it remained a surprisingly insular field: the vast majority of the research in our books and journals and the teaching in our classrooms focused on the United States or, occasionally, other "advanced" societies of the western world. Indeed, the idea of "society" itself was highly identified with the nation – and the implicit assumption was that even analysis focused on large-scale social change was largely explained by the unfolding process of "modernization" that was inherently national in character.

(continued on p.2)

**California Sociological Association 2015 Annual Meeting
November 13th and 14th at the Holiday Inn-Central Plaza, Sacramento
"Social Realities, Social Change: The Importance of Global Context"
Send proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, and abstracts of papers
to David Smith, dasmith@uci.edu**

President-Elect (continued from p. 1)

This began to change in the post-World War II era as a few prophetic voices began to call for sociologists to return to comparative and historical roots. C. Wright Mills famous exposition of the “sociological imagination” (in his 1959 book) highlighted the central part of comparative and historical perspectives in our discipline. The critical turn later in the 1960s and 1970s built on Mills (but also a renewed interest in Marxist ideas) led to the growing popularity and importance of comparative and historical analysis (with books of this period by scholars like Charles Tilly and Theda Skocpol making wide impacts on the discipline, an explosion of cross-national research in sociology journals, etc.). Pushing even farther, writers like Andre Gunder Frank and Immanuel Wallerstein developed ideas about the importance of seeing the capitalist world-system, not societies or nations, as the key “container” for social dynamics. Arguably, the publication in 1974 of Wallerstein’s *magnus opus The Modern World-System (Volume 1)* provides a notable marker for a paradigm shift, moving beyond comparative/historical to truly global analysis. While the world-system approach represented a “structural”/ political-economy perspective, the “world society”/neo-institutional approach developed by John Meyer at Stanford University in the 1980s, offered a different more “cultural” take on the pervasive influence of global forces on contemporary societies. Today, I think there is a broad consensus that we live in a world dominated by “globalization” (though, of course, there is much less agreement on precisely what that means).

Of course, there is a rather robust area of current sociological research that is directly focused on understanding global political economy and world cultural influences. We now see a burgeoning field of what we might call “global sociology” that studies distinctive aspects of worldwide change: international divisions of labor, population dynamics and migratory flows across the entire earth, global geopolitical relations, planetary communications, the unequal spread of science, technology and innovation, the worldwide dynamic of today’s ecological crisis, etc. I hope that some of that research, specifically designed to understand these global processes, done by some of our brightest young scholars, will be highlighted at this year’s CSA conference. I also intend to ask Professor William Robinson to draw from his new book *Global Capitalism and the Crisis of Humanity* in the keynote address he will give. In that volume, he discusses how the current world economy creates crises linked to growing inequalities, toxic environmental contradictions, and threats of international violence and increasing state repression of wide populations: critically important topics, no doubt, for sociologists to contemplate and, hopefully, address.

But, more fundamentally, I believe that *all* the social dimensions and changes that we study today in the discipline of sociology are, in fact, impacted by global forces. Virtually *every* subfield and nearly *all* research – including that which seems to have a narrow geographic focus on, say, the United States, or even California – can be enriched by “bringing the global in” to the discussion and “locating” the specific sociological facts in term of their places in a matrix of various worldwide “vectors” of global influence, flows, and structures. Indeed, our own state is geographically positioned on “the Pacific Rim” and, increasingly is at the center of what may be the most dynamic cores of networks of world trade, commerce, communication, migration, and technological change: studies that don’t attempt to grasp the significance of these wider worldwide patterns and the way that various influences “touch down” on our shores, here, invariable “miss” something important. So I hope that the global theme isn’t just developed in a few specialized sessions – considering aspects of “the global” can enrich most sociological research and discourse, even when processes and patterns seem, at first glance, to be very local. David Smith, UC Irvine dasmith@uci.edu

Executive Director’s Report-Ed Nelson, California State University, Fresno

We had a great meeting last year in Riverside and expect to have another great meeting in Sacramento this coming November 13 and 14. Our web page (<http://www.cal-soc.org>) lists the dates and location of future meetings through 2016 under conferences/future meetings.

Our membership in 2014-15 showed a 16% increase from the previous year. We have 183 dues-paying members. About 36% of our membership is students and 64% is faculty and practitioners. We are also doing well financially. Our fiscal year is from September 1 through August 31. At the end of our last fiscal year (August 31, 2014), we had \$25,142 in our account which was an increase of about \$1,800 over the previous year. Thank you all for joining the CSA. Please spread the word to other sociologists about the CSA. Send them the URL for our web site and encourage them to join the CSA and to come to the conference in Sacramento and make a presentation.

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you in Sacramento on November 13 and 14. [Ed ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu)

New Officers and Council Members

The California Sociological Association has a governing council made up of an Executive Board and of Governors-at-Large who represent our constituency groups. Each year we elect a new President Elect who serves as program chair for the conference that year and becomes the president the following year. Some new officers are also elected each year so there is continuity on the governing council. At the end of the 2014 annual meeting in November, Anne Marenco became the president for 2014-15 and David Smith became President Elect and Program Chair for the 2015 conference.

Regional vice presidents are elected for two-year terms. One represents members Kern county and south, and the other vice president represents the northern region. The vice-president assists the program chair when the annual conference is held in his/her region as well as serving as secretary for the organization the other year. Elvia Ramirez, CSU Sacramento was elected Vice President North for 2014-17. Thea Alvarado continues as Vice President South.

In addition to those officers who form the Executive Board, a six-member Governing Council representing the constituency groups in the Association is elected to three-year terms. The constituency groups are students, practitioners, private colleges and universities, community colleges, the University of California, and the California State University System. Christopher Chase-Dunn, UC Riverside, is the UC Rep; Susan Fellows (CSU Dominguez Hills) is the CSU Rep, Community Colleges are represented by J. Vern Cromartie, Ed Clarke represents private colleges and universities, Robin Franck represents practitioners, and Alexis Alvarez (UC Riverside) is the student rep.

Executive Board and Governing Council:

President (2014-15) – Anne Marenco, College of the Canyons, anne.marenco@canyons.edu

President-Elect (2014-15) - David Smith, UC Irvine, dasmith@uci.edu

Vice-President South (2013-15) – Thea Alvarado, College of the Canyons, tsweoalvarado@gmail.com

Vice-President North (2014-17) – Elvia Ramirez, CSU Sacramento, eramirez@csus.edu

Executive Director (2012-15) - Edward Nelson, CSU Fresno, ednelson@csufresno.edu

Archivist/Newsletter - Elizabeth Nelson, CSU Fresno, elizn@mail.fresnostate.edu

Webmaster - Tim Kubal, CSU Fresno, tkubal@csufresno.edu

California State University (2012-15) – Susan Fellows, CSU Dominguez Hills, sfellows@csudh.edu

University of California (2014-17) – Christopher Chase-Dunn, UC Riverside, christopher.chase-dunn@ucr.edu

Community Colleges (2014-17) - J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College, j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com

Private Colleges and Universities (2014-17) - Ed Clarke, Vanguard University of Southern California, eclarke@vanguard.edu

Practitioners (2012-15) - Robin Franck, consultant, rfranck@swccd.edu

Student (2014-15) – Alexis Alvarez, UC Riverside, alexisalvarez@earthlink.net

Past President: (2014-15) Christopher Chase-Dunn, UC Riverside, christopher.chase-dunn@ucr.edu

Volunteers Needed for the 2015 Conference

If you live in north California, this is a good year to help with the CSA conference. A local arrangements committee will be needed to take care of responsibilities such as local planning, programs, registration and name tags, and audiovisual needs in the meeting rooms. If you can help, contact Elvia Ramirez eramirez@csus.edu.

Please join the California Sociological Association on Facebook

College of the Canyons Students at the 2014 Conference

Sociology students from the College of the Canyons volunteered at our 2014 conference in Riverside. They worked with registration and the audio visual equipment as well as helping in other ways. It was a great learning experience for them. After the meeting they sent us the following reflections on their experience:

Attending the California Sociological Association conference of 2014 was a remarkable experience. It was fascinating to speak with students and professionals about their research on a variety of topics such as Race/Ethnicity, Pedagogy, and even Art. Furthermore, this conference has been influential on my desire to conduct sociological research. I am thankful for this wonderful opportunity to volunteer at this year's CSA conference.

-Caralie Wegeng

The CSA conference was a wonderful experience, and I enjoyed hearing about many of the contributions made by professors and graduate students in the sociology field. My favorite session was about Crime and Social Control. The presenter discussed how society emphasizes punishment rather than taking preventative measures to stop crime. It was an interesting point he brought up, since unreasonable prison sentences for petty crimes is a prevalent issue today. Overall, the conference inspired me to choose sociology as my 2nd major once I transfer.

-Jenny Ma

The sociology conference was an absolute blast both educationally and socially. The wide range of topics covered allowed me to pick and choose which sessions I wanted to attend. I even went to some sessions that I did not think I would like and walked away eager to learn more about the subject. Assisting the conference was enjoyable because everyone was friendly. We all had similar interests so it sparked up some understandable regions of agreement. Hopefully, I will be able to attend more of these types of events!

-Ethan McCullough

The CSA Conference was a very academically and personally enriching experience. It reinforced my interest in sociology because similar to my sociology classes, the Conference made me aware of global issues that I was oblivious to. I can only hope that the concepts that I learned at the Conference can be shared and understood by everyone in order to thwart the ignorance that has pervaded our society.

-Klark Jureidini

I can honestly say that my experience at the 25th Annual California Sociological Association Conference changed my life. I switched to becoming a sociology major this semester because I love the field of study. Prior to this conference, I did not know that much about sociological research and by watching all these presentations I learned so much. I plan on doing a research project in the future and maybe one day I can be presenting at one of these conferences.

-Shervin Jalili

New Sociology PhD Program at UC Merced-Paul Almeida

The UC Merced now has a graduate program in Sociology. It is distinctive in several ways. First, it provides intensive mentoring to graduate students, with personalized attention given to small cohorts of accepted students. Second, our program offers a unique set of substantive foci within an interdisciplinary environment. Our faculty study a unique combination of topics, including social inequality (race, class, gender, sexuality), political participation and social movements, health, immigration and education, that are synergistic and relevant to contemporary issues facing the nation and beyond. Finally, the program is designed to train students in research careers in both higher education and public and private agencies outside of academia, with training on a range of substantive topics and research methodologies that will provide an excellent foundation for a variety of careers.

Visit the Graduate Division's web page, <http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu>, to learn more about the academic programs, financial support, student services, professional development opportunities, and important information about the application process. For more information, contact palmeida@ucmerced.edu.

2014 Student Awards

A highlight of the annual conference is always the Friday evening student awards and keynote address followed by the buffet reception. Here is a little bit about the 2014 award winners:

Gustavo Sandoval received the Outstanding Community College Student Award. He earned two Associate of Arts degrees in General Studies--Arts & Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences--at Los Angeles Pierce College. He was on the Dean's List six times and President's List three times. In addition, he received two scholarships there: 2014 Betty Odello Perpetual Scholarship and 2013 Outstanding Student Leadership Award. He is currently attending UCLA working towards a BA in Sociology and a minor in Chicana/o Studies. He has not only been a good student academically, but also very active on campus and in the wider community.

Filip Lopes received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. He is currently at California State University East Bay majoring in Sociology. He has been on the Dean's List for his high academic achievements and received the Lawton Award for his academic achievement and quality of an essay he wrote. He has participated in research projects by conducting phone interviews, assisting other students with SPSS, and worked for Dr. Duke Austin as his Research Assistant. He has been actively engaged in community service as a volunteer youth soccer coach.



Elizabeth Bogumil received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She is currently at California State University Northridge, working toward her MA degree in Sociology and is applying for Ph.D. programs. Her ultimate goal is "to contribute to the fusion of the fields of sociology and urban design by examining how methods of urban design affect community members' social capital, cultural capital, participation and involvement within their community, thus leading to feelings of solidarity and unity." She has presented at numerous regional conferences, including California Sociological Association, Pacific Sociological Association, and the CSUN Student Research & Creative Works Symposium. One of her presentations "Walkability: The Effect of Walkability on Quality of Life" received a second place award, and another presentation "Walkable Communities: Relationships between Walkability and Quality of Life" received a first prize award at the CSUN Student Research & Creative Works Symposium. In addition, she has been active as a student/teaching assistant and the president of AKD.



Member News and Notes

Toby Ewing (CSA President 2010-2011) has become the Executive Director of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. The Commission is the oversight body for Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Voter-approved Prop 63 is funded by a one percent tax on incomes of more than one million dollars and has generated more than \$11 billion for public mental health programs since 2005. Before that, Toby was a consultant to the California State Senate Governance and Finance Committee for four years. (Ewing also served as Director of the California Research Bureau from 2009 to 2011. From 1999 to 2006, he was a Project Manager with the Little Hoover Commission, an independent body charged with improving government. During his tenure, Ewing was project manager for several reports on state policy issues including mental health and child welfare.)

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Please send your news for this section on members' activities—updates on student-award winners, publications, honors, promotions, new jobs, ideas for teaching, retirements. Send to elizn@csufresno.edu.

2015 Sociological Conferences

Pacific Sociological Association

<http://www.pacificsoc.org/>

April 1-4, 2015

Long Beach CA

American Sociological Association

www.asanet.org

August 22-25, 2015

Chicago IL

Many Thanks to Departments Who Contributed to the 2014 Conference

California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Stanislaus
Santa Clara University

Call for Proposals

California Sociological Association 26th Annual Meeting

**Social Realities, Social Change:
The Importance of Global Context**

**November 13 and 14th, 2015
Sacramento**

**Send proposals for sessions, panels, abstracts of papers to
David Smith, dasmith@uci.edu**

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