



(If you would like to receive the newsletter in email format only, please email Ed Nelson (ednelson@csufresno.edu).

Otherwise, we'll also mail you a paper copy.

President's Corner-David Smith, UC Riverside

Back over a year ago (late 2014), I was asked to run for President of the California Sociological Association. I was a bit hesitant, since I had just learned that I was President-Elect of the national Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), and I was worried about trying to fill both positions at the same time (while also continuing as full time, solo, Editor of the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*). At that point some (unnamed) colleagues told me not to worry: these presidencies are mostly "honorific" without that much work associated with them. I was skeptical (by that point I was already getting almost daily e-messages from the SSSP Administrative Office that needed my immediate attention). But I took the plunge and agreed to offer my services to CSA.

It turns out my concerns about being a "double-duty" President were not entirely wrong: I used to believe I was a pretty good "multi-tasker": but there were some times last fall when I was just overwhelmed! This was particularly true last October when I was responsible for creating the entire program for the CSA meeting in Sacramento (and also, simultaneously, dealing with many SSSP issues, teaching classes here in Irvine, etc.). Because the association doesn't have any sort of automated paper submission process – or even a "template" or suggested "form" for listing paper information – I spent the better part of a week sorting through many dozen e-mails, reformatting the information, sorting people and papers into rooms available to us at the Holiday Inn, Capital Plaza Sacramento. It was tedious and time consuming – and I am very thankful that immediate Past-President Anne Marengo stepped up and provided invaluable assistance: without her work (which is heretofore inadequately acknowledged!) the elegant meeting program would not have been produced! After this was all finished, I strongly recommended to the Council that some sort of "system" be developed for paper submissions that is either automated (fill out an electronic form) or follows an ordered template. I think that my successor, Tim Kubal, took up the challenge to develop that: I hope he does, it will save him and others who follow a great deal of time and work!

As is often the case, the hard labor of preparing and organizing was richly rewarded by the success of annual conference last November. It was a very successful CSA meeting – and I hope I was just one of the nearly 300 attendees who enjoyed our weekend in Sacramento. Personally, I had only been to that city once or twice previously, and I enjoyed walking through the Old Town section and eating lunch and dinner at nice restaurants along the river with friends and colleagues. I also did my regular long morning runs along the riverside bike paths (very pleasant!). Of course, I

couldn't attend all the sessions. But I was very pleased to see a wide range of topics on the program ranging from pedagogical sessions, panels for the presentation of undergraduate research, to specialized sessions focused on ethnography, race, fiscal policy/inequality, medical sociology, sociology of education, social movements, survey research, etc.: for a relatively small conference, we really covered a wide range of topics, there was literally something for everyone!

The panels I participated in (both as a speaker and as a audience member) were quite interesting and (dare I say?) even entertaining. In keeping with the conference theme ("Social Realities, Social Change: The Importance of Global Context"), we ended up having a sort of "mini-conference" of several sessions on globalization and global social change, with many excellent presentations by graduate students and junior faculty members (and with discussion the likes of CSA Past-President Chris Chase-Dunn and our keynote speaker, Bill Robinson). I also had the pleasure of presenting as part of a panel on "PSA, CSA and Regional Associations in Sociology" that was organized by our former student, Dennis Downey, and featured some very lively discussion about the future of our discipline and the challenges that regional associations – like ours – face. It was high-quality stuff!

But for me the two highlights were a session on "CSA/PSA Origins and History" and the keynote address. The former panel on origins and history of the societies started with an e-mail I received from early CSA pioneer James Glynn. But by the time we met in the panel at Sacramento, Dean Dorn, Chuck Holm, Gordon Clanton, and Harvey Rich had joined in a discussion of how both the PSA and CSA got started, their evolving structures and relationships, the early meetings, the challenges that the progenitors had to overcome, etc. I found it extremely interesting. The "historical sociologist" in me came out: we need to know where we came from to figure out who we are and where we are going. (And I was also very pleased to be – for the first time in a few years – the youngest person on the dais!) Immediately following that panel everyone assembled in the hotel ballroom for our banquet and the keynote address by William "Bill" Robinson, drawn from his recent book, *Global Capitalism and the Crisis of Humanity*. He is a very impassioned and provocative thinker and speaker – and his message was both prophetic and inspirational (and, yes, he did *try* to add a little humor, if mainly of the "gallows" variety! it is difficult to make jokes about the coming apocalypse...). [Continued on p. 2]

**California Sociological Association 2016 Annual Meeting
November 4-5 at the Mission Inn-Riverside
Send proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, and
abstracts of papers to Tim Kubal, CSU, Fresno
tkubal@csufresno.edu**

[From p. 1]

The presentation also stimulated some thoughtful questions from the assembled conference goers (despite some hunger pangs and anticipation of a wonderful dinner) – that discussion was a clear indicator of a successful talk (and, indeed, I heard more about the issues he raised on elevators and around the hotel later that evening, which confirmed that he was a good choice to do our keynote: special thanks, also, to him!).

So I enjoyed the conference – and I hope that pleasure was shared by most of those in attendance. It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the California Sociological Association. The conference provided ample evidence that our discipline is thriving all across our “mini-nation” sized state. As I write this we are now in final preparation for an outstanding program at our summer SSSP annual conference at the Westin Seattle on “Globalizing Social Problems” (yes, there is a bit of “continuity” in that theme!). This conference will be a bit bigger than the CSA’s (the SSSP open paper submissions closed at the beginning of this month at just under 700 and we are adding a number of “invited/plenary” panels as I write today). But the SSSP will be much more intimate and manageable than the giant ASA meeting across town: I hope California sociologists are well-represented in our summer event on the Puget Sound! See you in Seattle!

President Elect and 2016 Program Chair-Tim Kubal, CSU Fresno

The CSA provides a venue for dialogue and professional development among professional sociologists, students of sociology, and other allied professionals. I have been involved in the organization for about ten years, and I have found it to be exceptionally rewarding. I continue to present (or chair a session) each year because I find the experience refreshing and thought-provoking. I genuinely enjoy attending sessions as an audience member as well. The discussions outside of the sessions are always interesting, and the night program is a special treat, including the free buffet dinner, cash bar, and keynote speaker.

The association leadership has been working on adding new features to the conference, such as video recording sessions, and even newer suggestions such as T-Shirts, and perhaps most significantly, a streamlined, online process for submitting and discussing conference papers. We have video recorded two years of sessions and these are available on the CSA Youtube page. We are still working to streamline the process of recording and sharing these videos. In general, changes will be introduced slowly as we strive toward continuity with a successful past. Also, changes occur slowly because there are limited resources. If you would like to get more involved in any of the issues I’ve listed above, please contact me directly: tkubal@csufresno.edu. We also tried a new venue in 2015. I enjoyed Sacramento, and I thought the food at our venue was very good. There were many great sessions, with a wonderful diversity of content, from student papers to book talks by seasoned veterans, to historical retrospectives of the CSA. Thank you to everyone that made it a successful conference. I hope we can count on you again in 2016.

Our 2016 meeting is Nov. 4-5, at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Steeped in history, the Inn’s walls tell stories of important pasts, and remind us to revive our memories of collective origins. After each visit to the Mission Inn, I am revived in a deeper sense, having connected with an important history of colonization, and having rejuvenated my curiosity for understanding the historical trajectories that produced modern systems of stratification. Please place the date on your calendar and plan to attend. I anticipate a lively conference filled with great people and provocative ideas, all within invigorating surroundings.

Please join the California Sociological Association on Facebook

It’s a good place for up-to-date information on the conference, to share course ideas, and other ways to keep in touch with friends and colleagues.

California Sociological Association Newsletter

Editor

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The California Sociological Association Newsletter is a publication of the California Sociological Association, a not-for-profit organization that represents sociologists in education, research, sociological practice, and government service.

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David Smith, UC Irvine

President-Elect (2015-16)

Tim Kubal, CSU Fresno

Vice-President South (2015-17)

Thea Alvarado, College of the Canyons

Vice-President North (2014-16)

Elvia Ramirez, CSU Sacramento

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Edward Nelson, CSU Fresno,

The purpose of the California Sociological Association is 1) to promote the scientific study of society with particular emphasis on the challenges facing the State of California, 2) to promote the dissemination of public policy related to sociological research, and 3) to foster the early professional involvement of students and the continued professional involvement of practitioners and educators.

Website:

www.cal-soc.org

Student Award Winners 2015

Matthew Smith from Santa Rosa Junior College was the Community College Student Award winner. Matt is a veteran who not only achieved academically but also showed leadership skills in organizing and developing an active sociology club and a Toys for Tots program on campus. In addition, he worked with faculty and staff developing programs to meet the challenges faced by many returning veterans. He is working toward a career in social work, probably with veterans.



Yadira K. Hernandez Perez from UCLA won the Undergraduate Student Award. As an undergraduate she transferred from East Los Angeles College to UCLA. She was an excellent student and demonstrated her skills by designing and carrying out her own research focusing on access to health services for undocumented people. Her article, "Dreams Deported: Immigrant Youth and Families Resist Deportation" is widely used. She is now in the UCLA Law Fellows Program working as a paralegal assistant with the non-profit Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project. She also volunteers in a new project for undocumented students at East Los Angeles College (ELAC), which is planning a resource center for undocumented students that might be the first in the country. She is planning to go to law school in the future.

Sarah Stembridge from CSU Northridge won the Graduate Student Award. As a master's degree candidate, she completed her graduate-level work with a 4.0 GPA. She co-authored a peer-reviewed study on the impact of theatre on youth on the autism spectrum. In addition, she worked on research grants funded by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Education. Her thesis research focused on self-identity and its relationship to lifestyle choices, with a specific focus on the ways that health-conscious identities can both enhance and constrict healthy behavior. Sarah is now the lead Project Coordinator for the CSUN Institute for Community Health and Wellbeing where she coordinates service programs and research studies in areas related to early childhood education, autism, breastfeeding, lactation, and mindfulness practice.



CSA Governing Council

The California Sociological Association has a governing council made up of an Executive Board of officers and Governors-at-Large who represent constituency groups. Each year we elect a 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 2015 annual meeting in November, David Smith became the president for 2015-16 and Tim Kubal became President Elect and Program Chair for the 2016 conference.

Regional vice presidents are elected for two-year terms. One represents members living in 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. Thea Alvarado, College of the Canyons, was reelected Vice President South, and Elvia Ramirez, CSU Sacramento, continues as Vice President North for 2014-16.

In addition to these officers who form the Executive Board, a seven-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 Representative; Jeb Middlebrook (CSU Dominguez Hills) was elected CSU Rep. Community Colleges have two representatives now--those in northern California are represented by J. Vern Cromartie (Contra Costa College), and Robert Wonser (College of the Canyons) represents community colleges in the south. Ed Clarke (Vanguard University) represents private colleges and universities, Robin Franck continues to represent practitioners, and Alexis Alvarez (UC Riverside) continues as the student rep. (Contact information for the council is listed on the end of this newsletter.) Past presidents may continue to be part of the board, and many of them work very hard for the Association.

Here are the details for the newest representatives:

Community College South Representative--Robert Wonser is an Associate Adjunct Professor of Sociology at College of the Canyons and other community colleges in Southern California with interests in the sociology of popular culture, inequality, gender, class and race, and the self.

CSU Representative--Jeb Middlebrook is Assistant Professor of Sociology at CSU Dominguez Hills. His current book project, *Prison Music: Containment, Escape, and the Sound of America*, is a cultural history of incarceration in U.S. society from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century.

College of the Canyons Students at the 2015 Conference

Sociology students from the Sociology Club at College of the Canyons again volunteered at our 2015 conference. They worked with registration and the audio visual equipment as well as helping in many other ways. It was a great help to us and an important learning experience for them. **We thank them and their mentor, Anne Marengo!**

Thank you for Donations to the 2015 Conference:

CSU, Chico
 CSU, East Bay
 Santa Clara University
 CSU, San Bernardino
 CSU, Channel Islands
 CSU, Fresno
 CSU, San Marcos

2016 Conference at the Mission Inn, Riverside

Our next conference will be at the Mission Inn in Riverside. We have met there many times in the past and always enjoy the beautiful, historic setting. It seems to be a good location for our meeting when we meet in southern California. It's a fascinating setting with meeting rooms that meet our needs. It's close to freeways and about 30 minutes from the Ontario International Airport. For more information, please visit their website at www.missioninn.com.

Odds and Ends:

The spring newsletter will include the preliminary list of sessions for 2016.

Please join the California Sociological Association on Facebook.

Is your dept. doing something especially well—receiving awards, preparing students for employment or graduate study, promoting research skills, service learning...? Please let the rest of us know by contacting Elizabeth Nelson (elizn@csufresno.edu).

Other 2016 Sociology Meetings:

Pacific Sociological Association
 Oakland, California
 Wednesday, March 30 to Saturday, April 2

American Sociological Association
 Seattle, Washington
 August 20-23

Society for the Study of Social Problems
 Seattle Washington
 August 19-21

Call for Papers

**California Sociological Association
27th Annual Meeting**

**November 4-5, 2016
Mission Inn-Riverside**

**Send proposals for sessions, panels, abstracts of papers to
Tim Kubal, CSU, Fresno (tkubal@csufresno.edu)**

Please copy and distribute.

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