

California Sociological Association 2012 Annual Meeting

November 9 and 10 Mission Inn, Riverside "California's Regional Diversity" www.csufresno.edu/csa

Send proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, and abstracts of papers to Bob Palacio (bobp@csufresno.edu)

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President's Corner—Tony Waters, CSU Chico

Higher Education Expands Worldwide, but Contracts in California?

During the last nine years, I squeezed guest teaching gigs in Tanzania, Germany, and China in-between my duties at Chico State. Each time I do this, I am impressed by the vibrancy of growing university systems abroad, and the rapid expansion of higher education opportunities. Each country is pushing more of their students into post-secondary institutions. Indeed, there is a Europe-wide goal of having at least 40% of all 30-34 year olds graduating at the level of a US Bachelor's degree by 2020 (The US and California have been stuck at 25-30% since about 1970). Each place I've visited also seeks to "internationalize" their curricula, by which they mean sending students abroad, receiving faculty and students from other countries, and offering classes in English. This is all very exciting for someone coming from moribund California where internationalization is viewed primarily in terms of "revenue generation," in other words, a way to soak outsiders for the cost of running our universities, and not necessarily a value for its own sake.

Inevitably the rapid growth I saw abroad resulted in some nutty stuff—and you hear about it. My German colleagues complained about the pains of uncoordinated rapid growth, and the fact that expanding student bodies, do not keep up with faculty hires. Lack of coordination in student loan disbursements in Tanzania resulted in a student strike, tear gas in my house, and the mid-semester cancellation of my classes. In China and Germany, students bragged that their English skills are better than the faculty—as indeed they are as a result of improved foreign language instruction during the 1990s when they were in primary school. And the university I visited in China had a massive new library at the entrance to the university which I fear will become a digital-age white elephant.

In all three countries, students complained about the high cost of student fees/tuition, just like they do in California. It is just that the magnitude is different. In Germany students protested recent imposition of tuition at public universities which were briefly set at 500 Euros per semester (about \$633), before being eliminated in most states. Perhaps the nuttiest thing occurred at a rapidly internationalizing university when I presented a class to one student (it was a great class!), due to a scheduling mistake on the part of a host over-eager to offer an English language sociology course.

But then it is always back to California where we have *real* complaints. The tuition bills at CSU are about \$7000 per year, \$13,200 per year at UC, and even the Community Colleges run about \$2000 for a full-time 30 unit load. California has declining student enrolments, faculty numbers which decline faster, and curricular offerings which go down even more quickly. Many public universities in the United States cut class times via various furlough programs. The United States (led by California) in the past led college completion rates for adults aged 30-34—but in recent years was surpassed by countries like Korea, Canada, Japan, and Ireland. This will put the United States at a competitive disadvantage in future world labor markets for decades to come, a fact that logically will lead to yet further decline.

On top of everything else, instead of encouraging the internationalization other countries seek, the United States discourages enrolment by international students with complicated student visa requirements, and a reluctance to recognize foreign degrees. For example, my own students at the Chico State are discouraged by risk management concerns from CSU headquarters in Long Beach that ultimately drive up students costs for study abroad—with the result that our own efforts to "internationalize" our own student bodies are restrained.

(Still there is some good news for CSU headquarters in Long Beach: we don't need a new massive library like I saw in China, though it would be nice if Chico State's browsing collections were maintained, and the supply of books—print or e-copies—kept up with the book reviews!)

In other words, I have seen the consequences of both rapid growth and institutional contraction. I'll take the chaotic growth of Germany, China, and Tanzania over the institutional stagnation in California any day.

Ultimately, the rapid growth of public education abroad happens because governments in other countries value higher education in ways that California no longer does. And most importantly, taxpayers abroad are willing to pay for higher education. Hidden behind the student protests I observed in Tanzania and Germany, was a shared belief that the general

public benefits from a well-educated population. The protests appealed effectively, albeit sometimes clumsily, to this value. This value was of course shared by Californians in the past—thus the rapid expansion of California’s higher education system by the grandparents of my students in the decades after World War II. Such benefits, of course were reaped by me and my fellow baby boomers in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The question for today’s baby boomers is whether they will be able to return the favor by supporting our own children in a way that the rest of the world does.

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Theme and Call for Proposals for 2012 conference
Bob Palacio, CSU Fresno, President-Elect and Program Chair

The theme for the 2012 conference in Riverside is “California’s Regional Diversity.” In keeping with this theme, we are seeking papers that reflect the state’s regional differences, similarities, and their connections. This theme focuses on the social, economic, and demographic forces that characterize current regional trends. For example, while some regions are slowly emerging from the economic recession, other areas such as the San Joaquin Valley are still facing a high unemployment and slow economic growth. Census data also indicate interesting new information on the state’s internal migration patterns. A particular interest is in forming a session or two that examine the forces of *regionalization* associated with changing settlement patterns involving the confluence of factors, including the expansion of urbanization and suburbanization of space, and how these factors are affecting how people organize their lives. Papers might focus, for example, on regional lifestyles and work patterns, and on the relations between settlement space and demographic, economic, political, and gender trends. Of course, as we do every year, we welcome other topic papers, session and panel proposals that are of interest to CSA members.

The Keynote speaker will be Roger Waldinger, who is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at UCLA and former Chair of the department (1999-2004). From 1995 to 1998 he was Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies at UCLA. Currently, Professor Waldinger is Interim Associate Vice-Provost for International Studies. He has written numerous books and articles on international migration, the organization of work, Latino immigrants and cross-border ties. In 1998 he received the Robert E. Park Award by the Urban and Community Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association for his book, *Still the Promised City?* In 1997 he received the Thomas and Znaniecki Award for his *Ethnic Los Angeles*, by the ASA. He is now working on a new book, tentatively entitled *Foreign Detachment: America’s Immigrants and Their Homeland Connections* where he explains how the American experience at once facilitates, competes with, and structures immigrants’ involvements with the countries from which they come. Professor Waldinger’s research and scholarship is very appropriate for our theme, “California’s Regional Diversity.”

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

We had a great meeting in Berkeley last November. We had 29 sessions with 84 papers presented and a total of 96 different presenters. **Tony Waters did a wonderful job of organizing the conference.** It’s a lot of work and we want to thank Tony for all he did in making the conference a rousing success.

This year our conference will be back at the Mission Inn in Riverside on November 9 and 10. Our president-elect, Bob Palacio, is hard at work organizing the conference. Please help him by organizing a session.

Our membership remains strong with 124 dues-paying members. We had 105 registered for the 2011 conference in Riverside along with 157 student observers. Our financial picture also remains strong.

We’re continuing the membership drive we started a couple of years ago. Many CSA members have volunteered to be the membership chair at their campus. They did a wonderful job encouraging faculty and students to join the CSU and to present at the annual conference. Thanks to all our membership chairs. If you would like to volunteer to be your campus’ membership chair, please email me (ednelson@csufresno.edu) and I’ll let you know if the position is vacant on your campus.

Enclosed is the dues and conference registration form for 2012-13. If you aren’t already a member, please join us. We have added a couple of options for paying your membership dues. We have reduced the lifetime membership fee to \$300.

You can also choose to pay \$70 for a two-year membership. This is a savings of \$10. We encourage you to use this option to join for two years.

Thanks to all who helped at our annual conference last year and to all who attended. We'll see you again on November 9 and 10 at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

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2011 Student Awards, Plenary Address, Buffet Reception

A highlight of the annual conference is always the Friday evening student awards and plenary address followed by the buffet reception with the chance to eat and to mingle with friends and colleagues.

The California Sociological Association gives two awards to outstanding students—one undergraduate and other a graduate student. (Each receives a plaque and a check for \$100.) This year the honorees were

Graduate Student Award Winner

The Graduate Student Award went to Jeb Sprague who was nominated by Diana Barahona. Jeb earned his B.A. in history in 2004 at CSULB. As a graduate history major at CSULB, Jeb published a groundbreaking master's thesis (2007) about the 2004 U.S.-backed coup that overthrew President Jean Bertrand Aristide in Haiti, using original source interviews and documents obtained from filing FOIAs with the State Department. Subsequently, he earned an MA in international political economy from the University of Manchester (2008). Jeb is currently in the PhD program in the Sociology Department at the University of California Santa Barbara, where his emphasis is globalization studies.

Although Jeb's emphasis is globalization theory, he has never stopped supporting the struggle of the Haitian people for justice. As a master's student, he started the Web site, Haitianalysis.com, which hosts original and republished articles and editorials about the current situation in that country. Jeb also has a blog (jebSprague.blogspot.com), which posts his writings on ongoing social conflicts in the era of globalization. His articles have been published by Aljazeera and IPS, and he is a recipient of a 2008 Project Censored award for his article (in collaboration with Haitian journalist Wadner Pierre) on malnutrition in Haiti caused by the replacement of native rice by imported white rice.

As a student, Jeb has always been an activist. He helped found Progressive Students while at CSULB, which among other things organized a day-long conference on exploitation under globalization. As an organizer at UCSB, Jeb has organized a conference on Radical Politics in the Caribbean and a forum with Venezuelan-American author Eva Golinger.

His Ph.D. dissertation focuses on the Caribbean and capitalist globalization. This summer his book on Haiti will be published with *Monthly Review Press*.

Dijana Sirovica, nominated by Preston Rudy, received her BA in Sociology in Spring 2011. While a student at San Jose State University, she was a Dean's scholar and a McNair scholar. Her GPA on graduating was 3.667 on a four-point scale. For her McNair project she studied marriage among Iranians to explore the relationship between religiosity, gender and marriage. This research involved ten interviews with couples to understand how their belief in God influenced the practice of their married relationship and their daily lives as couples. Her paper was published in the Spring 2011 *McNair Research Journal*. She also presented this research at the Seattle meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association in April 2010.

In addition to her scholarship and her excellent course work, Dijana was a very active student in social justice organizing at San José State. She was the main student organizer of the 2010 Legacy week of events commemorating the civil rights struggles at San Jose State during the 1960s which culminated in the victories and raised fists of John Carlos and Tommy Smith in 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Additionally during 2010-2011, she was co-chair of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, which sponsored two Congressional bills to promote a WPA style rebuilding of New Orleans. Through this group she was also active with the Anti- Poverty Organization at SJSU, which worked with local community organizations to bring an end to poverty. Additionally she was a leader with the Muslim Students Association at SJSU.

Last Spring she was accepted to the Ph.D. program in sociology at Kansas State University, Lawrence. Dijana deferred

her enrollment until Fall 2012 because she is hoping to get funding from Kansas State to attend. She has also been applying for fellowships to pay for her graduate education.

This past year she has been working as an instructor for after-school programs at a local elementary school, while applying for programs to study Arabic overseas during the summer.

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New Officers and Council Members 2011-12

The California Sociological Association has a governing council made up of an Executive Board and Governors-at-Large who represent 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 2011 annual meeting in November, Tony Waters (CSU,Chico) became the president for 2011-12 and Bob Palacio (CSU,Fresno) was elected President Elect and Program Chair for the 2011-12.

Two 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, and serves as secretary for the organization the other year. Anne Marengo, College of the Canyons, was reelected Vice President South for another two-year term. Todd Migliaccio was elected Vice President North to complete the term vacated by Robert Palacio. Vern Cromartie was reelected Community College Representative for 2011-13. (A complete list of council members is on the last page of this newsletter.)

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, community colleges, private colleges and universities, the California State University System, and the University of California. (The complete council is listed on the back of this newsletter.)

Here is some detail about the new council members:

Vice President North -- Todd Migliaccio is presently the Vice President for the Northern California colleges and Universities. He is an associate professor at Sacramento State University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from University of California, Riverside. Migliaccio's research interests vary, as is evident by his publication record. Presently he is simultaneously conducting research on the impact of service learning on student experiences and research on bullying K-12, using the findings from the research to construct prevention and intervention materials for educators as they address bullying. He has also established a certification bullying program for educators and is presently redesigning the program to work directly with districts to educate their staff.

Edward J. Clarke represents members from private colleges and universities. He is Professor of Sociology at Vanguard University. He received a Masters of Marital and Family Therapy in 1994 and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California in 1996. Clarke is an active applied sociologist working with disadvantaged or marginal populations His work in Orange County and with the city of Costa Mesa includes a 3-year trend study of homelessness within the city, and assessments of vulnerabilities within the homeless population.

California Sociological Association on Facebook

Robin Franck has set us up on Facebook so we can interact with each other for group communication, recruiting, etc. Put California Sociological Association in the Search box to find us.

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2012 Sociological Conference

American Sociological Association

www.asanet.org

August 17-20

Denver Colorado

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Many Thanks to Departments Who Contributed to the 2011 Conference:

- California State University, Channel Islands
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
 - California State University, Fresno
- California State University, Northridge
- California State University, Stanislaus
 - Humboldt State University
 - Sonoma State University

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Member News and Notes

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

Call for Sessions: 2012 Conference at the Mission Inn, Riverside

The 2012 CSA Meeting will be **November 9 and 10** at the Mission Inn, Riverside. We have met there many times before and always enjoyed the quirky building with its beautiful setting. It is time to organize sessions and panels. The California Sociological Association meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with sociologists from all over the state. Because the gathering is smaller than the ASA and regional conferences, there are more opportunities for informal discussion.

The CSA has a tradition of broad involvement. There will be sessions for undergraduate and graduate student presentations. Applied sociologists and community college teachers are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the CSA, contact Ed Nelson—ednelson@csufresno.edu. For information on the 2012 conference, contact Bob Palacio (bobp@csufresno.edu).

Volunteers Needed for the 2012 Conference

If you live in the south, 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. Contact Bob Palacio (bobp@csufresno.edu) or Anne Marengo (anne.marengo@canyons.edu).

Call for Proposals:

California Sociological Association 23rd Annual Meeting

November 9th and 10th, 2012 Mission Inn, Riverside

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