

Annual Report of the Section on the History of Sociology, 2007-8

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General Report

This has been a quite successful year, although our numbers remain small. The Section has built on its recent development to find ways of extending its intellectual range, improving its internal organisation, and reaching out to fresh groups of those potentially interested; it is hoped that some of this year's initiatives will pay dividends in the coming year. Detailed documentation on the main aspects of our activity is appended; here attention is drawn to some specific policies and issues from that range.

Our newsletter, Timelines, appeared three times, and in addition to routine material on awards, elections and ASA conference participation has included announcements of and reports on other conferences of history-of-sociology interest, notes on new books and journals, information on archival and other data sources, an obituary, and members' news. Some of these items broadened the perspective to the history of sociology outside the USA and its relations with US sociology. That was also reflected in the establishment of a relationship with the ISA's Research Committee on the History of Sociology in which news of activities is exchanged, and in the effort to ensure that committee memberships reflect the fact that our current and potential constituency extends beyond the USA to Canada and Europe.

Our Oral History Project has a committee in charge: Tony Blasi, Kay Richards Broschart, Susan Hoecker-Drysdale, Jennifer Platt, Ethan Schoolman and Eleanor Townsley, chaired by Michael Hill. After some time spent in preparatory discussion, it is moving forward with a pilot project to interview some of those who were deeply involved in the formation of the section; Susan Hoecker-Drysdale will conduct the interviews, and Michael Hill and Kay Richards Broschart are collecting a packet of "founding documents" to which the interviewees can be asked to respond. It is expected that the programme will expand beyond the Section's internal history in the light of early experience, and it is possible that a grant will in due course be applied for additional to what the Section's own resources can provide.

Our intellectual mission was also pursued through investigation of the courses listed in the 2008 ASA Guide to Graduate Departments of Sociology as providing a special program in the area of 'History of Sociology/Social Thought'. It was found that only four were listed and, when the surprising discovery was made (in the search for potential new members for the Section) that in three of them no member of faculty was listed who gave that area as among their special interests, a little further inquiry revealed that in two of those the program did not really exist. (See 'Correspondence about GGD entries' below.) That inquiry may have been sufficient to lead the department chairs involved to improve the situation for the next edition, but this leaves some doubts about the adequacy and informational value of the GGD listings.¹

Both direct and indirect efforts have been made to increase membership. The two most direct efforts have been that our Secretary circulated about 100 of the larger graduate departments to draw attention to the relevance of the Section's remit to standard graduate courses, and the possibility of sponsoring student membership; in addition, at the Boston meetings lists were circulated among the audience at sessions we were involved in to collect the names of those not yet members who were interested to find out more about us, and they have been circulated with information, including a copy of Timelines. Less direct efforts have been the attempt to reflect both teaching and research interests in Timelines and in our conference program, to

¹ No reply has been received to a message drawing this issue to the office's attention, so we do not know if it reached the appropriate person or department.

organise some conference sessions that should interest members of other sections, such as Theory and Teaching and Learning, and to improve the web site by adding a section on books on the history of sociology. Our joint reception with the Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology was a genial and socially successful occasion, as well as financially economical, but some members still felt that a reception for ourselves only would provide more opportunity to meet and integrate new or potential members; other models will no doubt be tried out in future.

Internal organisation has been tightened in a number of ways. The 'Routine Tasks' document on what needs to be done when and by whom, drafted last year, has been revised and updated, and is available to guide the new officers. All officers were asked for a mid-year report on progress in the activities for which they were responsible. Written reports were produced for circulation before the Business Meeting to save time there, and to ensure that even members who did not attend could keep up to date with what had been going on. (This helped some who had clashing conference activities timetabled.) By Law updates were proposed, and have been approved by the membership. (These include the extension of the previous award for a distinguished recent book to allow for the alternative of an article or chapter publication if the committee felt that was appropriate.)

A small dues increase, from \$10 to \$12, was also approved; this opens up the possibility of funding more activities than just the traditional reception, as exemplified by the allocation of \$500 towards the initial expenses involved in pursuing our Oral History initiative over the coming year. Although a formal budgetary document is attached, our Secretary/Treasurer points out that there is a poor fit between the ASA requirement that this be done in August and the realities of the financial situation of Sections, since our up-to-date membership it is not known until October, and how much money we shall be receiving from the ASA is not known until January. This does not facilitate efficient and participative Section planning.

Nominations procedure

All members are circulated by e mail, and an announcement is made in Timelines, to invite suggestions (with supporting information) of candidates for the posts available, or volunteering of personal interest. Drawing on the results of this and on their own additional suggestions, and where necessary checking willingness to stand, the Nominating Committee draws up a slate with the aim of both finding competent office holders and ensuring representation of a variety of appropriate interests and backgrounds.

Future plans

In addition to our one allocated conference session, a proposal for a thematic session centering on changing ideas about community, "Deconstructing Sociological Constructions of American Community", and one for a regional spotlight session on the study of west coast migration, have also been put forward.

There is likely to be discussion about possible action to create some sort of guidance in relation to departments teaching the History of Sociology, which could be coordinated with the Niebrugge-Brantley and Lengermann syllabi project.

The Oral History activity is moving forward, and the next stage will depend on our sub-committee's review of the pilot work.

Matters concerning the ASA office

We are grateful for the support provided to Sections by the office, and we appreciate the enormous complexity of the arrangements which staff have to deal with.

However, there are some aspects of experience over the past year, listed below, where we hope that ways might be found to make minor improvements which would be very helpful to us.

- We were concerned to find that the regular session on History of Sociology/ Social Thought was in 2008 scheduled to clash with one of the sessions with which the Section was involved, and it turned out to be too late to change this given the other constraints in the system. We hope that in future ways might be found of avoiding such a clash; perhaps Sections might be asked when submitting their proposals what other activities there were which they would definitely wish not to clash with?
- It would be very helpful in planning the work of Sections if a list of deadlines to be met through the year could be provided to officers as soon as they start their terms.
- We would like to urge a return to what was apparently the previous practice of reminding members who had not renewed their membership by the end of the year, or by near to that deadline. Our Section was surely not alone in finding several members who thought they had paid but had not, whose departments had delayed paying on their behalf, and so on. But it took extra work, which should have been unnecessary, to identify who of our previous members had not (yet) paid for the new year, and of course since they are deleted from the listserv any general mailing cannot be made which will include precisely those whom one most wishes to contact. (And when they do not hear from the Section for a while, they complain to us about not being kept up to date, or the apparent lack of Section activity!)
- The web site has, in our experience, a number of weak points, relevant to the Section as such but also to individual members, which we hope may be remedied. For instance, outdated items are sometimes left on, even when fresh links to them are offered; this has seemed salient in items to do with the annual conference, where material only applicable to the previous year has remained. In addition, items such as the level of dues for different categories of member, or conference fees, may be automatically deleted when one has paid them oneself; this implicitly makes the incorrect assumption that members (Section officers in particular) never have reason to look them up again in order to remind themselves or to inform other people. It has also not been uncommon for the dates announced for certain kinds of information to be available on the web site not to be met, which is unsatisfactory – especially when no revised date, or explanation, is offered
- Some messages from staff members have not been sufficiently clear, so that one wastes time for both parties by checking what was meant; for instance, one circular specified a deadline for providing data about proposed sessions which only applied to one category of session, but did not say so.
- It has several times been the case that no reply has been received to queries directed to various members of the office – including those in connection with the production of this report.

History of Sociology Section committees, 2007-8

Program

Chair: Jennifer Platt	University of Sussex
Charles Camic	Northwestern University
Jonathan VanAntwerpen	SSRC
Stephen Turner	University of Southern Florida

Membership

Chair: Mikaila Arthur	Hamilton College
Silvia Pedraza	University of Michigan
Mary Tressider	Columbia University
Bill Buxton	Concordia University

Nominations

Chair: Eleanor Townsley	Mount Holyoke College
Larry Nichols	West Virginia University
Michael Hill	Sociological Origins
Neil McLaughlin	McMaster University

Awards

Chair: Charles Camic	Northwestern University
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Distinguished achievement

Charles Camic (chair)
Valerie Haines, University of Calgary
Alford Young, University of Michigan

Distinguished scholarly book/article

Richard Swedberg (chair), Cornell University
Marcel Fournier, University of Montreal
Chandra Mukerji, University of California-San Diego

Graduate student paper

Bart Bonikowski (chair), Princeton University
Zandria F. Robinson, Northwestern University
Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Princeton University

Reports to the 2008 Business Meeting of the Section on the History of Sociology

Chair's Report

As Chair, I took up the baton from Eleanor Townsley, who was enormously helpful in preparing me for the task. My special thanks go also to Mikaila Arthur for her efforts on the web site as well as in her secretarial and membership roles, to Larry Nichols for getting out Timelines, to Bart Bonikowski and Anna Xiao Dong Sun (our retiring student representatives) for their thoughtful and sensitive management of the student paper award as well as their more diffuse role, and to Diego de los Rios in the ASA office for his helpfulness and his tolerance of my stream of questions and requests.

The most important part of the Chair's duties is to organise our role in the program of the annual meeting, and I have construed that as not just trying to organise a good session in our one Section slot, but also promoting the representation of the Section's interests in other ways. The theme I chose for the Section session, and the speakers invited, were chosen with a view to interesting a broad constituency and to showing that a variety of theoretical and methodological styles and interests could find a place in the field. I hope that the proposal of a local-interest session on the history of sociology in the area in which the meetings are held, and of a historical session on the particular theme of the meeting, may become traditional. Part of the object of such sessions is, of course, to draw historical issues to the attention of colleagues who may not previously have thought of themselves as interested in the history of sociology, and so to increase our membership and work in the field.

My predecessor's guidance that in general the Chair did everything seemed to me a historical truth which might benefit from social change, and the need I experienced for personal guidance because little else was available did not seem altogether fair to predecessors. I have, therefore, tried to create documentation which makes more explicit the definition of the roles of Section officers, Council members and committees, and to include in that a little more division of labor. The concern for helpful documentation extended to our By Laws, where proposals were made (and have now been passed) to formalize the position of our second graduate representative and of the committee on awards.

As you will be aware, the other proposal for amendment to the By Laws, also passed, was the one to raise our dues for full members from \$10 to \$12; I hope that the fruits of this in support for an increased range of Section activity will become evident over the next year. The situation I found when I took over was that the cost of the annual reception was such that there was hardly anything left for other uses, and so recently that has been almost the only item of expenditure. The annual reception is a happy and appropriate tradition, but unless some form of sponsorship can be found hotel charges make its cost disproportionate. (An attempt was made to identify a suitable venue outside the meeting hotels this year, but without success.) For that reason this year's reception is being held jointly to cut the costs. This makes it more convenient to hold the presentation of awards separately, which is why that is to be combined with the Business Meeting. We shall see how satisfactorily these arrangements work out, and future arrangements can be planned accordingly. Members might usefully comment on the trade-off preferred between a relatively attractive reception and having more money left for other items.

Larry Nichols has continued his good work on Timelines, and I have striven to bring in interesting material of a variety of kinds, including some from beyond the

USA. But what do other readers find interesting? There has not been much response to requests for reader contributions, and it would be good if we could get more active participation from the constituency. Equally, the contribution from the broader membership of ideas for Section activities, and potential links with the regional associations, would be very welcome.

An issue of academic standards which I think it appropriate for us to discuss has arisen in the course of the year. It was noted that only four departments in the 2008 ASA Guide to Graduate Departments claimed a special program in the area of 'History of Sociology/Social Thought', and a little further inquiry revealed that in two of those it did not really exist. That may have come about by clerical accident somewhere along the line, certainly not necessarily through any attempt to mislead, but in a work of reference designed to assist student choice it is not satisfactory. The issue of how the listings are compiled and checked is being raised with the ASA, and we should perhaps consider whether we would like to initiate any form of activity to identify departments, or to specify what we would regard as the basis of a satisfactory program in our field.

Also to be raised with the ASA is the rather unsatisfactory situation (not specific to our Section) in the office and web site. In a number of cases through the year inadequate or misleading information has been sent out, deadlines have not been kept, the web site has not been updated or makes it unnecessarily hard to find what one wants ...

Jennifer Platt

Past Chair's Report on the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Neil McLaughlin, Michael Hill, Larry Nichols and Eleanor Townsley (Chair), solicited nominations from Council and from the section membership via email and through the section newsletter, *Timelines*. We received approximately 25 nominations. In considering candidates, our goal was to achieve balance from different parts of the section membership – different styles of work, different levels of experience and age, different parts of the country etc. After some discussion, we were grateful to the impressive slate of candidates for standing for election; the outcome was reported in the June issue of *Timelines*.

Procedural note:

We will have 2 positions for graduate student representative once the change to By-Laws voted upon this year applies. Although we have operated with two in recent years, a close check of our By-Laws indicates there is only one official position at this point. Our resolution was to take the candidate with the second highest number of votes to fill the second position. For all practical purposes – voting, resume etc – this person will be considered a full member of HOS Council in the year 2008 until the position is regularized beginning 2009.

Eleanor Townsley

Report from Chair-Elect on Awards Committees

The award process is organized by the section's chair-elect. During 2006-07, the chair-elect was Jennifer Platt, who ran the award process with characteristic efficiency and subsequently furnished her successor in the chair-elect role with a thorough

memo explaining how the award selection process is structured and what problems to look out for as the process runs its course. As a consequence of Platt's memo (and willingness to answer questions in the course of the year), as well as the dedicated work of those who agreed to the chair-elect's request to serve on one of the section's award committees, the award process operated smoothly.

The members of the three committees – and the recipients of the prizes that the committees ultimately awarded – were as follows.

Graduate Student Paper Award Committee

Bart Bonikowski (chair), Princeton University

Zandria F. Robinson, Northwestern University

Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Princeton University

Award Recipient: Robin Das, Fordham University, "The Academic Marginalization of Werner Stark"

Distinguished Scholarship [Book/Article] Award Committee

Richard Swedberg (chair), Cornell University

Marcel Fournier, University of Montreal

Chandra Mukerji, University of California-San Diego

Award Recipient: Mary Jo Deegan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "The Human Drama Behind the Study of People as Potato Bugs: The Curious Marriage of Robert E. Park and Clara Cahill Park." *Journal of Classical Sociology*, 2006.

Distinguished Achievement [Career] Award Committee

Charles Camic (chair), Northwestern University

Valerie Haines, University of Calgary

Alford Young, University of Michigan

Award Recipient: Robert Alun Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign.

The chair-elect is grateful to the scholars who served on these committees and joins them in congratulating the three prize winners.

While the award selection process proceeded without any "problems" properly so called, four issues arose that bear mention, though no Council action, at the present time. These should be noted by future chairs-elect and award committee chairs. The first two issues pertain to all three award committees; the other two pertain to the committees indicated in parentheses.

(1) Quantity of Nominations. While members of all three committees expressed satisfaction over the quality of the nominations they considered for awards, they also expressed interest in receiving a greater quantity of nominations. Nominations were solicited through announcements which appeared in the section newsletter and which were also emailed to all section members by the section chair. When these mechanisms failed to produce a large pool of nominations by the end-of-February deadlines stated in the original prize announcements, the deadlines were extended two weeks, though with modest results.

This situation led the chair to suggest: "Why not try some more active solicitation, [e.g., contacting] appropriate publishers? Also I was struck, on looking at the [section] membership list, by the level of turnover among our members; new ones will not have received earlier circulars, while old ones who have not yet renewed will presumably not be on the listserv now and so will not

be receiving reminders - which means that it might be worth copying the [announcements to] the dropouts” (Platt to Camic).

- (2) Non-English language works. At present, section awards go only to English language works (or bodies of work); foreign language works are not considered eligible. Whether this practice follows from an ASA-wide policy or from a section custom (which, as such, would be open to clarification by the Council) is a question that is currently under investigation.
- (3) (*Re Graduate Student Paper Award Committee*). Dissertation chapters are eligible for this award, but – because any particular chapter is only one part of a larger whole – they can prove difficult to evaluate when the pool of nominations also contains articles, which are written to stand alone. For this reason, future committees may wish to require that submission of a dissertation chapter be accompanied by a short (c. 2 page) abstract of the full dissertation, so that committee members have some context in which to locate the nominated chapter.
- (4) (*Re. Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Committee [to be known in future years as the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award Committee]*). When appointing the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award Committee, chairs-elect should bear two points in mind simultaneously: (i) books and articles are eligible for the Award only a for short interval of time following their publication; and (ii) the Award cannot be given to a member of the selection committee for this same award. In making appointments to this committee, chairs-elect may want to avoid removing potential award winners from eligibility.

Charles Camic

Report from the Editor of Timelines

During the past year, the operation of our Section’s newsletter, Timelines, proceeded relatively smoothly. Three issues were produced, at roughly equal intervals, and seem for the most part to have been well received.

As one might expect, a major key to the success of the newsletter is a good working relationship between the editor and the Chair of the HOS Section. At present, there is considerable pressure on the Chair to locate material for issues, particularly the winter/spring number. Not surprisingly, Jennifer proved equal to the task, and submitted a series of relevant materials, such as those on the Rockefeller collection.

Section members do contribute items, often in response to an e-mail appeal from the Chair, but it is not possible to predict how much material from members will arrive at any point in time, and this makes for difficulties in planning issues. There have been suggestions from some members about items for the newsletter, or particular features, such as descriptions of Ph.D. dissertations in the history of sociology, or discussions of how the history of the field is presented in graduate sociology programs. We might also consider presenting personal accounts of doing historical research on sociology (e.g., the experience of working in particular archival collections). Thus far, however, there is little to report in these areas.

Looking to the future, the membership of the Section might wish to consider whether there ought to be a set number of newsletter issues produced each year, or whether particular dates for the newsletter ought to be established (e.g., Fall, Spring, Summer). Under present practice, the first issue rather naturally tends to focus on “what happened at ASA this year,” while the final number tends to highlight “what’s

coming up at the meetings.” The middle issue is the most open-ended, and requires more initiative and imagination.

One question that I think deserves to be discussed is the possibility of circulating our section newsletter more widely, especially among other members of ASA, and using it as a recruiting tool. We know, for instance, that many colleagues in the Theory Section are quite interested in the history of the field. Some of these might like to see our newsletter, and the same would hold true for people in other ASA sections. If we could find a way to circulate Timelines more widely, without giving offense to those who feel they are already receiving too many unsolicited mailings, it might aid in our efforts to attract more members and, thus, to gain more sessions at annual conferences. Meanwhile, the cost of sending the newsletter to a wider audience involves nothing more than the time and effort that would have to be invested (e.g., in “getting the okay” from other sections). The practical difficulties involved are, I think, manageable.

Larry Nichols

**ASA Section on the History of Sociology
Business meeting, 12.30 pm, Saturday August 2nd 2008**

Agenda

Presentation of awards

Distinguished Achievement Award
Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award
Graduate Student Paper Award

Section Business

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of the last meeting [copy below]
 3. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere
 4. Reports [copies below]:
 - Chair
 - Past Chair [Nominations]
 - Chair-Elect [Awards]
 - Secretary-Treasurer [Finances and Membership]
 - Editor, *Timelines*
 - Chair, Oral History sub-committee
 5. 2008-9 Program
 6. Academic standards and department programs
[See Chair's report]
- Any other business

Minutes, Section on the History of Sociology Business Meeting, 2008

Present: 26 members

Jennifer Platt	Susan Hoecker-Drysdale
Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur	John Drysdale
Jill N. Brantley	Craig Calhoun
Pat M. Lengermann	Jonathan VanAntwerpen
Grant Blank	Alford Young Jr.
Mary Jo Deegan	Marcel Fournier
Michael R. Hill	Zandria Robinson
Kay Broschart	Neil Gross
Larry Nichols	George Steinmetz
Richard Swedberg	Uta Gerhardt
R. L. Kelly	Charles Camic
Besty Lucal	Anthony Blasi
Eleanor Townsley	Gary Alan Fine

Presentation of Awards

A formal presentation of honorific awards was made to:

Robert Alun Jones (Distinguished Career Achievement Award)
 Mary Jo Deegan (Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award)
 Robin Das (Graduate Student Paper Award)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Silvia Pedraza, Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Michelle Christian, and Enrique Pumar.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Last year's minutes were amended to add that John Drysdale had been present, and the minutes as amended were approved by the meeting.

Susan Hoecker-Drysdale asked after an earlier resolution on offering a course in the History of Sociology and asked that we check back and see what happened.*

* It has been found that the ASA Business and Council meetings at the 2005 Philadelphia meeting unanimously approved the resolution submitted, urging ASA to develop a policy for the teaching of the history of sociology. Pat Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley's syllabi set project had been commissioned in response to this, and is continuing, though it has experienced some difficulties in collecting appropriate material.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere

No matters arising were raised.

4. Reports

Written reports [attached] had been circulated in advance. Comments and discussion are listed below.

Chair's report

The question of the cost and nature of the Section reception was discussed, and some alternatives mentioned. It was reported that Teaching and Learning does not have a reception, but instead offers food at the business meeting – providing an incentive for attendance. Some approval of having a joint reception was voiced, but it was pointed out that the joint format this year made the identification and greeting of new members more difficult.

The possibility of returning to having roundtables during part of the business meeting slot was raised.

Chair-Elect [Awards]

It had been clarified that it was ASA policy that publications that are not in English are not eligible for awards.

Secretary-Treasurer [Finances and Membership]

Data received after the circulation of the written reports showed that section membership declined this year for History of Sociology, as for many other sections. We should have a membership push between now and September 30th. It was suggested that the decline in membership might be due to the location of the meeting, and that soliciting members from the theory section might be fruitful. (Its attention had been drawn to our 'Theorising the History of Sociology' session.)

Editor, *Timelines*

The Editor invited suggestions for features in *Timelines*. He suggested such topics as what is it like to work in various archives, and writing two-part pieces "to be continued" in the next issue. He also

suggested increasing the use of *Timelines* as a recruiting device, in part by getting people at various institutions to hand out printed copies.

Chair, Oral History sub-committee

The oral history project requested \$500 of Section funds for the project's expenses, and it was unanimously approved that up to \$500 should be made available. It was suggested that members like to donate money for a special project like this, and pointed out that if so they should write a check to the Section, and mail it to the Secretary-Treasurer (Mikaila Arthur, Dept. of Sociology, Rhode Island College, 600 Mount Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908). She would then send it on to the ASA office and ask for it to be deposited in the account. (The Secretary-Treasurer of the Teaching and Learning Section can provide more information on this front.) The Section might also at a later stage apply to ASA for funding for this.

5. 2008-9 Program

Special sessions with a "community" theme, including critical re-evaluations of the history of community, seemed appropriate. A proposal for a Thematic Session centering on changing ideas about community, "Deconstructing Sociological Constructions of American Community", was approved. Still pending is a proposal for a regional spotlight session on the study of west coast migration. Silvia Pedraza had sent a suggestion for innovative types of session which might attract new members, for instance one on Brazilian sociology co-sponsored by the Latino/a Sociology section. The new Program Committee will be making a collective decision on further proposals. There was a discussion of this year's very unsatisfactory conflicting scheduling of sessions of related interest, and the need to take steps to ensure that our sessions are not involved in such conflicts in future.

6. Academic standards and department programs

Following on from the issue raised in the Chair's report, possible initiatives related to teaching the history of sociology were discussed. Should we supplement the ASA Guide to Graduate Departments by producing our own listing, or approve courses in the subject, or specify criteria for satisfactory programs in the subject? There was a vague consensus that action should be considered to create some sort of guidance about departments teaching the History of Sociology, though detailed proposals were not formulated.

7. Committees for next year

The Membership, Program and Nominations committees all need members, and more proposals were invited. Some names have been suggested already; others were added from the floor to the possibilities.

Members thanked Jennifer Platt for being such a great chair.

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur

Secretary-Treasurer

**ASA Section on the History of Sociology Council meeting, 2 Aug. 2008
(after Business Meeting)**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last meeting not covered elsewhere
4. Matters arising from the Business Meeting:
 - (i) Program; issues for ASA section chairs' meeting
 - (ii) Nominations
 - (iii) Awards
 - (iv) Membership; web site
 - (v) Newsletter
 - (vi) Oral history
 - (vii) Committees
 - (viii) Academic standards etc.
5. Budget for 2008-9
6. Any other business

**ASA Section on the History of Sociology
Minutes of the joint meeting of old and new Councils, 2 Aug. 2008.**

Present:	Uta Gerhardt
Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur	Betsy Lucal
Anthony Blasi	Jennifer Platt
Kay Broschart	Zandria Robinson
Craig Calhoun	Richard Swedberg
Charles Camic	Eleanor Townsley
Marcel Fournier	Alford Young Jr.

Apologies for absence
Michelle Christian, Silvia Pedraza, Anna Xiao Dong Sun.

Minutes of the last meeting
Last year's minutes were approved.

Matters arising not covered elsewhere
None.

Matters arising from the Business Meeting
Chair's report

Specific issues for the Section officers' meeting the following day were raised. These included: the unsatisfactory nature of some information in the Guide to Graduate Departments; the deletion from the listserv of members who had not yet paid their dues without any reminder to them; the desirability of providing a general annual timetable for Section activities; the very thin financial reports - without explanation of the terms used - provided by ASA; the inaccessibility on the web site of information such as conference registration fees after one had registered as an individual.

The idea of a pre-conference event, perhaps on German exiles as Ed Tiryakian had proposed before, was raised for consideration. The question of a possible pre-conference in San Francisco, on migration-related issues, was also raised.

Nominations

Nominations made at the Business Meeting were discussed, and another name was added to the list of possible candidates for the membership committee; it was agreed that one graduate student member would be useful.

Newsletter

Council members approve the newsletter, and are happy for it to continue along the same lines.

Academic standards and department programs.

A discussion was held about how to proceed with the academic standards issue but, in view of the time, it was tabled for further discussion later.

Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer said she would issue a more formal budget as amounts became available from ASA; how much we would have depended both on our total membership and on whether our proposed dues rise was approved by the Committee on Sections. Funds were disbursed for the reception; funds in the future may be needed for the oral history project, as outlined in the business meeting minutes. Additionally, there is a suggestion of purchasing a section banner, such as the Section on Teaching and Learning has, and bringing it to Section events. Her statements so far were approved.

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur

Secretary-Treasurer

History of Sociology Section Budget

Assets

As of June 30, 2008

Net Assets	\$801.00
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Income

As of June 30, 2008

Section Budget Allocation	\$1,033.00
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Other Income	\$120.00
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TOTAL	\$1,153.00
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Expenditures

ASA Reception in Boston (jointly sponsored with Science/Knowledge)	\$728.67
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Assets as of August 27, 2008	\$1225.33
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Potential Future Expenditures

HOS Oral History Project	\$500.00
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Section Banner?	\$50.00
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Expenditure of up to \$1000 on the 2009 reception is also anticipated, but since this will be in the period after next calendar year's ASA financial allocation has been received it is treated as falling within the later period.

Prepared by Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur
August 27, 2008

Conference sessions on the history of sociology

Although in Boston we only had one official slot as a Section, we managed to bring forward successful proposals under other heads, resulting in the following range of offerings of related interest in addition to the customary 'regular' session:

Section invited session

Theorizing the history of sociology

Presenters:

George Steinmetz, 'Imperial and anti-imperial sociology in the US, France and Germany'

James Moody, 'Network Processes of Sociological Production'

Neil Gross, 'Modes of Narration in the History of Sociology'

Discussant: Jonathan VanAntwerpen

Presider: Jennifer Platt

Regional spotlight session

Adventures in the archives: Boston area resources for the history of sociology

Presenters:

Andrew Abbott, 'Maternal intellectualism: the varied worlds of Ethel Sturges Dummer.'

Uta Gerhardt, 'Retrieving Parsons from the Harvard archives'

Rakesh Khurana, 'Boston Brahmins and the new men: Harvard University and the professionalization project in American business education'

Presider: Larry Nichols

Paper session, Section on Teaching and Learning [jointly organised]

'From Kansas's /Elements of Sociology/ to ASA's Teaching Resource Center: The History of Teaching and Learning in Sociology'

Presenters:

Jill M. Niebrugge-Brantley and Patricia Madoo Lengermann, 'Agents of change: Carla Howery and the ASA Teaching Resources Manuals'.

Michael DeCesare, 'Sociology in US high schools'.

Edward A. Tiryakian. 'Teaching theory and teaching history of sociology over time'.

George Ritzer, 'The history of teaching sociology'.

Presider: Eleanor Townsley

Thematic session

From 'industrial sociology' to 'sociology of work'?

Presenters:

Michael Rose, 'Neglected classics in the sociology of work.'

Jennifer L. Pierce, 'Feminist questions and the sociology of work.'

Jennifer Platt, Charles Crothers and Mervyn Horgan, 'Ethnography of work and the work of ethnography: Hodson's sample and the discipline.'

Presider: Michael Burawoy

Correspondence about Guide to Graduate Departments entries

The message below, and similar ones, *mutatis mutandis*, to the other departments quoted, was sent, and answered as shown:

Dear Prof. Lu,

I note with interest that in the ASA Guide to Graduate Departments GIT is listed as offering a specialism in History of Sociology/Social Thought, which I would be pleased to learn more about. I assume this is part of your remit, though I did not immediately locate it on your web site, but perhaps I looked in the wrong place. Can you tell me where I can find the details, please?

Thank you very much.

> Sincerely,

> Jennifer Platt.

Dear Professor Platt,

We have an interdisciplinary graduate program in our school called "History and Sociology of Technology and Science." History of Sociology is not a strength of the program. Thank you for your interest.

Best,

Hanchao Lu

Georgia Tech

Dear Professor Platt:

We teach a course in the History of Social Thought (classical sociological theory) in our Master's program, and that's probably why ASA has listed it - although it is not a program in itself. I'll ask the staff at ASA to remove it from next year's ASA Guide to Graduate Programs. Thanks for your inquiry.

Berch Berberoglu

Director of Graduate Studies

Department of Sociology, University of Nevada, Reno.

Dear Prof. Platt,

Our M.A. graduate program requires a final research paper under faculty supervision, and thus in areas of interest where we have faculty competence. Professor Phil Manning (Ph.D. Cambridge), and Prof James Chriss (Ph.D. Pennsylvania) both are active scholars in the history of sociology, and also to some degree in social thought. Students who wish to work with them are encouraged also to take an independent study course prior to work on their final research paper. A few students are then encouraged to continue their studies at universities offering the Ph.D. Hope this gives you the explanation you seek.

Cordially, WM

William R. Morgan, Professor, Department of Sociology, Cleveland State University, Ohio