



# TIMELINES

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

June 2008

Newsletter No. 11

## An ABC for the History of Sociology

Message from the Chair  
Jennifer Platt, University of Sussex

Why are we interested in the history of sociology? I realise that I do not know why you are, dear reader. This thought has moved me to make a list of some of the reasons why we might be (not all very good ones, perhaps), some of them instrumental to ends outside the specialty. Is your reason here?

One may be interested in work on the history of sociology because:

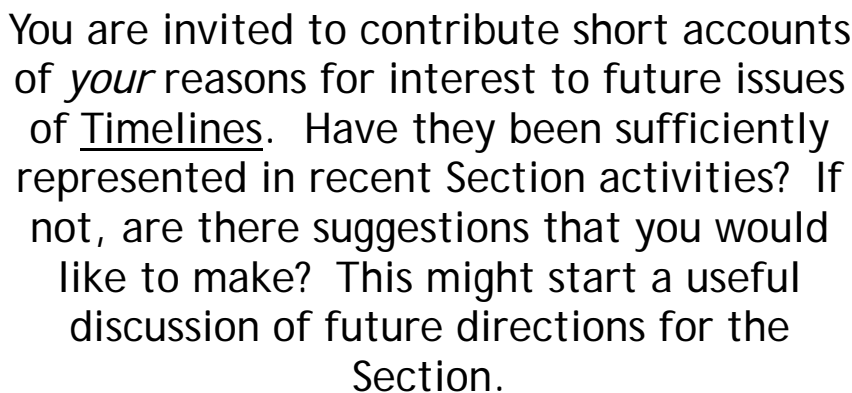
- It is **Autobiographical**, for oneself or ones cohort or subgroup.
- One wonders about **socio-Biology** - how new is it, and has it had any historical connection with 'social physics'?
- There is an anniversary, perhaps of a department or a journal, which seems worth Celebration.
- **Durkheim**, like other authors, is better understood if placed in his full socio-historical context.
- Historical work can help develop a critique of **Errors**, and so suggest how we might do better.
- This is a way of rediscovering **Forgotten** strengths and neglected authors
- It provides interesting **Gossip**, and exposés of the peccadilloes of our elders (not always betters) and predecessors.
- It offers **Hero[ine]s** of the discipline who lend inspiration to both students and faculty
- It provides support for the construction of a distinct **Identity**, whether as a department or as an individual sociologist
- **Jerry Jacobs** should surely come in around here, and he has edited a major **Journal**; journals and their operation are worth study as part of the history of the discipline.
- Its connections with the sociology of **Knowledge** are strong, and the two can be mutually supportive.
- It improves our understanding of social features of the intellectual life of sociology by clarifying **Lineages**, networks and wider social contexts.

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- 'Mass society' was an important concept when our older members were young; historical work helps explain why it has faded away?
- Nebraska was a little-known department until diligent historical work uncovered and interpreted its past, and the same might be done for others.
- It throws light on the curious origins for sociology of Operationalism.
- It demonstrates the extent to which there has been Progress in the field, and so helps to defend the discipline from attack.
- Both Qualitative and Quantitative methods find ample scope here
- History is a Rhetorical Resource in building arguments
- Specialties and Subfields in sociology have received little historical study, so there is scope for innovation and connection with our other interests there.
- This manifests a respect for the intellectual Traditions of the field.
- The record shows some of the Unintended outcomes of practices in teaching and research which we might hope to avoid in the future.
- Verstehen, Thorstein Veblen, Rupert Vance, Miriam Van Waters -all in their very different ways valued contributors or ideas.
- It shows how the contributions made by Women have in the past been underestimated and ignored.
- Archival work offers the Xcitement of finding previously unknown sources.
- Youth is a disadvantage here, and mature age a source of easily accessible and inexpensive data.
- Znaniecki is dead, but his work lives on - still meriting study with Zeal and Zest.



You are invited to contribute short accounts of *your* reasons for interest to future issues of Timelines. Have they been sufficiently represented in recent Section activities? If not, are there suggestions that you would like to make? This might start a useful discussion of future directions for the Section.

*Editor's Note: Correction to April's Issue of Timelines*  
*In the last issue of Timelines, under "Upcoming Events" we mistakenly said that a conference would be held at York University in Canada. It should be York University in England. We apologize for the mistake.*

## American Sociological Association Boston Plans

Although we only have one session at the meeting officially allocated to the Section as such, a number of related sessions have been organised and are included in the list below. Be sure to arrange to reach Boston in time for Friday afternoon (remembering that this year a break with tradition makes Thursday the new 'Friday'!). It is very unfortunate that there is a clash on the Saturday morning; representations were made to ASA about this, but a change of schedule was said not to be practicable. The details below are correct at the time of writing; any changes made will be available in a revised handout at the Reception.

**Friday Aug. 1, 2.30-4.10**

**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

**Friday Aug. 1, 6.30-8.10**

**Section Reception**

This will be held jointly with the Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology. Financial constraints mean that there will be a cash bar - but some good canapés to go with your drinks. Meet friends and colleagues old and new!

**Saturday Aug 2, 8.30-10 a.m.**

**Section invited session**

**Theorizing the History of Sociology**

**Presenters:**

- George Steinmetz, 'Imperial and anti-imperial sociology in the US, France and Germany'  
This paper examines the history of sociology in the US, Germany and France in two periods, pre-1914 and post-1945, in terms of their relationship to empire, construed as an explicit topic of research and in terms of the relations between sociology and empire (in both directions). In the US this will involve the Anti-Imperialist League and the relations of the founding and second generation to colonialism, and then, after 1945, the question of American global hegemony and imperialism. In France this will involve French colonialism and secondarily French views of US empire. In Germany this involves German colonialism in the first period and Nazism as a form of empire in the second.

- James Moody, 'Network Processes of Sociological Production'

This presentation explores the different ways in which sociological work emerges from formal and informal network contexts. The goal of this project is to help identify the structural sources of new ideas.

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

This paper examines a number of prominent histories of sociology written in recent decades to identify different modes and genres of historical narration that sociologists have employed in telling the story of their discipline. It examines some of the advantages and disadvantages of each, and argues in good pragmatist fashion that there is no single best way to write the history of sociology. Rather, choices regarding historical narration can only be assessed relative to the kinds of intellectual tasks they are called on to perform.

Discussant: Jonathan VanAntwerpen

Presider: Jennifer Platt

**Saturday Aug. 2, 10:30 - 12:10**

Paper session, Section on Teaching and Learning

**'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

**Saturday Aug. 2, 10:30 - 12:10**

Regular session, History of Sociology/Social Thought

**Presenters:**

- Lawrence T. Nichols, 'Merton as Harvard Sociologist: The Formative Years, 1931-1939'.
- Susan E. Cavin, 'Adorno Lazarsfeld & The Princeton Radio Project, 1938-1941'.
- David. D. McFarland, 'Franklin H. Giddings a Century Ago'.
- Presider: Mary Jo Deegan

**Saturday Aug 2, 12:30-2:10**

Section Business Meeting (and presentation of awards)

Since our Reception this year is joint, we are presenting the awards at the Business Meeting; don't miss this happy occasion. An agenda and reports for the 'business' part will be circulated later.

**Sunday Aug 3, 2.30-4.10**

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

## Departmental Histories

Two recent issues of Footnotes have had articles on the history of departments, both celebrating anniversaries; Irene Padavic wrote on Florida State, and Jan Nederveen Pieterse on Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Another such article is coming shortly; the editor says this is not an intentional series, but she remains open to proposals. Has your department put together any historical material, whether for an anniversary or just for the record? If so, you might want to submit it to Footnotes, but our Section's members would probably be interested to hear about it in more detail, as substantive data and perhaps also for any comments on sources and problems in collating historical material that might be of wider interest.

Why not contact the editor of Timelines with your suggestion for an article about your department?

## Election Results

Here are the results of our elections for 2008-9. Congratulations to those elected, and thanks to all those who showed their commitment to the Section by their preparedness to stand.

### **Chair-Elect**

Craig Calhoun, Social Science Research Council

### **Council Members**

Anthony J. Blasi, Tennessee State University

Kay Richards Broschart, Hollins University

### **Student Representatives**

Michelle Christian, Duke University

Zandria F. Robinson, Northwestern University

## Proposed By Law Amendments

Both of the amendments proposed to the By Laws were passed by the section membership and will most likely be approved by the ASA Committee on Sections at the meeting in Boston. If approved they will come into action for the 2008-9 academic year. They are:

- The dues for regular members will be \$12
- We will have two official student representatives.

It is gratifying to note that nearly 50% of our membership voted in these ballots – thanks to the voters too!

## Awards

### *Graduate Student Paper Award*

- Robin Das, Fordham University "The Academic Marginalization of Werner Stark"

### *Distinguished Scholarly Book or Article Award*

- 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 [Career] Achievement Award*

- Robert Alun Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign

Please join fellow section members in honoring the award recipients at the section Business Meeting at the Boston ASA Meetings, Saturday, August 2, 2008. (The awards presentation will take place at the start of the Business Meeting - 12:30 p.m.)

# Charles Tilly, Sociological Exemplar

**EDWARD A. TIRYAKIAN    PROFESSOR EMERITUS**  
*Duke University*  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

*Editors Note: This article is a tribute to Charles Tilly as a response to the news of his death.*

Chuck and I are of the same cohort who did graduate studies in the golden era of the Department of Social Relations at Harvard in the 1950s. Knowing someone and having common, complementary interests in comparative historical sociology for over half a century, someone I have always held in high esteem for reasons I will briefly mention, makes the news a staggering blow.

Although after Harvard I was never in the same department, we had several occasions for personal contacts. Twice while in Paris on sabbatical leave I met Chuck at the Bibliothèque Nationale, the first time was he was concluding his research on the Vendée during the French Revolution, which perhaps had existential significance for him since “Tilly” has distinguished names in the revolutionary period. Chuck was a tireless worker at the archives, so a cup of coffee was about all the time he took off. If ever a person was the embodiment of the work ethic, it was Tilly, and again I saw this in 1997-98 when we were fellows at the Palo Alto Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. We had several lengthy conversations about our Harvard training: Chuck had Barrington Moore as a major mentor while I had Parsons, but we also had an important stimulant for our interest in historical material in Pitirim Sorokin, each of us having been his teaching assistant. From Sorokin, we agreed, came a lifelong interest in broad aspects of social change. Chuck was the first person to arrive at 6:00AM and the last to leave, well past 6:00PM. But while working as the team leader in a collaborative project with Sid Tarrow and Doug McAdam on contentious politics, Tilly gave enormously of himself in reading manuscripts of senior and junior colleagues, participating in all the discussions and Center activities with enthusiasm.

There were two occasions when, aside from being together on panels at ASA meetings, with “friendly fire” in vigorous discussions, Chuck gracefully accepted assignments on projects I organized. In 1969 my colleague John McKinney and I held a two-day conference at Duke University on sociological theory, and we cast our net wide, including having anthropology and economics represented. Tilly was the key link of sociology to history, and wrote a superb essay, “Clio and Minerva” which well merits reading today in the volume that came out in 1970 (McKinney and Tiryakian *Theoretical Sociology, Perspectives and Developments*, 1970). It displays not only his enormous range of readings in both sociological analysis and historical sources, but also his careful delimitation of the boundaries and overlaps of the two complementary disciplines of sociology and history. His concluding message then, still valid today, was “Regardless of the theoretical revisions the encounter with history forces of sociologists... that encounter will open a vast space to sociologists who have worked, cramped, in the present. Their presence in the space of history will enrich and transform the writing of history itself”. The second was a quarter of a century later, when Tilly readily agreed to make the opening remarks for the didactic seminar *Methodologies of the History of Sociology* that I organized on behalf of the History of Sociology section at the 2006 ASA Meetings in Montreal. It drew a large audience and his overview of “History and Sociology” was a perfect introduction, delivered with his usual verve, wit, and substance.

To do justice to his enormous productivity over the years would in itself take at least a

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volume, for the range of fields he covered was seemingly boundless, if one includes the “early period” in urban studies. He has had a lifelong engagement with history but was not the prisoner of the past, but rather its sociological steward, harnessing historical data to achieve understanding of the problems of democracy, mobilization, conflict, inequality that frame the sociological enterprise. How modern nation-states arose to become key players of modernity was a major initial problematic for Tilly, and he also sought to extend this backward and forward in time, with dozens of volumes as a testament to his continuous explorations of the historical arena. And along the way, which for Tilly has continuously opened up new vistas of research, he has periodically paused to allow other historically interested sociologists and sociologically interested historians the occasion for important methodological reflections on quantitative and qualitative aspects. Whether they read *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons* (1984) or *Why?* (2006), sociologists will profit from the tough methodological rigor asked by Tilly of those seeking comparative historical data to support theoretical propositions.

By both his substantive and his methodological contributions, Tilly might well claim to have established the field of historical sociology. Very few sociologists in our modern era can lay such claim to having established a field of sociology, and Robert Merton with the sociology of science is the other that comes to my mind. What each has contributed to sociology as a profession is not only the highest standards of scholarly work, each presented with an engaging style, which one can read today as continuing important intellectual stimuli. It is also in terms of collegiality, professionalism and willingness to help others. Simply put, like Merton, Tilly is a sociological exemplar.

## Some Imaginative Data Sources for Historical work

- Jean-Philippe Warren of Concordia carried out a modest piece of research on nationalist tendencies in Quebec sociology by comparing the records of books classified as ‘sociology’ acquired by Quebecois university libraries before 1995 and later. He found, for instance, that books on France had increased, while those on the USA had decreased, and England had vanished except from McGill. The francophone universities more recently might, however, have been described as ‘occidento-centric’ rather than nationalist, with 82-85% from Canada, USA, France or England. As he says, this only gives a broad impressionistic picture of trends, but nonetheless it is suggestive. ‘Vous avez dit ethnocentrique?’  
Le Cahier de l’ACSALF 3,1: 14, Jan. 2006.
- Angie Waller, an artist, is a keen Amazon user, and started collating data from the Amazon web site on the music CDs bought by the buyers of books of different characteristics. She found that there were correlations between political and musical tastes, some of them quite surprising – for instance, buying books on battles and corporate takeovers was correlated with choosing music by Enya and Sarah Brightman. Her book Datamining the Amazon includes charts of music for conservatives and for liberals. Clearly this one has great potential for a range of sociological topics, including the plotting of intellectual networks.

## Members' News

### Announcements:

--Harriet Martineau Society: The Harriett Martineau Society will meet in Boston, July 30-31, 2008. The annual HMSS banquet and awards ceremony, together with a special keynote address by Professor Deborah Anna Logan (one of the world's leading Martineau scholars) will be held on July 30 at 7 p.m. at the famed (or infamous) Durgin-Park Restaurant. There will be two working seminar sessions on July 31 at Boston College, starting at 10 a.m., with a break for lunch, and concluding at 4 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required for all events and sessions. Please make inquiry as soon as possible to insure a slot in the schedule to present or discuss your work. Presentations on Martineau's work get first priority, but scholars wishing to present or discuss research on other early women sociologists are also welcome to participate on a space-available basis. To participate and/or propose a paper for discussion during the seminar sessions, please contact Michael R. Hill [editor@sociological-origins.com](mailto:editor@sociological-origins.com) at your earliest possible convenience.

--Alan Sica (Penn State University) will be the next editor of *Contemporary Sociology*.  
Congrats, Alan!

--Larry Nichols received an Outstanding Researcher Award for 2008 from the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University. Congrats, Larry!

### Publications:

--Mary Jo Deegan. 2008. "Harriet Martineau and the Sociology of Health: *England and Her Soldiers* (1859) and *Health, Husbandry and Handicraft* (1861)." In *Advances in Gender Research*, vol. 12, "Advancing Gender Research from the Nineteenth to Twenty-First Centuries," ed. Marcia Texler Segal and Vasilikie Demos. Emerald Publishing.

--Anna Dryjanska. 2008. "Harriet Martineau: The Forerunner of Cultural Studies." In *Advances in Gender Research*, vol. 12.

--Michael Hill. 2007. *History and Foundations of Nebraska Sociology: A Biographical and Conceptual Reader*. Now available online as a PDF document (22.2 MB). [http://www.sociological-origins.com/files/HILL-Nebraska Sociology Reader.pdf](http://www.sociological-origins.com/files/HILL-Nebraska%20Sociology%20Reader.pdf).

--Susan Hoecker-Drysdale. 2008. "Witch Hunts and Enlightenment: Harriet Martineau's Critical Reflections on Salem." In *Advances in Gender Research*, vol. 12.

--Deborah A. Logan. 2008. "Harriet Martineau's Irish Romance: The Lady Oracle and the Young Repealer." In *Advances in Gender Research*, vol. 12.

--George Steinmetz. 2007. "The Historical Sociology of Historical Sociology: Germany and the United States in the Twentieth Century," *Sociologica* (Italian journal of sociology, online), number 3. <http://www.sociologica.mulino.it/journal/article/index/Article/Journal:ARTICLE:125>.

--Edward A. Tiryakian. 2007. "Introduction" for Pitirim A. Sorokin, *Russia and the United States*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers. (This is a new printing of the work


originally published in 1944.)

--Edward A. Tiryakian. 2007. "When Is the Nation No Longer?" In *Nationalism in a Global Era: The Persistence of Nations*, ed. Andreas Storm et al. Routledge.

--Edward A. Tiryakian. 2008. "Schools in Sociology." In *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

--Vera Zolberg. 2007. "The Happy Few—en Masse: Franco-American Comparisons in Cultural Democratization." In *The Arts of Democracy: Culture, Civil Society, and the State*, ed. Casey N. Blake. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press and University of Pennsylvania Press.

--Vera Zolberg and D. L. Swartz (eds). 2007. *Theory and Society, Special Issue: Sartre for the Twenty-First Century*, vol. 36, number 3.



We are happy to report that **Ida Harper Simpson**, the distinguished author of *Fifty Years of the Southern Sociological Society* as well as other theoretically and methodologically sophisticated historical work, has been inducted into the Southern Sociological Society's Roll of Honor - the first woman to receive this honor.

An article in *The Southern Sociologist* said 'As Robin Williams noted in his review of the work in *Contemporary Sociology*: "...the study focuses on two master processes of change: growth and differentiation. By use of generalizing concepts, Simpson presents a meticulous historical account that also achieves a genuinely sociological analysis."



### Renew Promptly to Keep in Touch!

Probably many members may not have realised that if you have not renewed your ASA and Section membership by Dec 31 ASA deletes your name from their records (they can't know that you planned to renew!). When you pay later, your name is reinstated, but that may take up to 2 weeks. In the interim, since you have ceased to be formally a member you will no longer be on the Section listserv, and so will not receive any general mailing to members such as the newsletter - so you may miss out on something of interest, or get the misleading impression that the Section is inactive. In addition, it is not automatically informed as each further person signs up, so there is no institutionalised way of ensuring that late payers are updated on anything they have missed meanwhile. There were some unfortunate episodes this year, only accidentally discovered when members who did not realise that formally their membership had lapsed complained. Don't let this happen in the coming year!

If your membership is paid by your department, it would be a good idea to make sure that it too knows about this, and pays in time to get full value for its money.

## SUPPORT STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

**In** an effort to increase our membership, and to get the work of HOS out to graduate students and the work of more graduate students into HOS, the Section invites contributions from members to support student membership (we are not allowed to use our ASA funding for this purpose). If you know graduate students who would be interested, we continue to encourage you to sponsor memberships for them directly. However, for members who do not know any, this is an opportunity to sponsor graduate students elsewhere who might have a lot to offer, and for whom HOS could be an important opportunity.

We have been contacting graduate departments across the country and asking them to recommend Section membership to their students, particularly those enrolled in Classical Theory courses, and the Section will offer to support as many of those memberships as we can. Student membership is only \$5; we welcome contributions in any multiple of this amount to support the student membership endeavor. Checks for contributions can be made out to Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, Secretary-Treasurer of the Section, and mailed to her at Department of Sociology, Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY, 13323; they will be forwarded on to ASA as we establish a fund for this purpose. Questions? Email [marthur@hamilton.edu](mailto:marthur@hamilton.edu).

## Section on History of Sociology Mission Statement

**T**he purpose of the Section on the History of Sociology is to provide a forum for sociologists and other scholars interested in the study of the historically specific processes shaping the development of sociology as a profession, an academic discipline, an organization, a community, and an intellectual endeavor. The Section serves its members as a structure 1) to disseminate information of professional interest, 2) to assist in the exchange of ideas and the search for research collaborators, 3) to obtain information about the location of archival materials, 4) to support efforts to expand such research resources and to preserve documents important to the history of sociology, and 5) to ensure that the scholarship of this group can be shared with the profession through programming at both regional and national meetings.

## Section Officers 2007—2008

**Chair:** Jennifer Platt, University of Sussex

**Chair-Elect:** Charles Camic, Northwestern University

**Past Chair:** Eleanor Townsley, Mount Holyoke College

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, Hamilton College

### **Council:**

- Uta Gerhardt, Heidelberg University (2005-2008)
- Betsy Lucal, Indiana University-South Bend (2005-2008)
- Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan (2006-2009)
- Alford A. Young Jr., University of Michigan (2006-2009)
- Marcel Fournier, Université de Montréal (2007-2010)
- Richard Swedberg, Cornell University (2007-2010)

### **Student Representatives:**

- Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Princeton University (2005-2008)
- Bart Bonikowski, Princeton University (2005-2008)

## Section Committees, 2007-2008

### Program

Chair: Jennifer Platt (Sussex) [j.platt@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.platt@sussex.ac.uk)

- Charles Camic (Northwestern)
- Jonathan VanAntwerpen (SSRC)
- Stephen Turner (South Florida)

### Membership

Chair: Mikaila Arthur (Hamilton)

[marthur@hamilton.edu](mailto:marthur@hamilton.edu)

- Silvia Pedraza (Michigan)
- Mary Tressider (Columbia)
- Bill Buxton (Concordia)

### Nominations

Chair: Eleanor Townsley (Mount Holyoke)

[etownsle@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:etownsle@mtholyoke.edu)

- Larry Nichols (West Virginia)
- Michael Hill (Sociological Origins)
- Neil McLaughlin (McMaster)