

# Family Forum

SUMMER 2008 ~ ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

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## Message from the Chair

Dear Family Section Members:

One of the fun things about being Chair was selecting topics for this year's sessions. Inside the Newsletter, you'll see the great sessions the organizers put together on youth romantic and sexual relationships, care work, class and race-ethnic variation in family patterns, parenthood and step-parenthood, planned and unplanned childbearing, and work-family policies.

Thanks to our Nominations Committee and all who were willing to run for office. Congratulations to our election winners: Judith Seltzer (Chair Elect), Michelle Budig and Becky Pettit (Council), and Jennifer Holland (student rep). A big round of silent applause, too, for Sanjiv Gupta, our webmaster; Jay Wills, our listserv manager, and Mary Noonan, editor of our Newsletter. Dan Lichter takes over as Chair after ASA.

As I ponder family change lately, I keep noticing its path-dependent nature. Gendered cultural meanings often persist, acting as a drag on gender equality. So, for example, when the invention of the birth control pill and the legalization of abortion increased premarital sex, the double standard persisted. (If you doubt this, ask your students if their female peers are called "sluts" for "hooking up" with some number of people, whereas a male student who does the same evokes a yawn if not high fives.) As another example, although cohabitation now precedes most marriages, the



norm persists that the man "proposes" and buys the woman a ring. As yet another example, poor, unmarried moms express a reverence for marriage, but also say that if they marry the guy they are living with, he would have more power over them—even absent a shift in relative earnings; they seem more likely to reject marriage than to imagine a power-equal marriage. All this suggests that understanding how and when culture changes is very important to understanding family change. I'd love to hear your views on this.

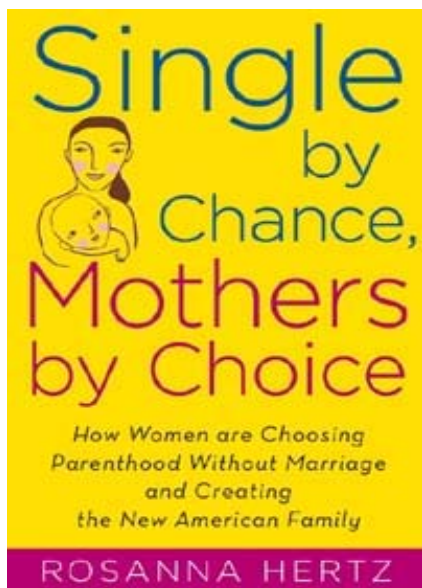
I look forward to seeing you in Boston at the ASA annual meeting. You are all welcome to our Business Meeting at 9:30-10:10 on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. And please come by our reception at 6:30pm Sunday. We'll announce award winners there.

Paula England  
Chair, Family Section  
Stanford University  
July, 2008

## Book Corner: New Books by Family Section Members

*Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women Are Choosing Parenthood without Marriage and Creating the New American Family*  
(Oxford University Press, 2006)

Rosanna Hertz

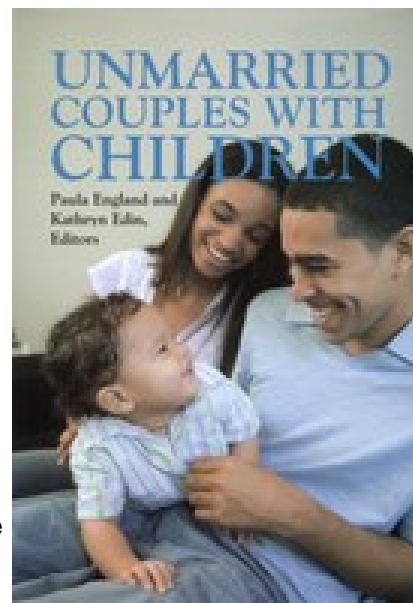


A remarkable number of women today are taking the daunting step of having children outside of marriage. In “Single By Chance, Mothers By Choice”, Rosanna Hertz offers the first full-scale account of this fast-growing phenomenon, revealing why these middle-class women took this unorthodox path and how they have managed to make single parenthood work for them. Hertz interviewed 65 women--ranging from physicians and financial analysts to social workers, teachers, and secretaries--women who speak candidly about how they manage their lives and families as single mothers. What Hertz discovers are not ideologues but reluctant revolutionaries, women who--whether straight or gay--struggle to conform to the conventional definitions of mother, child, and family. Having tossed out the rulebook in order to become mothers, they nonetheless adhere to time-honored rules about child-rearing. As they tell their stories, they shed light on their paths to motherhood. “Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice” has been named Outstanding Academic Title for 2007 by *Choice*, the review publication for academic libraries. The book was also a finalist for the prestigious 2006 C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

*Unmarried Couples with Children*  
(Russell Sage Foundation, 2007)

Edited by Paula England and Kathryn Edin

Today, a third of American children are born outside of marriage, up from one child in 20 in the 1950s, and rates are even higher among low-income Americans. Many herald this trend as one of the most troubling of our time. But the decline in marriage does not necessarily signal the demise of the two parent family--over 80 percent of unmarried couples are still romantically involved when their child is born and nearly half are living together. Most claim they plan to marry eventually. Yet half have broken up by their child's third birthday. What keeps some couples together and what tears others apart? After breakup, how do fathers so often disappear from their children's lives? *Unmarried Couples with Children* follows the family lives of nearly 50 American children born outside of a marital union at the dawn of the 21st century. Based on personal narratives gathered from both mothers and fathers over the first four years of their children's lives, and told partly in the couples' own words, this story begins before the child is conceived, takes the reader through the tumultuous months of pregnancy to the magic moment of birth, and on through the child's fourth birthday. It captures in rich detail the complex relationship dynamics and powerful social forces that derail the plans of so many unmarried parents. The volume injects some much-needed reality into the national discussion about family values, and reveals that the issues are more complex than our political discourse suggests.



## Upcoming Conferences

“Development of Hispanic Children in Immigrant Families: Challenges and Prospects” is the topic of **Penn State’s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Family Issues**, to be held **October 23-24, 2008**, on the University Park campus. Lead speakers include: Richard Alba (SUNY Albany), Kimberly Updegraff (Arizona State University), Carola Suárez-Orozco (NYU), and Margarita Alegria (Harvard Medical School). Information and registration at <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2008.htm> or contact Carolyn Scott at [css7@psu.edu](mailto:css7@psu.edu).

A joint meeting of the **Annual Parent Education Conference (PEC)** and **International Sociological Association’s Committee on Family Research Conference (CRFC)** will be held on **February 12-14, 2009** at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. Deadline for submission of abstract for paper proposals is August 1, 2008. For more information, go to: <http://parentconf2009.unt.edu/>.

The **National Council on Family Relations** will host its 70th annual conference **November 5-8, 2008** in Little Rock, AR. The theme of the conference is “Lenses on Family”. For a complete schedule of the conference program, go to: <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/program.asp>.

## Other News

The **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)** is pleased to announce the publication of the ***Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008***. This publication represents an effort by our professional association to nourish a more "public sociology" that will be easily accessible and useful to policy makers. It is also a way to give something back to the people and institutions that support our scholarly endeavors. We hope that you find it helpful in your challenging work of crafting successful solutions to contemporary social problems. In all, it contains 11 pieces by SSSP members, covering a variety of social problems in three sections: global issues, Americans at risk, and health & welfare. This is an effort on the part of scholars at the SSSP to disseminate the findings in social problems research as freely and as widely as possible. The web page for the project is located at <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>. On that page, you can download the full version, and you can link directly to the one-page briefs and individual chapters. The chapters are available for free download, and may be suitable as cost-effective supplementary readings in many social problems-related courses.

To learn more about the ASA Family Section, visit our homepage at : <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionfamily/>



# Family Sessions at the 2008 ASA Meeting

## Planned and Unplanned Childbearing

Time: Sun, Aug 3, 10:30am-2:10am  
 Place: Sheraton Boston  
 Organizer/Presider: *Kelly Musick*, USC  
 Discussant: *Jennifer S. Barber*, University of Michigan

Cohort Trends in Unwanted and Unintended Childbearing. *Elizabeth M. Wildsmith*, University of Pennsylvania; *Karen Guzzo*, Lafayette College; *Sarah R. Hayford*, Arizona State University

Cohabiting Men's Preferences for and Perceived Roles in Determining Pregnancy Outcomes. *Amanda Jayne Miller*, The Ohio State University

Childlessness, First Birth Timing, and Pre-marital Childbearing: The Relationship Between Life Course Expectations and Mental Health. *Daniel L. Carlson*, The Ohio State University

The Link Between Couples' Pregnancy Intentions and Behavior: Does It Matter Who Is Asked? *Maureen Waller* Cornell University; *Marianne Bitler*, University of California, Irvine

## Family Patterns: Class and Race-Ethnic Variation

Time: Sun, Aug 3, 2:30pm-4:10pm  
 Place: Sheraton Boston  
 Organizer: *Shirley A. Hill*, University of Kansas  
 Presider: *Jennifer Roebuck Bulanda*, Miami University

Gender, Race, and Socio-Economic Differences in the Marriage-Depression Relationship. *Susan Roxburgh*, Kent State University; *David Andrew Skubby*, University of Akron

Happiness in Marriage Since the 1970s: Over Time Changes by Race and Gender. *Mamadi Corra*, East Carolina University; *Shannon Houvouras*, University of Central Florida; *J. Scott Carter*, University of Central Florida; *David Knox*, East Carolina University

Intergenerational Differences in Latinas' Transition to First Marriage: The Roles of Assimilation and Marriage Market Constraints. *Kim Marie Lloyd*, Washington State University

Racial Differences in the Effect of Religion on Union Formation. *Jennifer Roebuck Bulanda*, Miami University; *Ronald Edward Bulanda*, Miami University

## Care Work, Housework, and Consumption in Families

Time: Sun, Aug 3, 4:30pm-6:10pm  
 Place: Sheraton Boston  
 Organizer/Presider: *Allison Pugh*, University of Virginia  
 Discussant: *Karen V. Hansen*, Brandeis University

The Outsourcing of Domestic Affairs: On a Biographical Solution to the Systemic Contradictions of Family in the Age of Late Modernity. *Craig D. Lair*, University of Maryland

Gender, Proximity and Parental Care among Caribbean Immigrant Families. *Ivy Forsythe-Brown*, University of Michigan

Transformations in Family-Work Models in Western Europe: Beyond the Male Breadwinner Model. *Emmanuele Pavolini*, Università degli Studi di Macerata; *Costanzo Ranci*, Politecnico di Milano

A Vocabulary of Motives? How Parents Talk About and Enact Family Time. *Karrie Ann Snyder*, Northwestern University



Also, don't forget the **Family Section Sponsored Refereed Roundtables**

Place: Sheraton Boston

Time: Sun, Aug 3, 8:30am-9:30 am

# Family Sessions at the 2008 ASA Meeting

## Young Romantic and Sexual Relationships

Time: Mon, Aug 4, 8:30am-10:10am

Place: Sheraton Boston

Organizer/Presider: *Kara Joyner*, Bowling Green State University

Discussant: *David J. Harding*, University of Michigan

Impact of Family Instability on the Norms, Timing, and Quality of Adolescent Romantic Relationships. *Molly Kathleen Sullivan*, University of Texas at Austin

The Importance of Courting for Adolescent Sex and Dating. *Anthony Paik*, University of Iowa; *Vernon Anthony Woodley*, University of Iowa

Are Love and Lust Both Blind? Differences in Racial and Ethnic Homophily in Hookups and Long-Term Relationships. *Elizabeth Aura McClintock*, Stanford University

Gendered Sexuality in Emerging Adulthood: Double Binds and Flawed Options. *Elizabeth A. Armstrong*, Indiana University; *Laura Theresa Hamilton*, Indiana University

## Fatherhood, Motherhood, and Step-Parenthood

Time: Mon, Aug 4, 10:30am-12:10pm

Place: Sheraton Boston

Organizer/Presider: *Joanna M. Reed*, Northwestern University

Paternal Involvement and Fathers' Well-Being across the Life Course. *Daniel Hawkins*, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dual Daddies: Low-Income Urban Non-Residential Biological Fathering and Residential Social Fathering. *Monika J. Ulrich*, University of Arizona

New Fathers' Experiences with Their Own Fathers and Attitudes Toward Fathering. *Karen Guzzo*, Lafayette College

Resisting Alienation in the Workplace: A Marxist Approach to Intensive Mothering. *Sarah Jane Brubaker*, Virginia Commonwealth University



## Work-Family Policies and Practices

Time: Mon, Aug 4, 12:30pm-2:10pm

Place: Sheraton Boston

Organizer/Presider: *Joya Misra*, University of Massachusetts

Counterfactual Models of Family Policy Effects: Family Policy and Women's Employment Outcomes in (West) Germany. *Eric Tranby*, University of Minnesota; *Robin Stryker*, University of Minnesota

Recent Family Policy Developments in Germany and Spain: Toward Gender Equality in Earning and Caring? *Katrin Kriz*, Harvard University; *Olga Salido*, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Is There a Career Penalty for Mother's Time Out? A Comparison Between the U.S., Germany and Sweden. *Silke Aisenbrey*, Yeshiva University; *Marie Evertsson*, Yale University; *Daniela Grunow*, Yale University

The Impact of Co-Residential Fatherhood on Men's Earnings. *Irene S. Boeckmann*, University of Massachusetts Amherst



## Job Opportunities

Note: Members are also advised to look for job opportunities in the ASA Job Bank: <http://jobbank.asanet.org/jobbank/index.cfm>



**University of Massachusetts-Amherst.** The Department of Sociology invites applications for at least three tenure-track positions beginning Fall 2009. We seek candidates at all levels: assistant, associate, and early full professor. Substantive specializations are open, although we hope to strengthen capacity in the following areas: crime/law/deviance; transnational sociology/global South (with a particular interest in qualitative and/or mixed methods); and science, technology, and society. Applications received after September 22, 2008 cannot be assured full consideration. Applicants should be eager to join an intellectually lively, diverse, and growing department. Junior candidates should have firm expectations of a completed PhD by August 2009. The department and the university are committed to increased diversity in its faculty and student ranks. Please mail a letter of application, curriculum vita, writing sample, and three letters of recommendation (letters for junior candidates only) to Michelle Budig, Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 01003. UMass is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Equal Access Employer and encourages applications from minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

**University of the Pacific.** Visiting Assistant Professor Position, to begin August 2008, with anticipation of a second year renewal. Tenure track appointment at the end of two years may be possible. Salary scale begins at \$45,000 and will be commensurate with experience. Appointment is in the four-person Department of Sociology. The Department is especially interested in applicants committed to pursuing issues of inequality and diversity, particularly in the areas of criminology and social justice. Ability to teach a core major's course in social psychology would be desirable. The successful candidate will teach five four-unit courses per year, and should be prepared to work with local agencies and community groups with the goal of providing in-depth, applied learning opportunities for students. The University of the Pacific is committed to experiential learning and undergraduate research. The successful candidate should bring an active research agenda in one or more of the above areas and be prepared to engage undergraduates in research and off-campus field settings consistent with the mission of the Department. Additional information describing the Department is available

on the Sociology pages of the University of the Pacific website (<http://www.pacific.edu/college/sociology/>). Applications should include: 1) a letter describing teaching and research interests; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) evidence of research agenda and evaluation of prior teaching, if available; 4) examples of scholarship, but no more than three publications or manuscripts; 5) names and addresses of three references. Send to: Dr. George H. Lewis; Search Committee; Department of Sociology; University of the Pacific; Stockton, Ca 95211. The University of the Pacific is an equal opportunity employer, encouraging excellence through diversity.

**University of the Pacific.** Department Chairperson position, to begin August 2008. Appointment is at the associate or full professor level in a four-person Department of Sociology. Salary scale begins at \$60,000 and will be commensurate with experience. Area of specialization is open; however, the Department is especially interested in applicants with research and teaching experience in any of the following areas: criminal/social justice, immigration, urban studies, the environment, or social service delivery. The successful candidate will teach four four-unit courses per year and be committed to leading the Department in pursuing the study of inequality and diversity throughout the curriculum. Teaching responsibilities will include participation in the department's senior capstone seminar and teaching in the university's nationally recognized Pacific Seminar program. This faculty position also includes administrative responsibilities such as advising students. Applications should include: 1) a letter describing teaching and research interests; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) evidence of research agenda and evaluation of prior teaching, if available; 4) examples of scholarship, but no more than three publications or manuscripts; 5) names and addresses of three references. Send to: Dr. George H. Lewis; Search Committee; Department of Sociology; University of the Pacific; Stockton, Ca 95211. The University of the Pacific is an equal opportunity employer, encouraging excellence through diversity.

**Please Join Us!**

**The 2008 Co-Sponsored Population and Family  
Section Reception**

**Time: Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Place: Sheraton Boston**



Come and Congratulate  
the Winners of Our  
Annual Section Awards:



Distinguished Career Award  
William S. Goode Book Award

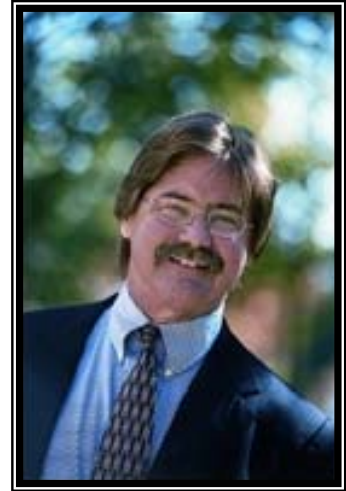


Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

## Obituary

**Steven L. Nock**, Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, died on Sunday, January 20, 2008, after a life-long battle with complications from diabetes.

Steven graduated from the University of Richmond in 1972 and received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts in 1976. He taught at Tulane University prior to coming to the University of Virginia in 1978. He was a beloved and respected teacher of undergraduate and graduate students. In 1992 he received an All University Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. He also was an accomplished scholar who published extensively in professional journals. His most significant contribution, *Marriage in Men's Lives*, won the 1999 William J. Goode Book Award from the American Sociological Association. His most recent book (with Laura Sanchez and James D. Wright), *Covenant Marriage: The Movement to Reclaim Tradition in America*, is scheduled for publication this summer.



Steven was concerned about the policy implications of family research. He worked in the Department of Health and Human Services as a consultant on American family policy. And since 2000, he served as a member of the Research Advisory Board for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative. At the time of his death, he was designing a study of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

Steven will be remembered by many people, not only as a highly productive family scholar, but also as a warm, humorous, and helpful colleague and friend.

