

FAMILY FORUM

SUMMER 2009 ~ ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

SECTION COUNCIL, 2008-09

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Family Section Members:

The ASA meeting in San Francisco is fast approaching. I hope that you have made your travel plans to attend. The family section "day" is Tuesday, August 11th, but there are several family sessions also scheduled on Monday (August 10th). The family section reception and awards ceremony will be held jointly on Monday evening with the population section at 6:30-8:10 pm in San Francisco Hilton (room TBA). The regular business meeting of the section will be held on Tuesday at 11:30 am to 12:10 pm (also in the Hilton). Mark your calendars.

I am pleased to announce that Jay Teachman has been elected chair-elect of the family section. His term (2010-2011) will follow Judy Seltzer's 2009-2010 term. The other new members of the council include Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew (Child Trends) as secretary-treasurer, Lisa Pearce (UNC) and Mignon Moore (UCLA) as council members (2009-2012), and Caroline Hartnett (Penn) as student representative (2009-2010). Congratulations all! And thanks to Megan Sweeney and her committee for putting together a great slate of candidates.

Many thanks also go to our out-going council members who have both represented and supported the section over the past three years: Paula England (past chair), Laura Sanchez (secretary-treasurer), Sanjiv Gupta (council and webmaster), Liana Sayer (council), and Dawn Norris (student representative). Thanks so much for your service and leadership. Mary Noonan (Iowa) also deserves special thanks for serving as editor of the section newsletter. And kudos to Jeremiah Wills (Roanoke College) who has kept us up to date as the section's listserv manager.

Previous editors have sometimes weighed in at the end of their terms about the direction of the section and about family



change generally. The section is healthy – both financially and in terms of membership (now over 800). This year, I tried to choose session topics with great salience and that reflect the current interests of section members and the public at large: "new family forms", "transnational and immigrant families," "families in poverty," "religion and family life," "dating and close relationships," and "work-family balance." Perhaps at no other time in recent memory has so much public policy attention been placed on American family life: government-supported marriage promotion initiatives, same-sex marriage legislation, abstinence education and the recent rise in teen fertility, and new reproductive technologies. These are interesting and contentious topics. It is good to see the membership contributing their perspectives and research findings to the academic and public dialogue.

Your input about sessions for next year's ASA meetings will be solicited at the section business meeting in San Francisco. This is your opportunity to shape next year's agenda. Judy Seltzer, as your next section chair, will also be asking you for your ideas in late August or early September.

I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco. Safe traveling,

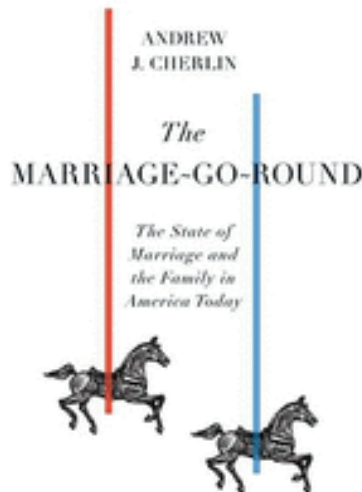
Daniel T. Lichter
Chair, Family Section
Cornell University
July, 2009

New Books of Interest

The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today

(Alfred A. Knopf, 2009)

Andrew J. Cherlin



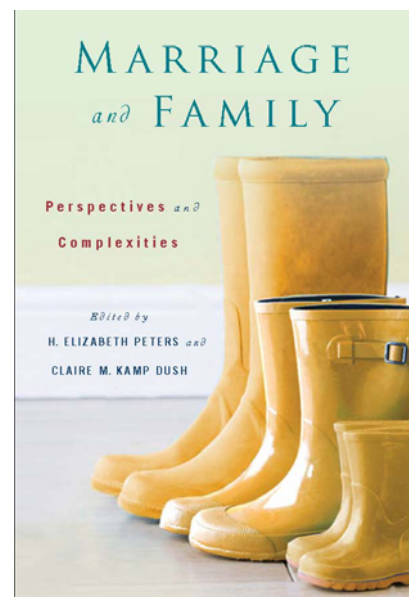
From one of the nation's leading experts on the American family, a book that explores the state of marriage in America today; its evolution culturally; and with regard to religion and the law, how and why the present state of marriage—a merry-go-round of partnerships—developed, and the implications for parents and children. Cherlin writes that Americans marry more repeatedly and have more live-in partners; that marriage and remarriage, frequent divorce, and short-term cohabiting relationships have resulted in a core upheaval in American family life; and that American children have been left to cope with the frequent and disruptive comings and goings of parents. Cherlin argues that Americans have come to embrace two contradictory models of personal and family life: marriage, a formal commitment to share one's life with another; and individualism, which emphasizes personal growth and development. The former promotes a lasting relationship; the latter encourages one to move on.

Marriage and Family: Perspectives and Complexities

(Columbia University Press, 2009)

Edited by H. Elizabeth Peters and Claire Kamp Dush

In this new book, Peters and Kamp Dush explore the motivation to marry and the role of matrimony in a diverse group of men and women. They compare empirical data from several emerging family types (single, co-parent, gay and lesbian, among others) to studies of traditional nuclear families, and they consider the effect of public policy and recent economic developments on the practice of marriage and the stabilization—or destabilization—of family. Approaching this topic from a variety of perspectives, including historical, cross-cultural, gendered, demographic, sociobiological, and social-psychological viewpoints, the editors highlight the complexity of the modern American family and the growing indeterminacy of its boundaries. Refusing to adhere to any one position, the editors provide an unbiased account of contemporary marriage and family.



Upcoming Conferences

“**Biosocial Research Contributions to Understanding Family Processes and Problems**” is the topic of **Penn State’s 17th Annual Symposium on Family Issues**, to be held October 8-9, 2009, on the University Park campus. Conceptual shifts and technological breakthroughs have placed new emphasis on the importance of combining nature and nurture to understand family processes and problems. The link between biology and behavior is no longer regarded as a simple, unidirectional, cause and effect process. Today’s researchers emphasize bi-directional relations between physiological processes and behavior. The goal of this symposium is to stimulate conversation among scholars who construct and use biosocial models, as well as among those who want to know more about biosocial processes. Researchers interested in both biological and social/environmental influences on behavior, health, and development will be represented. The Symposium is supported by NICHD. For information and registration, visit <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2009.htm>.

The **National Council on Family Relations** will host its 71st annual conference **November 11-14, 2009** in San Francisco, CA. The theme of the conference is “Families in a Multicultural World”. For a complete schedule of the conference program, go to: <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>.



Other News

Call for Submissions - Special Issue of *Family Relations* -- Finances, Families, and Hard Times

The worldwide economic crisis of 2008 has brought family financial issues to the forefront of public discourse. And although scholarship sometimes treats family relations and financial issues as separate disciplines, these topics are actually closely intertwined. *Family Relations* will devote a special issue to examine how the current economic climate shapes relationships within the family as well as families’ interactions with the broader environment. We are particularly interested in research examining how families are adapting to "hard times."

Manuscript deadline is August 17, 2009. For complete information, go to: http://www.ncfr.org/pdf/zippy_news/FR_Finances_Families_Hard_Times_CFP.pdf.

FAMILY SESSIONS AT THE 2009 ASA MEETING

Work-Family Balance

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

Organizer/Presider: Liana Sayer (Ohio State University)

Do Perceptions of Work-Family Balance Have Long-Term Consequences? Associations with Job Exits and Subsequent Fertility. Siwei Liu (Pennsylvania State University), Kathryn Hynes (Pennsylvania State University)

Examining the Child Effect by Parity on Women's Employment in the Late 1990s and Early 2000s. Emily Elizabeth Danforth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Family-Friendly Policy and Conflict between Work and Family: Which Policies Matter? Leah E. Ruppanner (University of California, Irvine)

Gender Differences in Sleep Disruption among Retail Food Workers. David J. Maume (University of Cincinnati), Rachel Sebastian (University of Cincinnati), Anthony Bardo (Miami University)



Dating and Close Relationships

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

Organizer/Presider: Susan Sprecher (Illinois State University)

Romantic Relationships and the Transition to Adulthood: Developmental Shifts in Communication, Emotion, Influence, and Utility. Peggy C. Giordano (Bowling Green State University), Christine Flanigan (Bowling Green State University), Wendy Diane Manning (Bowling Green State University), Monica A. Longmore (Bowling Green State Univ)

Is Courting A Waste of Time? The Contexts of Sexual Involvement and Union Formation. Anthony Paik (University of Iowa)

The Tempo of Relationship Progression among Low-Income Couples. Sharon L. Sassler (Cornell University), Elizabeth F. Hartmann (Cornell University)

Can Women and Men be Friends? Life-Stage, Gender, and Norms in Cross-Gender Friendships. Diane H. Felmlee (University of California-Davis), Elizabeth Valerie Sweet (University of California Davis)

Marriage in the Millennium: Papers Honoring Steve Nock's Scholarship

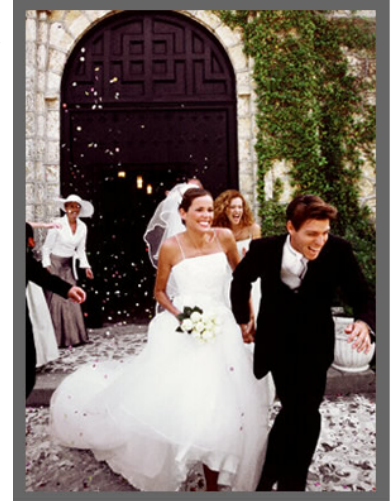
Time: Mon, Aug 10, 10:30am-12:10pm

Organizer/Presider/Discussant: Paul R. Amato (Penn State)

Becoming Husbands: (Early) Marriage in Men's Lives. Julia C. Wilson (Emory and Henry College)

Relationship Quality among Cohabitors and Married. Susan L. Brown (Bowling Green State University)

Is Love a Flimsy Foundation? Soul-mate Versus Institutional Models of Marriage. W. Bradford Wilcox (University of Virginia)



Later First Marriage and Marital Success. Norval D. Glenn (University of Texas-Austin), Jeremy E. Uecker (University of Texas-Austin)

Immigrant and Transnational Families

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

Organizer/Presider: Lindy Williams (Cornell University)

Discussant: Ronald Mize (Cornell University)

Gender and Remittances in Salvadoran Transnational Families. Leisy Janet Abrego (University of California-Los Angeles)

While Mom and Dad are Away: Parental Migration and Mexican Children's Educational Aspirations in the Mixteca. Joanna Dreby (Kent State University), Lindsay Stutz (Kent State University)

Overseas Kinships and Parenting within Transnational Families: Comparing Taiwanese American Families with Taiwanese Parachute Kids's Families. Ken Sun (Brandeis University)

Migration, Access to Social Capital, and Spousal Violence in Unequal Partnerships. Susanne Yukping Choi (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

"Homeward" Bound: Determinants of Return Migration Among Germany's Elderly Immigrants. Jenjira Yahirun (University of California-Los Angeles)

FAMILY SESSIONS AT THE 2009 ASA MEETING

Religion and Family Life

Time: Tues, Aug 11, 8:30am-10:10am

Organizer/Presider: Nicholas H. Wolfinger (University of Utah)

Discussant: W. Bradford Wilcox (University of Virginia)

Examining the Impact of Religious Social Networks and Race on Unwed Mothers' Depression. Elizabeth Schweigert (University of Colorado)

When Religion Fills the Security Gap: Families and Religious Coping in the New Economy. Marianne Cooper (U.C. Berkeley)

Parent-Child Relationship Quality: Exploring the Dimensions of Adolescent Religiosity. Melinda Lundquist Denton (Clemson University)

"I disown you. You are dead to me!": Christian Fundamentalism, Homophobia and Family Life. Bernadette Barton (Morehead State University)



Families in Poverty

Time: Tues, Aug 11, 12:30pm-2:10pm

Organizer/Presider: Joanna M. Badagliacco (University of Kentucky)

Discussant: Carey Ruiz (University of Kentucky)

A Multilevel Analysis of Poverty among Mexican Immigrants in the Southwest. Ginny E. Garcia (University of Texas-San Antonio)

Family Structure Change and Economic Trajectories during Early Childhood. Sarah O. Meadows (RAND Corporation), Sara S. McLanahan (Princeton University), Jean Tansey Knab (Mathematica Policy Research, Inc)

Parenting Amidst Poverty: Class, Community, and Conceptualizing Parenting Behaviors. Jennifer Sherman (University of New Hampshire)

"Love isn't a Feeling, it's a Commitment": Promoting Marriage for Poor Families through Relationship Education. Jennifer M. Randles (University of California-Berkeley)

New Family Forms

Time: Tues, Aug 11, 2:30pm-4:10pm

Organizer/Presider: Michael J. Rosenfeld (Stanford)

Discussant: Stefanie Mollborn (University of Colorado-Boulder)

Changes in Family Structure and the Well-being of British Children. Karen Robson (University College Dublin)

Characteristics of U.S. Cohabiting Families: New Data from the Current Population Survey. Sheela Kennedy (University of Minnesota), Catherine A. Fitch (University of Minnesota)

Queer Families: Women Partners of Trans Men on Identity, Identity Work and Normativity. Carla A. Pfeffer (University of Michigan)

The Iron Cage of Marriage: Persistence of Marriage in the Face of New Family Forms. Sean R. Lauer (University of British Columbia), Carrie L. Yodanis (University of British Columbia)

"Living Apart Together" Relationships in the United States. Charles Q. Strohm (UCLA), Judith A. Seltzer (UCLA), Susan Cochran (UCLA), Vickie M. Mays (UCLA)



Please Join Us!

**The 2009 Co-Sponsored Population and Family Section
Reception and Awards Ceremony**

Time: Monday, August 10th, 6:30-8:00 pm

Place: Hilton San Francisco



**Come and Congratulate
the Winners of our
Annual Section Awards**



**Distinguished Career Award
William S. Goode Book Award
Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award**