

Fall 2012

Family Forum

SECTION COUNCIL, 2012-13

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Message from the Chair

The Sociology of the Family Section has had a busy fall. The first order of business was to set up the panels for ASA 2013 (in New York). We are pleased to announce the regular paper sessions in this newsletter. The Family Section will have six panels next year in New York; most of these panels will take place during our "Section Day" on the last day of the meetings: Tuesday August 13, 2013. Sections presenting on the last day are given a "bonus" section by ASA. In addition, we are sharing one panel with the Population Section which this year comes out of their allotment. The deadline for ASA submissions will be January 9, 2013.

The awards committees are also now established. Please do consider nominating colleagues and students for the awards. Please also suggest to others that they submit nominations. Of course, the ASA Sociology of the Family section is a national award; it can make a difference on the cv of a young scholar. In most cases, the nomination process is quick and easy. The newsletter and the webpage have information about the awards for the best article, Goode award (best book), graduate student paper award, and

career award. Thank you for considering making a nomination!

I am pleased to announce that Heather Jacobson, University of Texas-Arlington, has graciously agreed to take over the editing of the newsletter. She has many great ideas for the newsletter including having an interview with a sociologist of the family. An interview with Professor Andrew Cherlin of Johns Hopkins conducted by Abigail Ocozbek, University of Chicago, appears in this issue. Please do write Heather Jacobson at jacobson@uta.edu if you have items for the newsletter; the newsletter is published once in the fall and once in the spring/summer.

I want to thank the officers who ran the Sociology of Family Section so ably in the 2011-2012 period. Paul Amato deserves our special thanks for serving as the Chair of the section; Mignon Moore and Lisa Pearce played an important role on Council. Council. Thanks also to Chris Knoester, Ohio State University, who graciously handled the finances of the section for three years. We have a special debt to Jeremiah "Jay" Wills of Queens University in Charlotte for having managed the newsletter in recent years. Since all



of them are busy people, we are very grateful to them for having found the time to help the ASA Sociology of the Family section.

Finally, please be sure to renew your membership in the ASA Sociology of the Family Section when you renew your ASA dues!

Here is the link for dues renewal: <https://www.e-noah.net/asa/default.asp>.

You can also easily sponsor a student membership. It is a nice way to congratulate a student when he or she reaches a milestone.

Best wishes for a good fall,
Annette Lareau, University of Pennsylvania

Family Section Sessions for ASA 2013 Meeting in New York City

Complex Families

Organizer: Marcia J. Carlson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, carlson@ssc.wisc.edu

While there are children raised by their continuously-married biological parents, a significant number of children today are raised in settings with step or half-siblings, remarried or repartnered parents, instability in living arrangements, gay and lesbian parents, and other family configurations. This session welcomes papers which offer social science research on aspects of contemporary family life.

Family Stratification

Organizer: R. Kelly Raley, University of Texas, Kelly.rale@austin.utexas.edu

Families are situated in a broader social structure which is highly unequal. This panel welcomes papers that consider the consequences of social stratification for family life as well as those that address the contributions of family diversity to inequality.

Extended Families

Organizer: Natalia Sarkisian, Boston College, natalia@sarkisian.net

When studying families, sociologists oftentimes focus solely on mothers, fathers, and their young children. Such a focus, however, neglects a vital component of family lives of many people for whom family includes aging parents, grown up children, adult siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, grandchildren, and "fictive" kin. This panel welcomes papers that turn a sociological eye to the roles of extended families in daily life.

Culture and Family Life

Session Organizer Name: Allison Pugh, University of Virginia, ap9cd@virginia.edu

This session seeks to explore how families are embedded in cultures, and how family members draw upon cultural meanings and practices as they move through the routines of daily life, construct understandings of themselves and others, and manage the transitions and dislocations that come their way. What is the relationship of culture to inequalities within the family, and inequalities among/between families? How do different kinds of families use culture, and to what ends? What are novel ways to analyze the workings of culture in families, and families in culture? Although this panel is particularly suited for studies involving observations of family life, a wide array of papers are welcome. The papers should highlight, of course, not only rich empirical work but the ways in which the results offer a friendly amendment to existing sociological theory.

Families and Social Institutions

Organizer: Jennifer Reich, University of Denver, Jennifer.reich@du.edu

Social institutions directly impact family life, and in turn are reshaped by families. This panel invites papers that examine the myriad ways that families interact with institutions and their actors. These may include medical institutions, schools, courts and juvenile detention facilities, welfare or government agencies, or work. The organizers are seeking papers that offer an empirical contribution as well as show how the empirical findings help to enrich our conceptual understanding of family life.

Roundtables will be organized by Megan Reid and Corinne Reczek, National Development and Research Institute, reid@ndri.org and reczekce@umail.uc.edu

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the 2013 FAMILY SECTION AWARDS

The Sociology of the Family section makes a number of awards each year. Please do consider nominating colleagues and students for these awards. (Self-nominations are also common for some of the awards.) The information below contains the descriptions of the awards and the deadlines. The information will also be available on the Sociology of the Family website: www2.asanet.org/sectionfamily/
Thank you for your help as the section recognizes the special achievements of its members.

Annette Lareau, Chair, Sociology of the Family Section, 2012-2013

Distinguished Career Award

This award recognizes the collective body of a person's work as it relates to the sociology of the family (not a single publication). Award winners may be selected on the basis of distinguished contributions to either research or service. Service to the field includes developments (such as data sets, analytic techniques, or highly-cited scholarly publications) that have had a substantial impact on family research. Send a one-page justification with your nomination. The nominee's CV is helpful but not necessary. The deadline is **March 2, 2013**. Please send nominations to **Christine Schwartz** (cschwartz@ssc.wisc.edu).

William J. Goode Book Award

This award is for a book published on the family in 2011 or 2012. To nominate a book, send a one-page justification. Self nominations are appropriate. Textbooks and edited volumes are not eligible. **Please send copies of the nomination letters to each committee member as well as arrange with your publisher for the publisher to send a copy of the book directly to all committee members**. The deadline to receive the letter of nomination is **January 11, 2013**. The books may arrive shortly thereafter.

Paul Amato, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology, 306 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802-6207 (pxa6@psu.edu)

Liana Sayer, The Ohio State University, Department of Sociology, 238 Townshend Hall, 1885 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210 (sayer.12@sociology.osu.edu)

Marcy Carlson, University of Wisconsin, 4454 Social Science Building, 1180 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706 (Carlson@ssc.upenn.edu)

Kathleen Gerson, New York University, Department of Sociology, 295 Lafayette St., Room 4128, New York, NY 10012-9604 (Kathleen.gerson@nyu.edu)

Ted Greenstein, North Carolina State University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Raleigh, NC 27695-8107 (ted_greenstein@ncsu.edu)

Phil Cohen, University of Maryland, Maryland Population Research Center, 2112 Art-Sociology Building, College Park, MD 20742 (pnc@umd.edu)

Beth Mattingly, The Carsey Institute, 73 Main St., Huddleston Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824 (beth.mattingly@unh.edu)

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Graduate students are invited to submit an article-length paper on the family. The paper should represent a finished product rather than a proposal for future work. The submission can be based on a course paper, a recently published journal article, a manuscript under review at a journal, or a conference presentation. Co-authored papers are acceptable if all authors are students, although the prize will be shared. The paper must have been written when the author was enrolled in a graduate program. The paper may not exceed 30 pages or 11,000 words. Please send an electronic copy of the paper by **March 2, 2013** to **Annette Lareau** (alareau@sas.upenn.edu).

Sociology of the Family Article of the Year Award

This award recognizes a journal article that has made a significant contribution to the field of family sociology. The award committee will accept nominations for articles published in 2010, 2011, or 2012. Nominations may be made by the author or others. To nominate an article, please send a letter of nomination (not to exceed one page) that details the contribution of the article to the field of family sociology, as well as an electronic copy of the article, to the chair of the award committee, **Kristen Schultz Lee** (kslee4@buffalo.edu). The deadline for nominations is **March 2, 2013**.

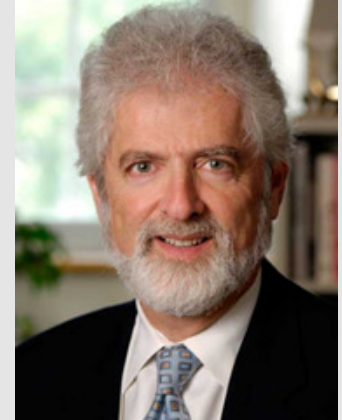
Nominations Committee

The nominations committee is responsible for generating a list of candidates for the offices of the Section for the spring 2013 election. The section will need a new Section Chair, two new Council Members, and a new Student representative. If you have suggestions for nominations, please contact the committee chair, **Kristen Harknett**, (harknett@sas.upenn.edu). The deadline for nominations is **November 16, 2012**.

FIVE QUESTIONS to.....ANDREW CHERLIN

By Abigail Ocobock

Abigail Ocobock is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at the University of Chicago. She is interested in how institutions shape and constrain family experiences. Her dissertation investigates how gaining the right to legally marry impacts gay men and lesbians' couple, family and community relationships. Abigail's paper "The Power and Limits of Marriage: Married Gay Men's Family Relationships" won the Family Section Graduate Student Paper Award this year. For this month's "5 Questions" column, Abigail interviewed Andrew Cherlin, Benjamin H. Griswold III Professor of Public Policy at John Hopkins University.



The breadth of your research and publishing record is remarkable. You have conducted research and published on such a vast array of family structures and issues – on marriage, divorce, re-marriage, step-families, cohabitation, intergenerational relations, childbearing, welfare reform, teenage pregnancy, low-income families, single mothers, African American families, Hispanic families, etc. How do you make decisions about what to work on at any one time? Do you have advice for someone trying to decide on a topic for a new project? Are there some specific issues in the area of family sociology that you think deserve the attention of family sociologists?

I think the trick is to try to figure out where the field will go next. Wayne Gretzky, probably the greatest hockey player of all time, once said, "A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be." I think that holds for social scientists, too. In 1977, when I wrote "Remarriage as an Incomplete Institution," most of the discussion was about divorce. I thought research on remarriage was the logical next step. I had read an article in AJS by John Meyer, "The Effects of Education as an Institution," and that gave me the idea for the article. Lately, it's seemed to me that the collapse of the middle of the labor market is making the working-class family of more interest, so that's the direction I have been moving in. I guess a beginning assistant professor needs to do some safer research on established topics, but he or she should be looking for new directions, too.

*In your most recent book, *The Marriage-go-round*, you argue that Americans need to "slow down" when it comes to marriage. You suggest that "we should spend less effort promoting marriage and more effort promoting stable family lives for children." Essentially the "slow-down message shifts the focus from promoting marriage to supporting stable care arrangements for children." If you were President for the day and could implement just one policy, what would you do to help support more stable family lives for children?*

I would implement a guaranteed minimum income for parents. I'm convinced that would not only help families but also support stable relationships. It's positive for everyone. It would allow low-income mothers to avoid risky cohabiting relationships that they might start in order to have some help with the bills and with taking care of the kids. It would encourage stable marriages. I know that sounds like a radical idea, until you realize that Richard Nixon and the often vilified Pat Moynihan proposed a guaranteed minimum income to Congress in the 1970s.

Five Questions to.....Andrew Cherlin continued

You are currently the principal investigator of the “Three-City Study.” This is a very large interdisciplinary study to assess the well-being of low-income children and families in the post-welfare-reform era. It started in 1999, covers 3 cities, and involves longitudinal surveys, embedded developmental studies, and contextual, comparative ethnographic studies. What findings from this study are you and your colleagues most excited about?

What we found was that the consequences for children were mixed. Some parents were doing better, some worse, after welfare reform, and overall the consequences for children were not nearly as dire as the critics had suggested. Many mothers had found jobs and were feeling pride in their accomplishments. But there’s a big caveat: our data collection ended in 2005. We don’t know what happened to these families during the Great Recession. And we know from other studies that there are a growing number of so-called “disconnected” single mothers who have neither welfare nor work. We need to know more about what’s happening to them.

What are some of the biggest changes you’ve witnessed in the field of family sociology during your career so far? Has the field gone in any unexpected directions?

The biggest change is the greater attention to social issues and public policy. When I started to write my textbook, *Public and Private Families*, in the mid-1990s, it was a radical step to include lots of material on social issues such as nonmarital pregnancies, single-parent families, cohabitation, promoting marriage, abortion, and the like. No textbook had a chapter on social issues or much discussion of them, believe it or not. The field was still consumed by the 1950s and ‘60s focus on marriage and what they called “courtship,” a term that is now archaic. The textbooks were filled with models of the courtship process – the steps liked being “pinned” if you were a co-ed – another archaic term – and then engaged and then you might have sex a couple of times at most and then you got married. There was lots of attention to marital adjustment but not necessarily to divorce. I titled my textbook the way I did to signal that I was adding the public issues, the public family, to the traditional focus on the private family. Now it’s routine for a textbook to discuss social issues, and you wouldn’t use it in your class if it didn’t.

If you could find an answer to just one sociological question about family life in your career what would it be? Is there a question, or perhaps a puzzle, about family life that keeps you up at night?

Here’s the puzzle: What’s going to happen to marriage in the U.S. over the next few decades? In parts of Europe it’s fading in importance, although it still plays a role. That hasn’t happened in the US, at least not yet, as I argued in *The Marriage Go Round*. But the reasons to marry rather than just live together are shrinking as the laws and social norms change. I have to say that I am surprised marriage has hung around so long in the U.S. In the 1970s and 1980s, people were predicting the demise of marriage. It seemed to be fading as an ideal. But that didn’t happen. And among the college educated, marriage has strengthened as divorce rates have declined. It would be easy to make the straight line prediction that marriage will remain a major part of our family system. But straight line predictions aren’t always right. I just finished a 50-year look back at what has happened to world family life since William J. Goode wrote *World Revolution and Family Patterns* – my article will be published in the December 2012 *Population and Development Review*. I was struck by how visible the signs were of the contradictions of the 1950s family when Goode wrote his book, yet he totally missed the fact that the 1950s family would soon implode. What’s happening now that we aren’t paying enough attention to? What reversals might we see? Will marriage at long last decline here as it has in France and Sweden? I hope to be around long enough to find out.

STRAIGHT TALK: Career and Employment Column

By Julie Artis

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, DePaul University

Navigating the job market, new job settings, and our daily working lives can be challenging to say the least! In our field, there are many different kinds of jobs – at different types of universities and colleges, non-profits, government, and research centers. Furthermore, people follow a variety of career trajectories. It is important to think strategically in order to find – and keep – a job that is a good match for you.

Beginning with our next newsletter (Summer 2013), we will have a new column on “career and employment” as a way to share practical, concrete information about career and jobs with all of our members. The column will be in a Q&A format, where members send in any questions they have about career and employment and they are answered here. This column could address questions about a broad array of issues related to employment and career, including effective job search strategies, what it is like to work in an applied setting, work/life balance, or navigating the tenure-track. I know I will not personally be able to answer all of your questions, so in most situations I will be seeking out members of the Family Section to interview. By drawing on the experiences of our membership, we can learn from each other.

This column will be a safe place to ask the kinds of questions that you might feel uncomfortable or embarrassed posing to your advisor or to your colleagues. Your questions will be handled **confidentially**.

So... Let's get real and talk about jobs! Email questions to jartis@depaul.edu [subject line: STRAIGHT TALK]. All questions will be treated with 100% confidentiality.

Members' New Books

New from NYU Press: *The Gender Trap: Parents and the Pitfalls of Raising Boys and Girls* by Emily W. Kane, Professor of Sociology, Bates College

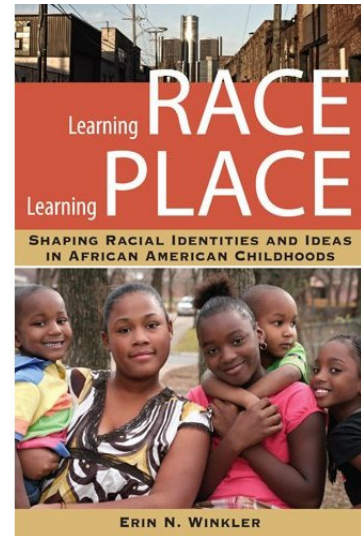


From the selection of toys, clothes, and activities to styles of play and emotional expression, the family is ground zero for where children learn about gender. Despite recent awareness that girls are not too fragile to play sports and that boys can benefit from learning to cook, we still find ourselves surrounded by limited gender expectations and persistent gender inequalities. Through the engaging stories of parents from a wide range of backgrounds, [*The Gender Trap*](#) provides a detailed account of how today's parents understand, enforce, and resist the gendering of their children. Emily W. Kane shows how most parents make efforts to loosen gendered constraints for their children, while also engaging in a variety of behaviors that reproduce traditionally gendered childhoods, ultimately arguing that conventional gender expectations are deeply entrenched and that there is great tension in attempting to undo them while letting 'boys be boys' and 'girls be girls.'

Members' New Books Continued

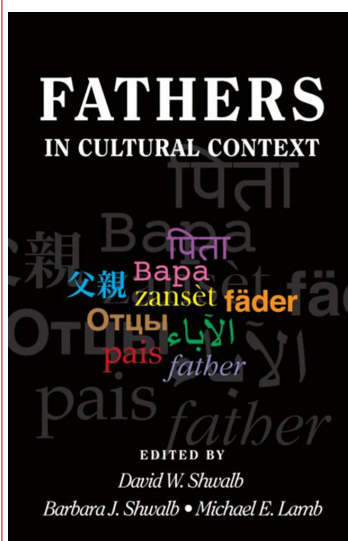
New from Rutgers University Press, Series in Childhood Studies: *Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Identities and Ideas in African American Childhoods* by Erin N. Winkler, Associate Professor of Africology, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

How do children negotiate and make meaning of multiple and conflicting messages to develop their own ideas about race? *Learning Race, Learning Place* engages this question using in-depth interviews with an economically diverse group of African American children and their mothers. Through these rich narratives, Erin N. Winkler seeks to reorient the way we look at how children develop their ideas about race through the introduction of a new framework—comprehensive racial learning—that shows the importance of considering this process from children's points of view and listening to their interpretations of their experiences, which are often quite different from what the adults around them expect or intend. Winkler examines the roles of multiple actors and influences, including gender, skin tone, colorblind rhetoric, peers, family, media, school, and, especially, place. She brings to the fore the complex and understudied power of place, positing that while children's racial identities and experiences are shaped by a national construction of race, they are also specific to a particular place that exerts both direct and indirect influence on their racial identities and ideas.



New from Routledge: *Fathers in a Cultural Context*, edited by David W. Shwalb, Barbara J. Shwalb, and Michael E. Lamb with a forward by Joseph Pleck

Looking to bring a more cross-culturally comparative perspective on fatherhood to your courses or research? *Fathers in Cultural Context* brings cutting-edge, contemporary research on fathering around the world into a globally comparative perspective. From fathering in China and Russia to South Africa and Scandinavia, international experts



discuss cultural and historical influences, variations between and within cultures, and socioeconomic conditions and policies that impact fathering. Over 1,000 studies on fathering published in languages other than English are made accessible to readers. Each chapter features personal case stories, photos, and maps to help readers create an engaging picture of various cultural contexts. Empirical evidence is blended with the authors' expert opinions providing a comprehensive view of what it is like to be a father in each culture. The book opens by explaining theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research on fathers. The main chapters are then organized by world regions—Asia and the Middle East, Africa, North and South America, Europe, and Australia. The concluding chapter integrates and compares all the chapters, and makes suggestions for future research. This thought-provoking anthology is an ideal reader for graduate or advanced undergraduate courses on child development, fathering, or family processes taught in family studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology, education, and gender/women's studies, and ethnic studies departments. Practitioners, educators, policymakers, and researchers interested in the study of father involvement will also appreciate this book.

JOB ADS**Assistant Professor Women's and Gender Studies, Wellesley College**

The Women's and Gender Studies Department at Wellesley College invites applications for a tenure-track, beginning assistant professor in migration and transnationalism to start in the fall, 2013. Priority will be given to social science scholars whose work is non-US based. A statement of teaching and research interests should be included in the cover letter; CV, a writing sample and three letters of recommendation are required. (The online application will request names/ email addresses so that recommenders or dossier services may submit the letters directly).

Materials should be submitted through the online application system at

<https://career.wellesley.edu>. All materials must be submitted by the closing date of November 15th to be considered. If there are difficulties submitting on line, please contact working@wellesley.edu.

For more information on the department, see: <http://www.wellesley.edu/WomenSt/>.

Hot off the Press!

Sun, Ken Chih-Yan. "Fashioning Reciprocal Norms of Aging in the Transnational Social Field: A Case of Immigrants in the U.S. and their Parents in Taiwan." *Journal of Family Issues* 33(9): 1240-1271.

Upcoming Conferences**Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)**

February 7-10, 2013
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM
www.socwomen.org

Demographic and Institutional Change in Global Families

Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
March 28-30, 2013
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/conference.php?t=652>

International Conference on Parent Education and Parenting

A Joint Meeting of the University of North Texas Center for Parent Education and the 20th Annual Conference on Parent Education and the International Sociological Association's Committee on Family Research
April 25-26, 2013
Denton, Texas
<https://parenteducation.unt.edu/conferences>

Please send job ads & announcements for conferences, new articles and books, for inclusion in our next newsletter to the editor, Heather Jacobson at jacobson@uta.edu.