

**Newsletter
Spring/Summer
2008
Volume 22, Number 1**

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From the Chair's Desk

Viktor Gecas
Purdue University



Message From the Chair

This time of year, early summer, seems to heighten my emotions: relief that spring semester and the stress of the academic year are over; the joy of seeing nature's rebirth after a long winter; and happy anticipation of the upcoming ASA meetings in Boston. It's a good time of year that regenerates my more positive emotions.

The ASA meetings are early this year, August 1 – 4. Most of the work in preparation of the meetings has been completed. The Section's program is in place (see the complete listing in this newsletter). The Program Committee, consisting of Kathryn Lively (Chair), Cynthia Siemsen, and Ellen Granberg, organized two excellent paper sessions. These sessions, along with our Council and Business meetings, are scheduled for Monday, August 4th. I hope you will be able to attend these events, even though they are scheduled for the last day of the conference.

Our reception, however, will be held Sunday evening, August 3rd, and will be held jointly with the Evolution and Sociology Section. This will enable us to cut down expenses, in a very expensive city, and to mingle with members of another section that shares some of our interests.

Our election and awards committees have done their work very well. Congratulations to David Karp, this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, for a career of

outstanding contributions to the sociology of emotions. Congratulations as well to Jan Stets and Jon Turner, who received the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award for their co-edited Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions; and to Tyson Smith, who received the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Also, congratulations to the newly elected Section officers: Amy Wharton, Chair-Elect; Jennifer Lois and Tim Hallett, Council Members. And thanks to all who agreed to run for office. We had a very strong slate of candidates.

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I am grateful to all who served the Section this year on our various committees: Nominations Committee members Becky Erickson (Chair), Richard Serpe, Doni Loseke, Peggy Thoits, Gretchen Peterson; Program Committee members Kathryn Lively (Chair), Cynthia Siemsen, Ellen Granberg; Publications Committee, David Boyns, Peter Burke, Jon Turner; Lifetime Achievement Award, Tom Scheff (Chair), Jeylan Mortimer, John DeLamater; Recent Contribution Award, David Franks (Chair), Michael Hammond, Tim Hallett; Graduate Student Paper Award, Melissa Sloan (Chair), Alison Bianchi, David Karp; and Membership Committee, Becky Erickson (Chair), Tiffani Everette. Thank you all.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston, to engaging in our section activities, and to passing the gavel to Jan Stets, our incoming Section Chair.

Viktor Gecas
Purdue University

Section Mission Statement

The ASA Section on Sociology of Emotions brings together social and behavioral scientists in order to promote the general development of the study of emotions through the exchange of ideas, theory, research, and teaching. Scholars from a variety of backgrounds are members of this section, and collectively encourage the study of emotions in everyday social life. Substantive topics of investigation include: the expression and experience of emotions, emotions in social interaction, identity and emotions, emotions in historical perspective, the cross-cultural study of emotions, emotions and violence, and the traditions of theory and research in the area of emotions.

The website for the ASA Section on Emotions seeks to serve the needs of section members and the greater American Sociological Association community. On these pages you will find information about the Section on Emotions, calls for papers, section awards, key publications in the area of emotions, and a link to the section newsletter. Please visit these pages regularly for updates and feel free to contact the site's webmaster, Peter J. Burke or the section chair, Viktor Gecas for questions, suggestions and comments. Enjoy!!

Review: *Amor a la Argentina*

Mauricio Florez-Morris
Department of Sociology
Universidad del Rosario
Bogotá - Colombia

Amor a la Argentina. Sexo, Moral y Política en el Siglo XX. [Love the Argentine Way. Sex, Morals and Politics in the 20th Century]. María Seoane. Buenos Aires, Argentina. Grupo Editorial Planeta. 2007. 403 Pages.

From a cultural insider perspective, María Seoane leads the reader through the evolution of romantic love and its intimate codes and minutiae as a socially-constructed emotion in 20th century Argentinean society. On this journey, the author provides a historical perspective of this emotion, where factors such as the mass media, sexuality, religion, economics and politics have had an important influence on its social expression. Some reader familiarity with the development of romantic love in the United States would make Seoane's book even more interesting, since the text offers solid ground for a cross-cultural comparison of how the phenomenon of romantic love has evolved in Argentinean and American society. Striking similarities include the influence that European immigration at the beginning of the century had on the perception of love and sexuality, the impact that women entering the job market as a result of the world wars had on their social liberation, the effects of generational imprints, such as the conservative 50s and the revolutionary 60s, on the perception of love, and the current interpretation of love within the widespread modern phenomena of cohabitation and the "alone together" family. On the other hand, there are interesting differences, since the swings of the pendulum between liberal and conservative attitudes toward love and sexuality in Argentina have been exacerbated by the alternation of authoritarian dictatorships and democratic governments. Military regimes were characterized by the enforcement of ethical codes that censure public expressions of romantic love, relegating these manifestations to the private sphere. For example, organized public demonstrations of love between homosexual couples have only appeared since the 1990s.

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Amor a la Argentina
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The first gay pride march in Buenos Aires took place in 1992, twenty-two years after the first march commemorating the 1969 Stonewall Inn riots in New York city, when the American homosexual community protested against the government's discriminatory policies. In Argentina, it was not until 1997 that same-sex couples were allowed to rent a room at an hourly-rate hotel.

Another interesting feature of the book is how Seoane takes examples of popular culture from the mass media to present the main characteristics of romantic love in each decade. For instance, tango lyrics are used to illustrate immigrant romantic relationships in poor tenement houses near the port at the beginning of the century. Soap operas display how the cultural atmosphere of the early 1970s stimulated romantic relationships between people from different social classes. Current talk shows with scientific experts as guests are models of the way that many of the romantic aspects of interpersonal relationships have been de-dramatized within society. Seoane also uses well-known role-model couples from each decade to illustrate key elements of their romantic relationship. For instance, the 1940s are illustrated by examining the case of Juan Domingo Perón and his wife Maria Eva Duarte, a couple who represent the growing importance of women in public affairs who became familiar to the American public through the musical "Evita", which later made into a movie, in 1997, starring Antonio Banderas and Madonna.

The book stresses that in recent decades, "love the Argentine way" has been heavily influenced by latter-day economic crises, which have caused phenomena such as the appearance of more tolerant attitudes toward sex between teenagers who are not yet formally engaged in the home of the male's parents (not the parents of the female), and the weakening of male chauvinist values due to the greater economic power that females wield in society. Other interesting features of love Argentine style are the use of computers for dating, a rise in narcissistic values among many youngsters — such as individuals who state that their main reason for working out at a gym is not to find a romantic partner but to become a center of attention, an object of seduction and desire — and the widespread occurrence of new,

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**Emotion Markers in the
Universe of Thought**

Thomas Scheff
University of California
Santa Barbara

Experts agree that emotion and feeling are important for many reasons. However, it seems to me there is also a reason not mentioned in the literature: emotions can serve to distinguish what is important to the individual from myriads of what is not.

This idea can be illustrated by my contacts with visitors to an Iraq War Memorial. The memorial is set up every Sunday on the beach alongside the Santa Barbara pier: three thousand crosses representing US military deaths in Iraq. It looks like a cemetery the size of a football field, clearly visible to car and pedestrian traffic on the pier.

Most don't stop to look, much less talk. Almost all tourists, they are on the pier for pleasure. The great majority don't seem to know or care that they are passing by a memorial. But a small percentage, perhaps one in ten, stop to look. Of these, some half seek more information.

Most of those who stop are puzzled. Like the other members of VFP on duty at the pier, I try to answer their questions. They are surprised and shocked when they understand what it is they are seeing. Women often cry, and men look sad and may make a donation, sometimes a sizable one. Most say "I didn't know so many had died," or "Before I saw this, it was just a number to me." The implication is that now it is not just a number, because it has awakened strong feeling.

In order to get thru the day, we all carry a vast baggage of cognitions. Modern societies require everyone to know a colossal number of words, phrases, facts and factoids. In addition to what is required, each person also carries his or her own personal mass of thoughts and memories. Most are not particularly meaningful, being "just a number/thought/memory/ idea," etc. It may be that emotions and feelings, even weak ones, can

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Emotion Section Awards

David Karp Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Each year, the Sociology of Emotion section presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to one of its members with "a record of several years of scholarly work (books and/or articles) of exceptional merit that has developed and extended the sociology of emotions empirically, theoretically, or methodologically. David Karp is this year's recipient, for a career of outstanding contributions to our understanding of emotions.

Previous Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

- 2007 Spencer Cahill (University of South Florida)
- 2006 Peggy A. Thoits (University of North Carolina)
- 2005 Lynn Smith-Lovin (Duke University)
- 2004 Randall Collins (University of Pennsylvania)
- 2003 Theodore D. Kemper (St. John's University)
- 2002 David R. Heise (Indiana University)
- 2001 Arlie Hochschild (University of California – Berkeley)
- 2000 Thomas J. Scheff (University of California – Santa Barbara)

Jan E. Stets and Jonathan H. Turner receive Outstanding Recent Contribution Award

The Recent Contributions Committee for the ASA Subsection for the Sociology of Emotions has given the 2008 award to Jan E. Stets and Jonathan H. Turner (eds.) of the *Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions*, published by the Springer Press 2006. As committee member Tim Hallett has appropriately remarked: The volume represents a "timely, and important overview of where the sociology of emotions has been and where it is going. It reflects the diversity and creativeness of the field and all of the people doing work in the area, and it reflects the great skill of the authors in their ability to organize and communicate this work."

Outstanding Recent Contribution Awards

- 2008 Jan E. Stets and Jonathan H. Turner (eds.) (Book) *Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions*
- 2007 Robin A. Simon and Leda E. Nath (Article) "Gender and Emotion in the United States: Do Men and Women Differ in Self-Reports of Feelings and Expressive Behavior."
- 2005 Kathryn Lively and David Heise (Article) "Sociological Realms of Emotional Experience" *American Journal of Sociology* (2004)
- 2004 Randall Collins (Book) *Interaction Ritual Chains* (2004)
- 2003 Rebecca J. Erickson and Christian Ritt (Article) "Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Inauthenticity: Does Gender Matter?" *Social Psychology Quarterly* (2001)
- 2002 Jonathan Turner (Book) *On the Origins of Human Emotion: A Sociological Inquiry Into the Evolution of Human Affect.* (2000)
- 2001 Guobin Young (Article) "Achieving Emotions in Collective Action: Emotional Processes and Movement Mobilization in the 1989 Chinese Student Movement." *The Sociological Quarterly* (2000)
- 2000 Candace Clark (Book) *Misery and Company: Sympathy and Everyday Life* (1997)

Sociology of Emotions at the ASA

Council and Business Meetings:

Council and Business meetings will be during the regularly scheduled time slot: Monday, August 4, 2:30 – 4:10. We will hold our Council meeting 2:30 – 3:00, and the Business meeting 3:00 – 4:10.

Advances in Theory and Research in the Sociology of Emotion

Sponsor: Section on Sociology of Emotions
Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 4 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm
Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: Ellen M. Granberg (Clemson University)

The Links Between Neighborhood Disadvantage and Anger: Perceived Disorder, Fear of Victimization, and Psychological Distress - Padraic Joseph Burns (North Carolina State University)

Identity Disconfirmation and Agitation in a Sample of Registered Nurses - Tiffani Everett (University of Georgia)

Emotion Work in the Age of Insecurity - Marianne Cooper (University of California-Berkeley)

How Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin Do Anger: Emotive Performance, Cultural Schema, and Reflexivity - Kwai Hang Ng (University of California, San Diego), *Jeffrey Lowell Kidder (University of California, San Diego)

Sociology of Emotion

Sponsor: Section on Sociology of Emotions
Scheduled Time: Mon, Aug 4 - 10:30am - 12:10pm
Building: Boston Marriott Copley Place

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: Cynthia M. Siemsen (California State University, Chico)

Emotion Work: Disclosure and Social Support among Breast Cancer Survivors - Grace Jeanmee Yoo (San Francisco State University), Caryn Aviv (University of Denver), Ellen Levine (San Francisco State University)

Emotions at Work: Managing Pet Owners' Grief and Guilt in Veterinary Euthanasia Encounters - Patricia Morris (Northeastern University)

Great Expectations: Emotion as Central to the Experiential Consumption of Birth - Markella Rutherford (Wellesley College), Selina R. Gallo-Cruz (Emory University)

Passion Work: The Joint Production of Emotional Labor in Professional Wrestling - Tyson Smith (State University of New York-Stony Brook)

Discussant: Kathryn J. Lively (Dartmouth College)

Sociology of Emotions 2007-08 Officers and Committees

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Chair: Viktor Gecas, Purdue University

Chair-Elect: Jan Stets, UC Riverside

Past Chair: Dawn T. Robinson, University of Georgia

Secretary-Treasurer: Alicia Cast, Iowa State University

2007-2008 Committees

NOMINATIONS

Becky Erickson (Chair), University of Akron

Richard Serpe, Kent State

Doni Loseke, U. of South Florida

Peggy Thoits, UNC-Chapel Hill

Gretchen Peterson, CSU-Los Angeles

PROGRAM

Kathryn Lively (Chair), Dartmouth College

Cynthia Siemsen, CSU, Chico

Ellen Granberg, Clemson

PUBLICATIONS

David Boyns, Newsletter, CSU, Northridge

Peter Burke, Website, UC, Riverside

Jonathan Turner, UC, Riverside

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Thomas Scheff, UC, Santa Barbara

Jeylan Mortimer, Minnesota

John DeLamater, Wisconsin

RECENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD

David Franks (Chair), Virginia Commonwealth

Michael Hammond, Univ. of Toronto

Tim Hallett, Indiana University

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Melissa Sloan (Chair), Drew University

Alison Bianchi, University of Iowa

David Karp, Boston College

MEMBERSHIP (Ad Hoc)

Becky Erickson (Chair), University of Akron

Tiffani Everette, University of Georgia

Amor a la Argentina continued from page 3

postmodern types of romantic relationships like “amigovio” (which refers to a non-exclusive romantic relationship with possible sexual connotations), a concept associated with a homonymous television show in Argentina for pre-teens where couples enjoy half-friend, half-courtship relationships that are colloquially defined as “great friendships with beautiful secrets.”

As far as the impact that the evolution of romantic love in Argentina has had on intergenerational relationships is concerned, the author points out that with each new evolution of romantic relationships, children have not merely disappointed their parents, they have also made them ponder about the way they live their own lives. This, according to the author, is even more uncomfortable for the older generations.

For a typical American reader, the book has the drawback that it is published in Spanish only. Additionally, an American expert on the sociology of emotions may have mixed reactions, because while it makes several interesting references to sociological work done in Argentina, which is little known in the United States, it fails to mention seminal work in the field of emotions produced outside of Argentina. In spite of these understandable shortcomings, the caliber of the writing, the depth of its historical research and, overall, the enchanting quality of this case study make this book a valuable Latin American contribution to the field of the sociology of emotions.

Emotion Markers continued from page 3

serve as tags for what is significant. The visitors to the war memorial already knew that many US soldiers had died in Iraq, but it was just one of many numbers that meant little to them.

Unlike the intergalactic universe of cognitions, the domain of emotion and feeling is quite small. There may be only a dozen or so true emotions, culturally universal, genetically determined states of bodily arousal (E.g, fear, grief, anger, shame). There are more affects, emotion and cognition combinations, with the emotion part strong (jealousy, vengefulness, etc.), say fifty. Finally there is a still larger domain of feelings, also a cognition/emotion combination, but with the emotion component weak, often a mere tinge (e.g., nostalgia). Perhaps there are hundreds of these. But compared to the “numberless infinity” (John Donne’s phrase) of cognitions, even a tinge of emotion may be enough to provide force and significance. Without emotions we would all be adrift in an endless ocean of thoughts, most of them holding little or no meaning. The mind, as we say, is free. Emotions point us toward meaning in our lives.

However, in modern societies, spontaneous emotions are systematically discouraged, both in children and in adults. Boys, especially, quickly learn that emotions other than anger are usually taken as a sign of weakness. Women in the workplace know that crying is unlikely to be tolerated. Recent medical research on emotions treats them as the enemy. Not only bouts of anger, but also fear, grief, and shame, may be diagnosed as Emotional Lability (EL), or a more extreme label, “Emotional Incontinence.”

Hospice workers report that most family networks quickly become intolerant of normal grieving. In the fast pace of hypercognized societies, one learns that there is “No Time to Cry.”

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**Emotion Markers
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*My father died a year ago today,
the rooster started crowing when they carried Dad
away
There beside my mother, in the living room, I
stood
with my brothers and my sisters knowing Dad was
gone for good
Well, I stayed at home just long enough to lay him
in the ground
and then I caught a plane to do a show up north in
Detroit town
because I'm older now and I've got no time to cry*

*I've got no time to look back, I've got no time to
see
the pieces of my heart that have been ripped
away from me
and if the feeling starts to coming, I've learned to
stop 'em fast
'cause I don't know, if I let them go, they might not
wanna pass
And there's just so many people trying to get me
on the phone
and there's bills to pay, and songs to play, and a
house to make a home
I guess I'm older now and I've got no time to cry...
(Iris Dement 1993)*

The intolerance of emotion and the mass of hyper-cognition together may be the main reason that the need for meaning can be exploited. In mass entertainment, pop music and commercial films usually follow mechanical formulas that arouse emotions. Most pop songs attract attention not because of their art, but because they target feelings of love and of loss. Horror films, similarly, arouse fear. Action films both arouse and justify the affect of vengeance. Mass entertainment seems to be popular to the extent that it arouses emotions, with the content much less important.

Political exploitation of the need for meaning thru emotion may be a similar device. The fraudulent marketing of the Iraq war was probably successful because it played on and amplified the fear and vengefulness in the public that resulted from 9/11. Perhaps manipulation of the public will continue as long as authentic emotions are lost in a sea of cognition.

**Psychoanalysis and Society
July 31, 2008, Sheraton Hotel**

Last year, as many of you may know, an informal group of scholars gathered together to discuss relationships of Freudian psychoanalysis to sociological issues. This ranged from the role of the unconscious in everyday life to the unconscious aspects of war, peace and revolution. The conference came out of a meeting organized by Lynn Chancer at the 2006 ASA. Last year, she and Lauren Langman organized the symposium. It was far better attended and more successful than we imagined. Everyone wanted us to repeat it. Therefore, we are going to do it again, this time we will be joined by Patricia Clough and Catherine Silver.

We again cordially invite interested parties to join us for a very exciting day of formal and informal discussions. Our program has not yet been finalized but our plenary speaker will be Fred Alford, author of about 20 books, which include: Psychology and the Natural Law of Reparation, Levinas, Psychoanalysis, and the Frankfurt School, Group Psychology and Political, The Psychoanalytic Theory of Greek Tragedy, The Self in Social Theory: A Psychoanalytic Account of its Construction in Plato, Melanie Klein and Critical Social Theory, Narcissism: Socrates, the Frankfurt School, and Psychoanalytic Theory,

We expect to have 5 panels. We will have one panel on Psychoanalysis and Social Critique and other on Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Masculinity-this one will include discussions about the war in Iraq. There will be another on Personal Experience and Psychoanalytic Work, Psychoanalysts who are Sociologists, and finally, How Sociologists use Psychoanalytic Ideas in Their Work.

When: Thursday, July 31; 9:00am-6:00pm. Then reception and dinner
Where: Sheraton Boston, as noted below. Meeting Room(s): Beacon G and H
How: There will be no charge for attendance, but please pre register. We barely had enough room last year and want to try to hold it at about 50 or so people. Please reply to either:
Lynn Chancer lchancer@hunter.cuny.edu
Lauren Langman Llang944@aol.com

NEW FROM THE GUILFORD PRESS

Handbook of Emotions, Third Edition

Edited by **Michael Lewis, PhD**, Institute for the Study of Child Development, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; **Jeannette M. Haviland-Jones, PhD**, Human Emotions Lab, Department of Psychology, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; and **Lisa Feldman Barrett, PhD**, Interdisciplinary Affective Science Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Boston College

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"Once again, Lewis et al. have made it easy for anyone in the scholarly community to gain a rich appreciation of the current state of knowledge regarding emotions. This edition of the *Handbook* allows the current cohort of active investigators to see the next set of questions that must be answered."

—Jerome Kagan, PhD, Daniel and Amy Starch Research Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, Harvard University

"The *Handbook of Emotions* has established itself as the standard reference in its field. Comprehensive, cogent, incisive, and authoritative, this volume is truly extraordinary. Its coverage and writing style make it a suitable text for graduate (and even advanced undergraduate) courses in human emotions. No other treatment of emotion touches so broadly and crisply on the major subfields of emotion, including basic, applied, medical, and mental health approaches. This third edition belongs on the shelves of everyone striving to understand emotions, and is a splendid high-level invitation to explore what has become one of the central fields of study in the behavioral sciences."

—Joseph J. Campos, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, and Cofounder, International Society for Research on Emotions

DESCRIPTION

Now in a thoroughly revised and expanded third edition, this authoritative handbook reviews current knowledge about all aspects of emotion and its role in human behavior. The field's foremost researchers explore how emotion intersects with biology, developmental processes, social behavior, personality, cognition, and physical and mental health. Also presented are state-of-the-science perspectives on specific emotions, such as fear, anger, shame, disgust, positive emotions, and sadness. Extensively rewritten to reflect major scientific, theoretical, and clinical advances, the third edition features many new chapters and authors. New topics include emotion regulation, neuroimaging approaches, emotions in psychotherapy, the social functions of emotion, emotional complexity, emotion across the lifespan, transdiagnostic emotional disturbances in psychopathology, and much more.



Call for Papers

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of Emotion Review published from 2009**

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Editors-in-Chief – James A. Russell & Lisa Feldman Barrett, *Boston College, USA*

Journal Homepage - <http://er.sagepub.com>

Emotion Review is a new quarterly journal published by SAGE Publications with the first issue to appear in January 2009.

Its unique aim will be to publish theoretical, conceptual, and review papers—often with commentaries—to advance the field of emotion theory and research.

Emotion Review invites articles from the entire international community. The *Review* will publish work across a wide field of research that traverses many disciplines. The *Review* will be open to publishing work in anthropology, biology, computer science, economics, history, humanities, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy, physiology, political science, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, and in other areas where emotion research is active.

Forthcoming Special Issues

- The Embodiment of Emotion
- The Philosophy of Robert Solomon
- The History of Emotion Theory
- The Phenomenology of Conscious Emotional Experience

Target Articles

- The Social Sharing of Emotion
- What Are Basic Emotions?