

# CHILDNEWS

Newsletter of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section of the American Sociological Association

*"What is done to children, they will do to society."*  
--Karl Menninger

FALL 2003

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## FROM THE CHAIR

**Spencer Cahill, University of South Florida**

I have the good fortune of assuming the Chair of the Section on Children and Youth at this time. Thanks to efforts of past chairs, most recently Gary Alan Fine and Barrie Thorne before him, and past and present Councils, the Section has a stable membership and is vividly vital, according to the ASA's designated criteria. That makes my job much easier.

Also making my job easier are the many members of the section who graciously agreed to organize our program for next year's meetings and to serve on our three standing committees. First, I thank Laura Fingerson for agreeing to organize the section roundtables, Katherine Brown Rosier who agreed to organize an open regular session on "Children in Their Social Worlds," and Amy Best who is organizing another open regular session on "Youth in Public Contexts." I also thank the section's Chair Elect, Betty Menaghan, for helping arrange a co-sponsored session with the Population Section on "Race, Ethnicity and the Assimilation of Immigrant Youth," being organized by Kathryn Harker Tillman of Florida State University. I encourage everyone to submit relevant papers for consideration for presentation at these various sessions.

I am also grateful to those members who agreed to serve on and chair the section's three standing committees. The members of those three committees are too numerous to thank individually here, but I do want to acknowledge those who have assumed the responsibilities of chairing the section's committees. Tyrone Forman is chair of the Nominations Committee, Gary Alan Fine chair of the Graduate Student Award Committee, and Sheryl Tynes chair of the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award Committee.

**FROM THE CHAIR, CONTD.**

This is the second year of the first three year cycle of our new awards. Last year, we presented our first Award for Distinguished Contribution Early in a Career to Robert Crosnoe. In 2004, we will present our first Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship, and the following year, 2005, our first for Distinguished Contribution to Advocacy. We will then repeat the cycle. I do encourage you to send nominations for the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award to Sheryl and to encourage your graduate students to send their (and if you are a graduate student to send your own) papers to Gary for consideration for the Graduate Student Award.

Finally, I invite all of you to contact me with any ideas you might have about section activities or other ways to contribute to the vitality of the section. And, of course, I welcome all offers to serve the section in whatever capacity is most fitting.

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**FROM THE EDITOR****Roblyn Rawlins**

If you would like to submit an announcement, comment, guest column, editorial, etc. for the spring edition of ChildNews, please contact me (rrawlins@cnr.edu) by March 10, 2003.

**ASA SECTION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH ANNUAL REPORT**

**Gary Alan Fine, Chair, 2002-03**  
**(Based, in part, on Secretary-Treasurer Report, submitted by Annette Lareau)**

The year 2002-2003 was a successful year for the ASA Section on Children and Youth. Membership in the section remained generally stable; the section gave its first award to a young scholar, and by virtue of a final day bonus and an arrangement with the Section on the Sociology of the Family, four sessions for organized for the Atlanta meetings. Because the sessions were held on the final day, attendance was lower than would have been desired (10-25 people at most sessions), but the quality of presentations was high.

The business meeting of the section was attended by 28 people. Gary Alan Fine, Section Chair for 2002-2003 presided. The meeting included a report from the Secretary-Treasurer, Annette Lareau from Temple University. The report indicated that as of December 31, 2003 the section had 334 members (i.e., 222 regular members, 103 student members, and 9 low-income members). As ASA considers sections to be "unhealthy" if they have fewer than 200 members, the section is in healthy shape. Although the section began with a membership of 450 but for the last few years the membership has been stable in the current range.

The sources of income for the section include a contribution from the ASA (approximately \$1600), dues from section members (approximately \$900), and occasional bits of other income, for example from royalties left to the section. Our expenses are the newsletter (which averages around \$110), the reception

## ANNUAL REPORT CONT'D.

(which varies from year to year but this year cost around \$550), a travel contribution for the graduate student paper award winner (\$400), and the costs of plaques (which will be around \$250). The section usually completed the fiscal year with a small surplus.

The section newsletter is progressing nicely under the editorship of Roblyn Rawlins of the College of New Rochelle. It has some new features including book reviews and there is an attempt to increase the number of contributions from members.

According to the by-laws of the section, nominations are taken from the floor for members to serve on the Nominations committee for the section. For the 2003-2004 year, Robert Crosnoe, University of Texas, Prudence Carter, Harvard, and Valerie Leiter, Simmons College, were nominated to constitute the section's Nominations Committee.

The student paper award was won by Christine Carter, at University of California Berkeley, for her paper entitled "Love Comes in Different Packages: The Effect of Family Social Capital on Childhood Thriving." The Early Career Award was awarded to Robert Crosnoe of University of Texas, Austin. Robert Crosnoe received his doctoral degree from Stanford University in 1999. He then had a position as a post-doctoral fellow at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill before joining the faculty of University of Texas Austin in 2001.

The section gives three awards in a three year rotation: Early Career Award (awarded in 2003), Distinguished Publication Award (awarded in 2004), and Advocacy Award given to an organization that engages in social advocacy for children (to be awarded in 2005). Spencer Cahill will chair the section for 2003-

2004, and is developing plans for sessions during the San Francisco meetings.

### THANK YOU!

To our 2002-03 retiring officers & council members

Gary Alan Fine, Chair  
Barrie Thorne, Past-Chair  
Annette Lareau, Secretary/Treasurer

Retiring council members:

Paul Amato  
April Brayfield  
Demie Kurz

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Laura Fingerson**

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

**Tolman, Deborah. 2002. *Dilemmas of Desire: Teenage Girls Talk about Sexuality*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.**

There is a dire lack of research on girls' experiences of sexuality, particularly how they experience and understand sexual desire. Deborah Tolman conducted 30 interviews of both urban and suburban girls age 15-18 to ask them about this very private and complex issue. Still today in the age of Brittany Spears and midriffs, girls must walk the fine line

**BOOK REVIEWS CONT'D.**

between Madonna and whore and are not given rights to their own sexual subjectivity. The framing of sex for girls into dualistic good versus bad categories leaves no room for girls to interpret and understand their own experiences.

The girls in Tolman's study have a variety of responses to their sexual desire, including silence, confusion, resistance, ambivalence, and, for a few rare girls, entitlement. The data, presented in the form of individual profiles and transcripts, and the analyses are heavily based in the educational psychology that Tolman was trained in (in part by Carol Gilligan). However, she addresses the larger social and cultural contexts of these girls' lives, such as the influence of patriarchal norms. She argues that the dilemma of girls' sexual desire is not a personal problem, but a social issue. It would be useful to take a sociological look at this issue and see how girls' desire is interpreted through social interaction and in peer groups. However, according to Tolman, girls do not talk about their sexual desire with even their closest friends. The book is very readable for both academic and general audiences and will be useful for both researchers and students (particularly her clear definitions of her concepts). Tolman's articles present the information in a more concise form for use in courses. Tolman's work is a nice companion to Michelle Fine's (1988) "Missing Discourse of Desire" (Harvard Educational Review).

**Lewis, Amanda. 2003. *Race in the Schoolyard: Negotiating the Color Line in Classrooms and Communities*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.**

Amanda Lewis, a sociologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, explores how race is given meaning in everyday interactions in three southern California elementary schools: one mostly nonwhite urban, one mostly white suburban, and one mixed race Spanish immersion. She spent one year in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, on the school grounds, and in interviews with parents, teachers, and administrators. As a former teacher, Lewis provided some instructional assistance and aligned herself more with the adults than the children. As such, her analyses of the interactions are based in the sociology of race and the sociology of schooling, rather than the sociology of childhood. She nicely defines and addresses many sociological concepts, such as ideology, construction of race, and the effect of institutions and social structure on everyday life. Her clear concepts and strong analyses make this a good book for students and researchers of all levels. Using the analytical frame of Bourdieu's notions of capital, Lewis finds that schools are race-making institutions with deep racial divisions and that schools serve to produce racial inequality rather than being the "great equalizer." Lewis's book is one of the first in the Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies edited by Myra Bluebond-Langer, a professor of anthropology at Rutgers University. While reading her book, I was reminded of Ann Arnett Ferguson's (2000) "Bad Boys: Public Schools and the Making of Black Masculinity." Ferguson's book is much more child-centered and she too analyzes race in schooling from both structural and micro levels.

**BOOKS AND NOTABLES****Unequal Childhoods:****Class, Race, and Family Life. 2003.****Annette Lareau. University of California Press.**

Class does make a difference in the lives and futures of American children. Drawing on in-depth observations of black and white middle-class, working-class, and poor families, *Unequal Childhoods* explores this fact, offering a picture of childhood today. Here are the frenetic families managing their children's hectic schedules of "leisure" activities; and here are families with plenty of time but little economic security. Lareau shows how middle-class parents, whether black or white, engage in a process of "concerted cultivation" designed to draw out children's talents and skills, while working-class and poor families rely on "the accomplishment of natural growth," in which a child's development unfolds spontaneously--as long as basic comfort, food, and shelter are provided. Each of these approaches to childrearing brings its own benefits and its own drawbacks. In identifying and analyzing differences between the two, Lareau demonstrates the power, and limits, of social class in shaping the lives of America's children. (from UC Press website)

**ANNOUNCING A NEW JOURNAL:****Children, Youth and Environments is now online!**

With the launch of its first issue, *Children, Youth and Environments* (CYE) brings free access to the latest peer-reviewed research on environments for young people right to your computer. Find the journal at <http://cye.colorado.edu/>  
Access is free.

This long-awaited redevelopment of the print journal, *Children's Environments*, offers a new, high-quality outlet for refereed articles on children and youth around the world. Guided by a distinguished international panel of editorial advisors, CYE targets a global and multidisciplinary audience.

CYE publishes research from the social sciences, the design professions, the humanities, education and other relevant disciplines. Articles cover varied topics and approaches, including quantitative and qualitative empirical research; theoretical, methodological and historical investigations; critical literature reviews; design analyses; post-occupancy evaluations; policy studies; and program assessments. We welcome papers from diverse viewpoints and different cultures.

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**Understanding Childhood: An Interdisciplinary Approach (Vol. 1)**

Martin Woodhead and Heather Montgomery, eds.

**Childhoods in Context (Vol. 2)**

Janet Maybin and Martin Woodhead, eds.

**Children's Cultural Worlds (Vol. 3)**

Mary Jane Kehily and Joan Swann, eds.

**Changing Childhoods: Local and Global (Vol. 4).**

Heather Montgomery, Rachel Burr and Martin Woodhead, eds.

**Wiley. The Open University, 2003.**

The organizers of the new U.K. Open University childhood/youth course of study have developed four original textbooks, which have received very favorable reviews from Section members Barrie Thorne and Bill Corsaro. The core introductory course in the new BA degree, *Childhood*, is built around a series of specially prepared books, co-published with Wiley 2003 and available independently from the course. According to Barrie, "If you're engaged in childhood studies, you'll want to check out these four volumes -- they cross disciplines and approaches in inspiring ways. (I write this out of enthusiasm to share- no one is paying me for this promotion!)"

**SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Listserv of the Sociology of Children & Youth Section*

If you would like to join our list-serve, in which we discuss the business of our section and share information, then follow the procedure below.) Address an email message to:

[majordomo@listserv.asanet.org](mailto:majordomo@listserv.asanet.org).

Leave the subject field blank. In the message body, type: subscribe children

The rest of the body must be blank (no signature), OR type two hyphens (--) on the

next line after the subscribe command to have the listserv ignore the other text that follows.

2) Send the message.

3) You will receive an automatic message that instructs you to confirm your subscription. You will be given an authorization key and directions to respond. Then after you have sent the confirmation message, you will receive two automatic welcoming messages. Good luck!

If you have any problems subscribing to the listserv, please email the national office, [sections@asanet.org](mailto:sections@asanet.org)

***Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship: Call for Nominations***

The ASA Section on Children and Youth is soliciting nominations for our distinguished contribution to scholarship award. This award, whose specific focus will rotate in a three-year cycle, is designed to recognize distinguished contributions in the areas of scholarship, advocacy and early career. This year will focus on contributions to scholarship on children and youth, as reflected in an outstanding journal article or book. Nominated publications must have appeared between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2003. Send nominations, publication information, and current contact information for the nominee to Sheryl Tynes at [stynes@trinity.edu](mailto:stynes@trinity.edu) no later than March 1, 2004. Self nominations are acceptable.

***Student Paper Competition: Call for Nominations***

The ASA Sociology of Children and Youth Section announces its annual student paper competition. The deadline for submission of student papers is March 1, 2004. Faculty and students are invited to nominate student papers. To qualify, the paper must be composed by someone who was a student at

the time the paper was written. The paper must have made a "public appearance" in 2003 or 2004. That is, a paper is eligible for the award if it: a) was submitted as a partial requirement for a class or seminar held in the years in question; b) was presented at a professional meeting in those years; or c) was accepted for publication or appeared in print in those years. Students may send in their own papers. Individuals may also nominate particularly outstanding papers that they have read in published form or that were read at professional meetings. Send 3 copies of the paper to: Gary Alan Fine, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 1810 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208-1330.

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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *ASR: Call for Papers and Reviewers*

As a member of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section of ASA, I would like to encourage you to submit your next paper to the American Sociological Review. This means you! As my six year old daughter Madeleine likes to say, "I mean it! I'm serious!" Please don't hold back because you think your paper may not quite fit what you assume is a "standard ASR paper." The new editorial team is seeking to publish the best current work from every corner of sociology and every style of sociological research. Since we can't publish what is not submitted, our ability to achieve this objective depends on you. We can offer the unparalleled visibility of ASR, prompt reviews by the leading scholars in your area, and courteous and professional service by the ASR staff. So come publish in the friendly pages of ASR!

We also need you to volunteer to serve as a reviewer. Please join the ASR team and help us put out the best journal we possibly can. Don't be shy. Feel free to volunteer and to recommend other scholars that you feel would be good reviewers. Send your name and areas of interest to me at [asrpenn@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:asrpenn@sas.upenn.edu)

As of August 1, send your manuscripts to:

Jerry A. Jacobs  
Editor, American Sociological Review  
Department of Sociology  
University of Pennsylvania  
3718 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6299

### **Call for Papers and Reviewers for special issue of *Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Research* (Sage). "Children and Global, Commercial Culture."**

Dan Cook. University of Illinois, Guest Editor.

We invite the submission of papers that will focus on commercialized children's culture and practice in the context of an increasingly globalizing marketplace. We especially welcome papers that examine children and their childhoods in "third-world" or "Global South" countries and contexts as we envision an issue that traverses varied ethnicities and localities. We welcome many types of work, including theoretical discussions, ethnographic-interpretive research, generational and feminist approaches. We are also seeking reviewers. **Deadline:** April 15, 2004. For full Call for Papers either contact Dan Cook directly ([dtcook@uiuc.edu](mailto:dtcook@uiuc.edu)), or locate his page on the departmental website (<http://www.comm.uiuc.edu/Advertising/>) where there is a link.

**The Consumers, Commodities and Consumption Research Network**, loosely affiliated with ASA, has been in existence for 5 years serving as forum for sociologists interested in the study of consumption. We have a website, a biannual newsletter and a listserv. Members have organized ASA sessions, published teaching materials through the ASA, and attended receptions and dinners together. We are currently soliciting petitions from those interested in making this group a full ASA Section. If you are interested, contact Dan Cook directly ([dtcook@uiuc.edu](mailto:dtcook@uiuc.edu)) or download a petition from the group's website (<http://ist-socrates.berkeley.edu/~nalnik/ccn.html>). Petitions will be accepted at any time, but we are seeking to get as many as possible by October 26.

**Congratulations to Children and Youth Section member, Glen Elder.**

Glen H. Elder, Jr., Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Research Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with Rand Conger at the University of California at Davis, was recently honored with the 2003 award for Distinguished Service to Rural Life by the Rural Sociological Society. This award cites their long term program of longitudinal studies of rural Iowa families, children, and communities in the midst of a severe agricultural crisis. Three books and a large number of articles have been published to date. Comments below are from the award presentation, given by Cruz Torres, Society secretary: "the next award goes to two researchers who in the words of their nominator 'have used ambitious grantsmanship to do big science, that has cast a bright spotlight on rural families and

rural youth'... Their research shows America that rural communities provide guidelines for raising youth that suburbs would do well to emulate!" Submitted by Marie Kennedy at the University of North Carolina.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: WORK AND OCCUPATIONS**

*Work and Occupations* invites you to submit your manuscripts for peer review and possible publication. *WO* is a scholarly, sociological quarterly that publishes original research in the sociology of work, employment, labor, and social inequality in the workplace, labor force, and labor market. Consult the latest issue of *WO* for manuscript formatting and submission instructions. Manuscripts will not be returned. Send three copies of your paper to: Daniel B. Cornfield, Editor, *Work and Occupations*, Box 1811, Station B, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235. E-mail inquiries may be directed to the Editor at this address: [daniel.b.cornfield@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:daniel.b.cornfield@vanderbilt.edu)

**National Research Service Award:  
Mental Health and Adjustment in the Life Course**

The University of Minnesota is pleased to announce a postdoctoral position, a National Research Service Award, sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, on the psychosocial determinants of mental health and adjustment, with emphasis on childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood. Full-time, 12-month research training is provided. The appointment is for 2 years maximum, subject to review at the end of the first year. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes the changing social contexts of development; life course trajectories of mental health and behavioral adaptation; longitudinal assessment and analysis; at-risk populations;

and social policy. A series of core seminars and a research apprenticeship are key program elements.

Trainees will have opportunities to do longitudinal research on the following topics as well as other subjects of their own choosing: early work experience, mental health, and attainment; pathways of transition to adulthood; the joint development of autonomy and intimacy; the sources of competence and resilience in the face of adversity; physical and relational aggression; the life course consequences of victimization; cognitive and emotional factors in decision-making in criminal/delinquent and work behavior; perceptions of criminal sanctions and their efficacy in inhibiting offending; female inmates' adaptations to prison life as a function of prior life experiences; and trajectories of deviance and reintegration. This interdisciplinary program includes core faculty members from the Department of Sociology (Jeylan Mortimer [Director], Scott Eliason, Candace Kruttschnitt, Karen Lutfey, Ross Macmillan, Christopher Uggen); the Institute of Child Development (Andrew Collins, Nicki Crick, Ann Masten); and the School of Public Health's doctoral program in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration (Kathleen Call, Donna McAlpine, Michael Finch). The award

supports three predoctoral and one postdoctoral student. Competencies to be developed include solid disciplinary grounding, an interdisciplinary perspective, methodological expertise, and sensitivity to policy issues. U.S. citizens or residents are eligible. In addition to an annual stipend in accordance with NRSA guidelines, the award provides tuition, fees and medical insurance coverage. Postdoctoral candidates, who have received a Ph.D. in a social science discipline or an equivalent terminal degree, such as an M.D., public health, or nursing degree by June 2004, should provide a letter describing current research interests, a complete vita, university transcript, three letters of recommendation, and samples of written work. For full consideration, send postdoctoral application materials to Professor Jeylan Mortimer at the Life Course Center, Department of Sociology, 1014 Social Sciences Building, 267-19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, for admittance in June 2004 or thereafter. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2003. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

**GET OTHERS INVOLVED**

The vitality of our section depends on the number of our members. Getting graduate students involved in the section provides them with a home within the ASA while also invigorating our section membership. The ASA no longer allows sections to pay for graduate student memberships from their budgets. Perhaps your department or yourself might want to present graduate students with section membership? What a great way to "reward" students with opportunities for professional socialization while keeping our section vibrant!

**2004 Sociology of Children and Youth Section  
Membership Form**

(Please note that you must be a current ASA member to join)

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular member. I am already a member of the ASA and wish to join the Sociology of Children and Youth Section for 2004. Enclosed is my check (payable to ASA, Re: Children and Youth Section) for \$14.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student member. I am already a member of the ASA and wish to join the Sociology of Children and Youth Section for 2004. Enclosed is my check (payable to ASA, Re: Children and Youth Section) for \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to join the ASA and the Sociology of Children and Youth Section. Please send me a 2004 application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: American Sociological Association, Membership Services, 1307 New York Avenue, Washington D.C. 20005-4701