

Family Forum

FALL 2007 ~ ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

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Message from the Chair

Dear Family Section Members:

The family is a "happening" topic, judging from our section's increasing membership - now over 800. Pervasive family change - cohabitation, nonmarital births, multiple partner fertility, blended families - has many of us trying to figure out causal pathways. These changes link in subtle ways to trends in gender equality and greater inter-family inequality. All of which makes a fascinating area of study. One question I ponder often is the pros and cons of a social order with more freedom than previously to extract oneself from family and other commitments. To be sure, there are costs and benefits, winners and losers.

Our award committees will soon be at work to select recipients of the three awards our section gives every year at the annual meetings. You are invited to nominate people for faculty awards, and graduate students are invited to submit contenders for best student paper award. In either case, the method is e-mailing the committee chairperson. Here's a brief version of what to do, but more detail can be found at <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionfamily/awards.html>.

Sanjiv Gupta (sangupta@soc.umass.edu) chairs the committee to select the recipient of the award for distinguished career. The award recognizes the entire body of the person's work, not just one publication. The deadline is 3-1-08, and requires only that you send a paragraph description justifying the nomination. (The person's vita is helpful but not necessary.)

Pam Smock (pjsmock@umich.edu) chairs the committee to select the recipient of the William S. Goode award for best book published in 2006 or 2007 on the family. To nominate a book, write a letter briefly stating why the book should be considered. The deadline is 1-15-08.



Graduate students: You are invited to submit a paper of yours to be considered for the outstanding graduate student paper on the family. Send the paper by 4-1-08 as an attached file to me at pengland@stanford.edu as I chair the committee. Papers must be no more than 35 pages (inclusive of abstract, tables, figures, references, and notes) and must be entirely authored by one (or more) graduate students (or those receiving PhDs no earlier than December, 2006). There may not be a faculty coauthor. Papers accepted for publication or published remain eligible. The front page of the paper should provide your name, address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation, along with graduate student status (year in the program and expected date of M.A. or Ph.D. degree). Support letters from faculty advisors are unnecessary and not encouraged.

*Paula England
Chair, Family Section
Stanford University
October, 2007*



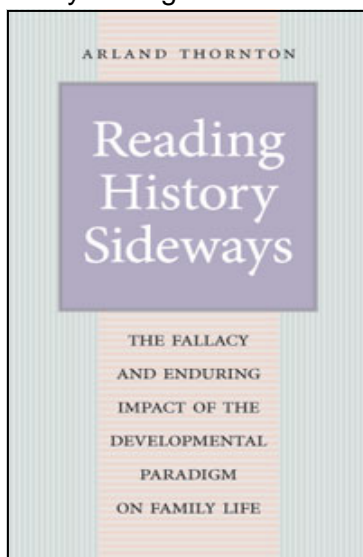
Congratulations 2007 Family Section Award Winners!



2007 William S. Goode Book Award Winner:
Arland Thornton, University of Michigan

Book: *Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life*

In the Goode tradition, this book addresses world wide patterns of family change, identifies common themes across a broad range of societies and teaches us lessons that can be applied in the study of family change in many settings in the world today. The book is devoted to describing and explaining more than two hundred years of scholarship on families in which scholars used comparative materials to create descriptions of historical family change – with that extensive literature discovered in the middle and late 1900's to be incorrect. In addition, the book explains how the paradigms and theories of family change and variation of the 1700's and



1800's were transformed into ideational forces that have been influencing world wide family behavior for two centuries. In fact, the book argues that these ideational forces were sufficiently powerful and widespread that they have played a major role in family change and variation in many countries.

Award Committee: Jennifer Glass (Chair), Phil Cohen, Maria Kefalas, Mignon Moore, and Jim Raymo.

2007 Distinguished Career Award Winner:
Frances K. Goldscheider, University of Maryland and Emeritus, Brown University

This award recognizes Fran Goldscheider's longstanding, important, and manifold contributions to family sociology. Goldscheider is a leading scholar in advancing understanding of how family characteristics and dynamics influence young adult living arrangements and transitions into



employment, unions, and parenthood, and how these vary by gender. Her classic 1976 article, "The Fall in Household Size and the Rise of the Primary Individual in the United States," first brought attention to the increasing numbers of adults who live alone. Ever since, she has been the leading figure in studies of the process of leaving home -- and sometimes coming back again. Her work has carefully documented how changing gender relations, increased educational attainment, economic restructuring, and an emergent individualist ethos have altered the forms, functions, and processes of American families. In particular, Goldscheider brought attention to families as a complex nexus of gender and generational relationships and pioneered vibrant scholarship on the origins and consequences of gender differences for family processes and outcomes. In her current research, she is exploring family factors that predict men's transition to step- and biological fatherhood. By seeking answers to central debates in family scholarship and, in doing so, raising new, provocative questions, Goldscheider's research has moved the field forward in important ways. Her work will, no doubt, continue to influence family scholars for generations to come.

Award Committee: Liana Sayer (Chair), Paul Amato, Suzanne Bianchi, Andy Cherlin, and Kathleen Gerson.



Congratulations 2007 Family Section Award Winners!



2007 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Winners

Co-Winner: Amy Hsin, University of California, Los Angeles

Paper: Mothers' Time with Children and the Social Reproduction of Cognitive Skills

In this paper, Hsin makes important contributions to the literature on work-family conflict and child development. While prior research suggests that maternal employment has negative consequences for early child development, this author demonstrates that (1) maternal employment is not an adequate proxy for maternal investments in children and (2) what matters for children's cognitive outcomes is mothers' verbal skills. That is, maternal time benefits children's cognitive outcomes *but only for mothers with higher verbal aptitude*. This finding appears robust and exists even after



children's initial ability taken into account. The work has implications for the reproduction of social and class inequality, as Hsin states, "time with children is a pathway through which highly skilled mothers impart human capital to children."

Award Committee: Pamela J. Smock (Chair), Deborah Carr, and I-Fen Lin.

Co-Winner: Christopher Wildeman, Princeton University

Paper: Parental Imprisonment, the Prison Boom and the Concentration of Childhood Disadvantage



Wildeman uses life table methods data from surveys of prison inmates as well as other data sources to provide new and vital knowledge about children's chances of a parent becoming incarcerated. While there is increasing research on incarceration and young men's life chances, there is little research providing foundational estimates for children, critical if we are to understand child well-being. The paper shows deep racial and, to some extent, class inequality. Of children born in 1990, one in five black children had a parent imprisoned; of those whose fathers were high school dropouts 2 in 5 black children had a father imprisoned; the fractions are far less for white children and for children of well-educated fathers. Racial and class inequality appears to be growing from the 1978 birth cohort to the 1990 birth cohort. The upshot is, as Wildeman states: "parental imprisonment is emerging as a... childhood risk that concentrates disadvantage among black children" with less educated parents.

Renewing or joining the Family Section is easy! Just complete the ASA membership form online at <http://www.asanet.org> or return the form via regular mail. Check the box next to the "Family Section" on the form. Section Dues are just \$12 per year (\$5.00 for student members).

Family Sessions at the 2008 ASA Meeting in Boston

YOUNG ROMANTIC AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Organizer: Kara Joyner, Bowling Green State University



FATHERHOOD, MOTHERHOOD, AND STEP-PARENTHOOD

Organizer: Joanna Reed, Northwestern University

CARE WORK, HOUSEWORK, AND CONSUMPTION IN FAMILIES

Organizer: Allison Pugh, University of Virginia

PLANNED AND UNPLANNED CHILDBEARING

(Co-Sponsored with Section on Population)

Organizer: Kelly Musick, University of Southern California

FAMILY PATTERNS: CLASS AND RACE-ETHNIC VARIATION

Organizer: Shirley Hill, University of Kansas

ROUNDTABLES

Organizer: Sharon Sassler, Cornell University



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

Upcoming Conferences

The **National Council on Family Relations** will host its 69th annual conference **November 7-10, 2007** in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of the conference is "Family Vulnerabilities: Challenges to Safety, Security, and Well-being". For a complete schedule of the conference program, go to: <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>.

The 9th annual **Fatherhood and Families conference** will be held **March 4-8, 2008** in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme of the conference is "Dads Make a Difference". For details, go to: <http://www.azffc.org/>.

The **Council on Contemporary Families** will host its annual conference **April 25-26, 2008** in Chicago, IL. The theme of the conference is "Family Issues in Contention". Please visit www.contemporaryfamilies.org for more information.

Other News

The journal ***Human Relations*** is accepting submissions for a special issue titled "Work-life Initiatives and Organizational Change". The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2008**. The goal of this special issue is to advance our understanding of the degree to which work-life initiatives that are designed to increase structural or cultural/relational support of the work-family-personal life interface benefit the health and well-being of employing organizations and work units, as well as employees on and off the job and their families. For more information, go to: <http://www.tavinstitute.org/humanrelations/>.

MomsRising.org is a rapidly-growing national and state-based grassroots organization working to build a truly family-friendly America to increase the economic security of all women and families. Founded in May, 2006, we have over 135,000 members and continue to grow each week by the hundreds to thousands. Our members are working mothers and fathers, women with small children, grandparents, stay-at-home-moms, and people from both rural and urban communities. MomsRising.org is bringing in and placing the voices of women and families at the center of our national political dialogue. You can join our work via our online outreaches. We'll provide you an opportunity to amplify your voice, participate in our democracy, and help bring about positive change. To learn more, visit MomsRising.org.



Job Opportunities

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

Arizona State. The School of Social and Family Dynamics (SSFD), an interdisciplinary unit at Arizona State (<http://www.asu.edu/ssfd>) invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor position with a focus on social networks beginning Fall 2008. For this position, successful candidates must have a PhD or equivalent by time of appointment, and have demonstrated potential in research, obtaining external funding, and teaching in areas related to social networks. Preference will be given to candidates who have evidence of conducting social network analyses with human children and/or adolescents. Preference also will be given to candidates who have evidence of working in interdisciplinary settings. Applications will be reviewed beginning November 22, 2007; if not filled, then every week thereafter until the search is closed. Send a letter of application describing your research and teaching background and interests, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and two samples of written work to David Schaefer (david.schaefer@asu.edu), Search Committee Chair, Arizona State University, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Tempe, AZ 85287-3701. Electronic submission of materials is preferred. A background check is required for employment. Arizona State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. ASU encourages and values a diverse workforce.

Colgate University. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-stream position at the rank of Assistant Professor in Sociology, to begin July 2008. We seek candidates who have teaching and research interests in one or more of the following areas: immigrant communities, transnational migration, sociology of the family, deviance, and criminology. Along with elective courses in his or her specialties, the successful candidate is expected to teach a required methods course (quantitative and qualitative) on a regular basis. Contributions to other departmental courses (introduction to sociology, sociology senior seminar) and, periodically, to Colgate's all-university programs, are also expected. Review of applications will begin October 25, 2007. PhD expected by time of hire. Please submit an application letter and supporting materials (CV, article-length writing sample, sample syllabus, brief statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of reference) to: Chair, Sociology Search, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Colgate University, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY

13346-9778. Colgate is committed to developing and sustaining a diverse faculty and staff to further the university's academic mission for our increasingly diverse student body. Colgate is an AA/EOE. Women and minorities are especially urged to apply for this position.

Sonoma State University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position to begin Fall 2008. Successful candidates will be teacher-scholars with a serious commitment to undergraduate teaching in a liberal arts setting and active involvement in the discipline of sociology. The position (#102928) requires the ability to teach classical sociological theory at the undergraduate level, as well as expertise in one or more of the following areas: (1) social work/social welfare, (2) social policy, (3) social inequalities, (4) research methods. Approximate salary range: \$51,000-56,000. Ph.D. in sociology required. MSW useful. Review will be conducted for those applications sent by November 15, 2007. For complete application information, see www.sonoma.edu/facaffairs. For additional information, contact Myrna Goodman, myrna.goodman@sonoma.edu, or Melinda Milligan, melinda.milligan@sonoma.edu. Sonoma State University is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer. The direct link to the complete application information is: <http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/fa/POAs/POA%20102928.doc>



Job Opportunities



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University of Kentucky. The Department of Sociology invites applications for two tenure track Assistant Professor positions in the broad area of "Children at Risk." A cross-disciplinary cluster hire will involve five new faculty members, including two to be appointed in the Department of Sociology and three to be appointed in the Department of Psychology. Areas of specialization are open but candidates are required to address social and behavioral risks affecting children and youth. Preference will be given to those candidates whose substantive areas of interest complement those of the current Sociology faculty. The successful candidates will be expected to assume their positions on August 15, 2008. Candidates should have completed a Ph.D. in Sociology by the time of appointment. Interested candidates should send a current Curriculum Vitae, a statement addressing research and teaching interests and accomplishments to: Personnel Committee, c/o Ms. Agnes Palmgreen, Department of Sociology, 1500 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027. Applicants should arrange for at least three letters of recommendation to be sent to the same address. The University of Kentucky is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University and values diversity. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

University of Missouri-Kansas City. The College of Arts & Sciences invites nominations and applications for the Martha Jane Starr Missouri Distinguished Professorship in Women's & Gender Studies (<http://cas.umkc.edu/wgs>). This is a joint appointment in the Women's and Gender Studies Program and an appropriate department in the College as the tenure home. Applicants should present a distinguished record of scholarship and teaching consistent with tenure at a research institution. The area of expertise is open, however successful candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching in Women's Studies/Gender Studies. Appointment will be at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor. Send nominations or applications, including letter, CV, and names of three references, to Dr. Kathy Krause, Director of Women's & Gender Studies, 218 Scofield Hall, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499, krausek@umkc.edu. For full consideration, applications should be received by November 30, 2007. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

University of Southern California. The Davis School of Gerontology and the Andrus Gerontology Center are recruiting for a promising junior faculty member for Fall, 2008, as part of our ongoing expansion of programs. We seek candidates with a strong research profile and potential in the social scientific study of aging and the life-course. Specializations include, but are not limited to, biodemography, health inequality, cognitive neuroscience, disability and biomechanics, family and caregiving, work and retirement, and neuroeconomics. Those engaged in research that is interdisciplinary and integrates with current research strengths are especially encouraged to apply. Joint affiliations with other departments are possible. Candidates should send a C.V., along with a letter indicating experience and areas of interest, and should arrange for letters from three references to be mailed to: Gerontology Search Committee, Davis School of Gerontology, 3715 McClintock Avenue, University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191 by December 10, 2007. The University of Southern California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

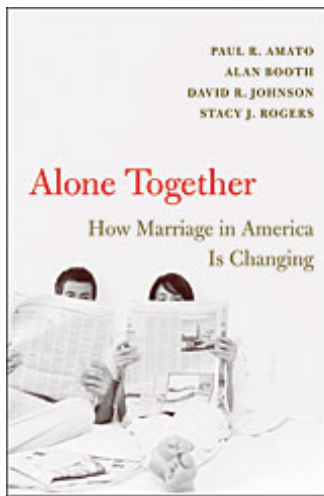
University of Texas at El Paso. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology (higher ranks considered) with a specialization in gender beginning Fall 2008. Applicants whose research interests also include health, demography, environment, crime, Latina/o, or U.S.-Mexico border populations are especially encouraged to apply. ABDs will be considered but the PhD must be completed by August 2008. Send a letter of interest, Curriculum Vitae, one sample of written work, evidence of teaching proficiency if available, and names of three references. Send applications to Cheryl Howard, Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, UTEP, El Paso, TX 79968. Review of applications will begin December 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. All underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. To learn more about the department, UTEP, and El Paso, please see <http://academics.utep.edu/sociology>. The University of Texas at El Paso is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in employment or the provision of services.

Book Corner: New Books by Family Section Members

Alone Together: How Marriage in America Is Changing

(Harvard University Press, 2007)

Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, David R. Johnson, and Stacy J. Rogers



Most observers agree that marriage in America has been changing. Some think it is in decline, that the growth of individualism has made it increasingly difficult to achieve satisfying and stable relationships. Others believe that changes, such as increasing gender equality, have made marriage a better arrangement for men as well as women. Based on two studies of marital quality in America twenty years apart, this book takes a middle view, showing that while the divorce rate has leveled off, spouses are spending less time together--people may be "bowling alone" these days, but married couples are also eating alone. Indeed, the declining social capital of married couples-- including the fact that couples have fewer shared friends--combined with the general erosion of community ties in American society has had pervasive, negative effects on marital quality. At the same time, family income has increased, decision-making equality between husbands and wives is greater, marital conflict and violence have declined, and the

norm of lifelong marriage enjoys greater support than ever. The authors conclude that marriage is an adaptable institution, and in accommodating the vast changes that have occurred in society over the recent past, it has become a less cohesive, yet less confining arrangement.

The Age of Independence: Interracial Unions, Same-Sex Unions, and the Changing American Family

(Harvard University Press, 2007)

Michael Rosenfeld

The Age of Independence is a book which offers a new theory of family trends and social change in the US. The argument revolves around the independent life stage, a life stage which has emerged since 1960. Young adults experience the independent life stage after they have left their parents' homes, but before they have settled down to start their own family. During the independent life stage young men and women go away to college, travel, begin careers, and enjoy a period of relative social independence. The rise of the independent life stage has reduced parental control over the dating and mate selection choices of their children. The decline of parental supervision and control results in a sharp rise in interracial and same-sex unions, the kind of unions that previous generations of parents were able to prevent. The book offers an original argument about the sources of family change, and about the past and future of the American family.

