

Section on Mental Health

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings,

I hope all of you are having a good and productive fall semester and will attend the ASA meeting in San Francisco next August 16 – 19.

Our section is thriving with our membership count up to 443 (234 regular members, 194 student members, and 15 low income members), in the middle range of section size (539 avg.). This count is important because it determines how many sessions we can have at the annual ASA meeting. Our membership puts us securely in the range that entitles us to three sessions plus the ASA required council/business session. We have been “expanding” to four sessions each year by allocating half of the council/business meeting time to roundtables. This year, as last year, we arranged an extra session because we are sharing one with medical sociology. Besides those sessions, ASA has given us an additional session for the 2014 meeting because Mental Health Section Day falls on the last day of the meeting, Tuesday, August 19th. We are going to use this booby prize to have a full session for roundtables, during which Council will meet. It will allow the business meeting to expand to its full one hour 40 minutes session time that will permit our Pearlin Award winner to present a full talk as the Medical Sociology Section does with its Reeder Award.

We wanted to sponsor a workshop aimed at young sociologists on how to review for journals. Three editors, Bill Avison (Society and Mental Health), Gil Gee (Journal of Health and Social Behavior), and Gareth Williams (Sociology of Health and Illness), agreed to be the presenters; but ASA had already closed requests for workshops for 2014 by the time I made the request, in August after this year's meeting. We, along with the Medical Sociology Section, have requested this workshop for the 2015 annual meeting.

Look for the Call for Papers for the ASA 2014 annual meeting that will be posted on the ASA website on October 30th. Our section's 2014 sessions are listed on page 5 of the newsletter. The online system for submission will open on December 6th; and the submission site will close on January 8th. At that time session organizers will begin reviewing submissions.

Please think ahead about proposing an invited session to ASA for the 2015 annual meeting. Sessions related to the meeting's theme tend to be preferred. If you want to propose a session, go to the ASA website and complete the form.

Due to the scheduling of our section day, we are having our reception on Sunday, August 17th, in conjunction with the Medical Sociology Section. We will be able to share expenses and hopefully afford a more bountiful assortment of food than the limited offerings that were possible at the ASA New York hotel.

Our ASA sponsored list serve automatically signs up section members. Members can post an announcement or request for information; but ASA requires that the section chair approve all postings. For employment opportunities, a section chair can only post them after they have been registered with the ASA.

Our thanks go to Teresa Scheid for the fine job that she did with our section's offerings in New York and arranging with Allan Horwitz of the Medical Sociology Section to have an extra session both last year and this coming year. Our thanks also go to Susan Bell, Chair of the Medical Sociology Section, for being so cooperative in sharing and planning the joint session, workshop, and reception.

Happy Fall, Virginia Aldigé Hiday, Mental Health Section Chair

SMH: Society and Mental Health

The Journal of the ASA Section on the Sociology of Mental Health

William R. Avison, Editor
Western University

Annual Report

Society and Mental Health has entered its third year of publication. The first two issues of Volume 3 have been published on schedule and the third issue has gone to production on time. It will be released in November, 2013.

We continue to work toward more widespread publicization of SMH in order to increase subscriptions and submissions to the journal. If we receive more than 90 submissions in a calendar year, Sage is contracted to expand the journal to a quarterly format.

For the 12-month operating year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013), SMH received 64 new submissions; 43(67.2%) were rejected after review, 18 (28.1%) were invited to revise and resubmit, and 3 were withdrawn. Taking into account revisions carried forward from the previous year, the acceptance rate of SMH is 15.2 percent. Since January, 2013, new submissions have increased noticeably.

The mean editorial lag (submission to decision) is 44 days. Publication lag (from decision to publication) varies from 3 to 6 months.

Submissions have mainly come from the United States and Canada; however, a significant number have come from outside North America. Papers have also covered a wide range of areas in the sociology of mental health and highlighted different methodological and theoretical perspectives.

At SMH, the editorial process typically involves sending each paper out to three reviewers, with a request that reviews be completed within four weeks. Only rarely is a paper rejected without being sent out for review. For papers where revisions are requested, we ask for resubmissions within eight weeks and these are sent to at least one original reviewer and a new reviewer.

I would like to acknowledge the strong support from the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health Council and from the membership in terms of serving on the Editorial Board and as ad hoc reviews. SMH receives additional financial support from Western University (Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and the Vice-President of Research and International Relations) and from the Lawson Health Research Institute. I am also grateful for the helpful guidance and advice from Karen Edwards in ASA Executive Office and from the editorial staff at Sage.

Thanks to everyone who has served as an ad hoc reviewer. I especially want to acknowledge the contributions made by the Associate Editors of SMH. We continue to rotate approximately one third of the Editorial Board every year. Thanks, too, to our Deputy Editors (Carol Aneshensel, Carol Boyer, Scott Schieman, Mark Tausig, and Kristi Williams) and to Gale Cassidy, our Managing Editor. Carol Aneshensel has stepped down as Deputy Editor and Mark Tausig and Kristi Williams have replaced her.

Publications Committee and Journal Publications Committee: Report to the Council

Prepared by Melissa A. Milkie (Publications Chair & Journal Publications Chair)

Publications committee: Melissa Milkie, chair; Newsletter editor (Richard Adams):

The publications chair was charged last fall with appointing a new newsletter editor because Mark Simes' term had finished and there was nobody in the position. An ad-hoc committee consisting of Brea Perry, University of Kentucky, and Alex Bierman, University of Calgary, recommended that the area appoint, Richard Adams of Kent State as the next newsletter editor-webmaster. We thank Richard Adams and Richard Serpe, chair of Kent State sociology, for their support of our section.

Journal Publications committee (governing body of *Society and Mental Health*):

The members of the Journal Publications Committee for 2012-2013 were the

Publications Chair (Melissa Milkie, chair), the Chair-Elect (Ginnie Aldige), the past chair (Mike Hughes), the non-student standing member (Alex Bierman) and the current Editor of SMH (Bill Avison) as a non-voting member.

The committee approved the new associate editors for SMH

Bill Avison will step down after his second term of editing the journal in December 2014. The Journal Publications committee polled the editorial board and the section for suggestions for nominations for the next editor. These names were turned over to the Chair, Teresa Scheid and to Council. Elaine Wethington was appointed as the next editor.

New Business:

Obtaining the royalty money from section sponsored books

Submitted,

Melissa A. Milkie

Mental Health Section 2013 Award Winners

The **Leonard I. Pearlin Award** for distinguished contributions was presented to **Linda K. George** of Duke University. As noted in the nomination letter, for almost 40 years, Linda George's research has had an indelible impact on the sociology of mental health. She is internationally regarded as a leader in the field and as a strong advocate for the importance of sociological research on mental health issues. Through her publication of 150 peer reviewed articles and more than 100 book chapters she is widely known for her synthesis of principles of life course and aging research to inform the sociology of mental health and illness. To a substantial degree, her work in these fields has become classic.

The award for **Best Publication** was presented to **Jason Schnittker** of the University of Pennsylvania for his paper "The Proximity of Common Unhappiness and Misery." This is the first award winning paper published in the section's journal *Society and Mental Health*.

The award for **Best Dissertation** was presented to **Shirin Montazer**, now at Brock University, for a paper drawn from her dissertation entitled "Country of Origin, Time,

and the Stress Process: The Mental Health Adjustment of Immigrants in the National Population Health Survey." One of three nominators of Dr. Montazer included the statement that, "In over thirty-five years in academia, I cannot remember a dissertation more original and innovative in its approach, or as skilled in its execution. This dissertation is not simply an extension of what is, a variant of an existing literature --- it is a new direction."

Introduction: Linda K. George

2013 Leonard I. Pearlin Award

The 2013 recipient of the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health is Linda K. George (Duke University). For almost 40 years, Linda George's research has had an indelible impact on the sociology of mental health. She is internationally regarded as a leader in the field and as a strong advocate for the importance of sociological research on mental health issues. Her contributions to sociological approaches to psychiatric research and her work on mental health and the life course have been groundbreaking.

Linda George's contributions to research in the sociology of mental health are extraordinary. Her earlier work synthesized key sociological concepts and processes with psychiatric epidemiology to produce a more theoretically driven perspective on the social determinants of psychiatric illness. This work was published widely in leading psychiatric journals and had a major impact in bringing a sociological perspective to the study of mental illness.

Linda was one of a small but influential group of sociologists who guided the Epidemiologic Catchment Area Program in the early 1980s. She was Co-Principal Investigator of the Duke University site. From that study, some of the most important research on the social determinants of mental illness was produced.

Of course, Linda George is perhaps best known for her synthesis of principles of life course and aging research to inform the sociological study of mental health and mental illness. In many respects, her work in this area has become

classic. Read any article on stress and the life course and mental health and two are always cited: Linda George and Leonard Pearlin. So it is entirely appropriate that Linda George should be a recipient of the Pearlin Award.

The corpus of Linda George's work is impressive. She has published well over 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals that are central to the sociology of mental health, medical sociology, or aging and the life course. She has authored more than 100 chapters in books. This record speaks to Linda's scientific drive and to her enormous contribution to sociological knowledge over 40 years.

Linda George has also served the discipline well. She has been Chair of both the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health and the Section on Aging and the Life Course of the ASA and Secretary-Treasurer of the Medical Sociology Section. She was also a member of the Advisory Panel of the ASA Minority Fellowships Program. She has served as President of the Gerontological Society of America.

Finally, Linda is a fine mentor and engaging teacher of sociology. She has trained a number of doctoral students who have pursued excellent careers in sociology.

Linda George is a most deserving recipient of the Leonard I. Pearlin Award. Her scientific productivity has been remarkable and her impact on the discipline cannot be disputed. She is a tireless advocate of sociological research; her efforts advance the discipline and promote the interests of others. She is a supportive mentor and a much-admired colleague. We congratulate her on receiving this honor.

William R. Avison
Western University

Taking Time Seriously

Linda K. George

The cross-fertilization of the sociology of mental health with life course theory has contributed to our understanding of mental health and mental illness in important ways. Despite this, very important temporal aspects of mental health and illness remain understudied and theories that guide much of this research have not integrated temporality into their propositions and hypotheses. In the

Pearlin Lecture, my goal was to identify some of the temporal dynamics of mental health and mental illness that merit empirical attention and to encourage investigators in this field to take time seriously.

Two primary topics were addressed in the lecture. Both are quite broad and encompass multiple dimensions. First, several dimensions of time, which I argue are relevant to mental research but have been understudied, were reviewed. Second, a case was made for the benefit that would accrue from increased attention to the age-period-cohort model in mental health research.

As life course research matured, interest expanded to multiple forms of temporal patterns – all of which involve temporal dynamics but which address distinct research questions. Four temporal patterns were reviewed: length of exposure, duration dependence, timing and critical periods, and turning points or milestones. My review suggests that length of exposure has received the most attention from mental health researchers (although important questions remain unanswered) and that the other three dimensions have been relatively ignored.

After a period in the late 1980s and early 1990s in which potential cohort effects in the distribution of mental illness were debated, interest in identifying age, period, and cohort effects disappeared in mental health research. Two recent studies have the potential to reinvigorate this topic, but I see little evidence that has happened. I argue that careful analysis of age, period, and cohort effects in the distribution of mental health problems can generate important information about the effects of social structure, at the macro level, on mental health and mental illness. Current research on the antecedents and consequences of mental illness is rich and exciting, but relatively little of that research examines the effects of macro level social structures and processes on mental health problems. I argue that age-period-cohort analysis is one vehicle for effectively bridging the macro and micro level social factors that variously increase or decrease the risk of mental health problems.

Nominations Being Accepted For 2014 Mental Health Section Awards

1) **Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions**

The ASA Sociology of Mental Health Section solicits nominations for the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for distinguished contributions to the sociological study of mental health. The award honors a scholar who has made substantial contributions in theory and/or research to the sociology of mental health. Thanks to a generous donation from Leonard Pearlin, the section has created this annual award. Section members are encouraged to submit nominations and self-nominations are welcome. Please consider your colleagues whose contributions merit special recognition of their accomplishments. Please send nominations and a CV of the nominee by January 15, 2014 to R. Jay Turner, Center for Research on Health Disparities, PMB 351811, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 37235-1811 or by e-mail to r.jay.turner@vanderbilt.edu.

2) **Award for Best Publication in Mental Health**

The ASA Sociology of Mental Health solicits nominations for the Best Publication Award. This award is given for the best published article, book or chapter in the area of the sociology of mental health. The publication date needs to have been between 2012 and 2014. In addition, the awards committee will conduct a search of published works for candidates for this award. Section members are encouraged to submit nominations and self-nominations are welcome. Please consider your colleagues whose work merits this recognition. Please send a letter on nomination for the award by April 1, 2014 to R. Jay Turner, Center for Research on Health Disparities, PMB 351811, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 37235-1811 or by e-mail to r.jay.turner@vanderbilt.edu.

3) **Award for Best Dissertation in Mental Health**

The ASA Sociology of Mental Health section solicits nominations for the best doctoral dissertation in the area of the sociology of mental health. The dissertation should have been completed within the academic years of 2012-2013 or 2013-2014. Section Members are encouraged to submit nominations and self-nominations are welcome. Please send a letter of nomination and a paper based on the dissertation (Or dissertation synopsis) by April 1, 2014 to R. Jay Turner, Center for Research on Health Disparities, PMB 351811, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 37235-1811 or by e-mail to r.jay.turner@vanderbilt.edu

Mental Health Session 2014 Meetings

Our section's 2014 sessions are:

1. Law, Crime and Mental Illness. This session explores the processes that bring persons with mental illness into the legal system (especially the criminalization of mental illness), the processing of persons with mental illness in the legal system, and diversion of persons with mental illness out of the criminal justice system. Session Organizer: *Brad Ray*, Indian University and Purdue University-Indianapolis

2. Coping, Recovery and Mental Health Services. This session examines the coping and recovery processes as well as mental health services that advance or hinder those processes. Session Organizer: *Brea Perry*, University of Kentucky

3. The Economy, Work, and Mental Health. This session examines the effects of the economy and work on mental health and the effects of mental health and illness on work. Session Organizer: *Donald Lloyd*, University of Southern California

4. Trauma, Violence and Health. This session explores violence, suffering, and trauma from the perspective of large-scale circumstances (e.g., war and disaster) as well as from the perspective of local circumstances

(e.g., families and communities). In keeping with the theme of the 2014 Annual Meeting, it particularly encourages papers that explore variations in violence, suffering and trauma by economic and political uncertainty and by race and ethnicity, gender and immigrant status. Organizer: *Heather Turner*, University of New Hampshire

5. Mental Health Roundtables. This session is open to all topics in the broad area of mental health. Papers will be grouped into related subareas for presentation and lively exchange. Session Organizer: *Eric Wright*, Indiana University and Purdue University-Indianapolis

6. Business Meeting and Awards

Besides our section's sessions, there generally are two regular sessions planned by the ASA program committee on mental health; and often there are other sessions related to mental health offered by other sections. Over at the SSSP, there are at least three sessions organized by the mental health and society division.



North Carolina Sociological Association

The North Carolina Sociological Association (NCSA) would like to cordially invite you to submit papers, research reports, or scholarly presentations for our annual conference on April 2, 2014 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In partnership with the Southern Sociological Society (SSS), we hope to offer a dynamic and engaging one-day conference entitled, "Traditions of Sociology." This theme will focus on North Carolina research in the areas of criminology, aging, medical sociology, and social inequalities. The conference will also have some critical sessions on the state of higher education in North Carolina with recent political and economic shifts, as well as sessions about on-line teaching. Due to the partnership with SSS, both organizations are offering great discounts for conference fees to

encourage attendance. For example, if you attend the NCSA conference, you can receive: 1) a waiver of SSS conference registration fees (for first-time SSS professional and student members); or 2) long-time SSS members receive a \$10 discount on SSS conference registration fees. NCSA will also be offering membership or conference discounts for new student members.

The deadline for all submission is December 13, 2013 by 5pm. Details on submission will be posted shortly at: <http://www.ncsociology.org/new/index.htm>

Graduate and Post-Doctoral Students on the Job Market



Michael S. Hollingshaus is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Utah; and a graduate research assistant for Professor Ken Smith—Director of the Pedigree and Population Resource (Utah Population Database) at the Huntsman Cancer Institute and Professor of Human Development and Family Studies. Michael's primary research interests include mental health, life course epidemiology, biodemography, family, and social stratification.

His work is highly quantitative, with an emphasis upon statistical and computational rigor and creativity.

Journals in which Michael has published include "Society and Mental Health," "Contexts," and "Current Opinions in Obstetrics and Gynecology." At the 2013 *Population Association of America* conference, he presented a paper that utilized family history data and vital statistics to examine how experiencing the death of a parent during early life increased later-life suicide risk, and the moderating effects of gender and the widowed parent's remarriage.

He has also had a paper accepted for presentation at the 2013 *Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences* conference in Boulder,

Colorado. This paper utilizes family history data, vital statistics, and Medicare data to test how early-life parental death interacts with a familial susceptibility for suicide to produce various mental health outcomes in older age. Both of these papers are part of his in-progress dissertation, "Early-life Parental Death, Familial Susceptibility, Suicide, and Behavioral Health: A Life-course Study from the Utah Population Database". Committee members include Ken Smith (chair), Rebecca Utz, Ming Wen, Sheila Crowell, and Douglas Gray. Completion of the PhD is expected during the spring of 2014.

His first qualifying examination was in *Population and Health*, which included demography, social epidemiology, and medical sociology. The second qualifying examination was in *Aging and the Life Course*, with an emphasis upon early-life conditions, pathways to later life health, and biodemography. Courses taught include five semesters of undergraduate Social Epidemiology, and one semester of undergraduate Social Statistics. In addition to M.S. and B.S. degrees, Michael holds a certificate in Diversity from the University of Utah, and is nearing completion of a certificate in Demography.



Sandra Sulzer is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.

Dissertation Title:
Borderline Personality Disorder: Clinical Navigation of Stigma,

Communication and the Reimbursable Patient

Dr. Sulzer's dissertation consisted of interviews with mental health care providers, and patients who had been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). By comparing perspectives on the diagnostic process, she was able to capture discordances in the process. First, she found that many providers operated as if the Borderline label functionally

precluded patients from receiving care, creating a state of de facto demedicalization. Secondly, she isolated structural factors that facilitated stigma of these patients among providers. These included the lack of sufficient clinical training appropriate to the disorder, insufficient specialty clinics, and resistance from third-party payers to treating BPD. This research received a first-place poster award at the International Conference for Borderline Personality Disorder and Allied Disorders. Dr. Sulzer is currently working to understand how the implementation of the DSM 5 has or has not changed diagnostic practices.

In her most recent projects, she is examining the diagnosis of pediatric ADHD, with an emphasis on the role teachers play in directing clinical decision-making. In addition, she recently received a grant from the Gold Foundation to study the operationalization of empathy in medical education. There are conflicting findings about whether empathy declines over the course of medical school, part of which can be attributed to incongruent definitions of empathy. Her focus is on how researchers evaluate and measure empathy when studying it among the clinical student population, in order to create recommendations for a more durable theoretical construct. Email address: sulzer@email.unc.edu



LaToya O'Neal Coleman Ph.D.
Candidate Department of Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dissertation Research: Growing up in rural Mississippi

LaToya O'Neal Coleman saw firsthand how environmental and psychosocial stressors impacted people's lives. These early experiences led to her interest in mental health and to her obtaining both her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Psychology. Upon working as a child and adolescent therapist, she observed the relationship between the

structural and contextual factors of families, schools, and communities and their influence on the life outcomes of urban youth. This led to her returning to graduate school to pursue a doctorate in Medical Sociology. Her dissertation examines the relationship between disposition and social and psychological adjustment among urban minority youth. The goal of this research is to determine whether there is a relationship between disposition, as a protective mechanism, and psychosocial development. LaToya defended her dissertation proposal in Spring 2013 and is on track to defend her dissertation in Spring 2014. She is currently on the job market.

LaToya has gained extensive experience in community based intervention research as part of her project manager position on a five year National Science Foundation (NSF) funded community based intervention in the Birmingham City School System. In this project, the large team works with elementary schools in Birmingham City to help teachers effectively integrate computing across the curriculum. The goal of this project is to determine the impacts of this large scale intervention on teacher comfort and attitudes towards computing in the classroom as well as student interest in pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers. Under Dr. Shelia R. Cotten (P.I.), LaToya O'Neal Coleman has led the successful implementation of this project at 30 elementary schools, among approximately 150 teachers, and approximately 4,000 students. Email address: ljoneal@uab.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandra Sulzer- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill American Sociological Association Presentation was featured in Science News: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/mental-disorder-seen-badness-not-sickness>

Shelia Cotten of Michigan State won the ASA Communication and Information Technologies section's Public Sociology Award for 2013.

Dr. Martyn Pickersgill, University of Edinburgh, was recently elected the UK representative for the ALLEA (European

Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities) Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics.

The Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics (PWGSE) is concerned with a wide range of problems, 'internal' (within the scientific community) and 'external' (relations between science and society). Since ethical considerations have been an essential component in the consolidation of the new Europe, and in the creation of ALLEA, the PWGSE has been extending its capacities and activities during recent years, in order to fulfil adequately its mission of collective deliberation on topics like those listed below.

The PWGSE meets at least twice a year and also convenes thematic meetings in wider settings, typically in partnerships with other relevant organizations such as European Science Foundation (ESF), the European Commission, the Council of Europe, Pugwash, International Council for Science (ICSU), or UNESCO. Some of the issues recently addressed include: scientific integrity and research misconduct, research on human embryos, quantitative evaluation of research, ethical aspects of risk, education in ethics.

For further information on [ALLEA](#)

Interesting New York Times Op-ed Piece
[When Leaning In Doesn't Pay Off](#)

By Scott Schieman, Markus Schafer and Mitchell McIvor
Published: August 10, 2013

Books

Schutt, Russell K. 2011. Homelessness, Housing and Mental Illness (with Stephen M. Goldfinger). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness describes a longitudinal randomized field experiment to assess how well homeless persons diagnosed with serious mental illness do when attempts are made to reduce their social isolation and integrate them into the community. Should homeless mentally ill people be provided with the type of housing they want or with what clinicians think they need? How is community integration affected by substance abuse, psychiatric diagnoses, and cognitive functioning? Using extensive self-report, clinical, and ethnographic data, *Homelessness, Housing, and*

Mental Illness addresses these questions and reexamines the assumptions behind housing policies that support the preference of most homeless mentally ill people to live alone in independent apartments. Throughout, the book explores the meaning and value of community in relation to the sources of and possibilities for recovery from mental illness.

Call for Papers: The Fourteenth International Conference on Social Stress Research

The 14th International Conference on Social Stress Research will be held June 7-9, 2014 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada at the Blue Horizon Hotel. The International Conference on Social Stress has become an important conference for scholars working in the area of stress and health and a major forum for sharing new research that incorporates components of the stress process. The stress conferences, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, are held approximately every two years and attract the leading scholars in the field.

The 2014 conference will feature two distinguished keynote speakers, Chloe Bird (RAND Corporation) and David Williams (Harvard University). The conference is being organized and directed by Professors Heather Turner, Karen Van Gundy, and Catherine Moran in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire.

The final 2014 program will be based on the content of submissions. The conference program typically includes sessions on themes such as: stress across the life course; work-related stress; stress in family contexts; gender and stress; race, ethnicity, and culture in the stress process; stress in adolescence; intersections of physical and mental health; catastrophic and traumatic stress, and neighborhood contexts.

We invite you to submit either a complete paper or an extended abstract. In the case of abstracts, you must provide sufficient information for evaluation of the substance and scientific merit of the paper. To be considered for presentation, papers or extended abstracts must be received by December 30, 2013.

Please send submissions electronically to Catherine Moran at Catherine.Moran@unh.edu.

Further information regarding the 2014 conference, including conference registration, can be found on our website: <http://www.unh.edu/stressconference>.

Heather A. Turner, Karen Van Gundy, and Catherine L. Moran, University of New Hampshire, Department of Sociology

**Please Encourage
Membership in our Section!
Be Sure to Renew YOUR
Membership.**

GRADUATE STUDENT PERSPECTIVES How to Successfully Obtain Internal and External Funding

Christy L. Erving and Amy Irby-Shasanmi

Applying for internal and external funding can be a time consuming process. However, if awarded funding, the reward is great as it allows one to dedicate full attention to completing coursework and conducting research. While we are not experts on the topic, Christy and I have collectively been successful recipients of four internal fellowships and four external fellowships. Despite the number of successful awards, we have applied to far more fellowships and grants than we have received. Below is advice that we have used to secure funding.

Getting organized

Although this leads to a lot of extra emails, sign-up for a variety of email listservs which will inform you of a wide range of fellowship opportunities.

Attend ASA sessions focused on applying for specific fellowships. Usually, a spokesperson from the organization provides inside information.

Create a file that lists potential funding opportunities that you can apply to regardless of whether you are at the stage in your career to apply for it. Make it a goal to update your file regularly.

From your created file, establish which fellowships you will apply for in the summer and list the deadlines, materials you will need, and who you will ask to write recommendation letters for you. Establish a date to start the application process.

If you don't already have one, develop a curriculum vitae (CV) to document all of your accomplishments as a graduate student.

Contact people who have received the award for which you plan to apply. Start with upper-level graduate students and your department's alumni. These people will likely be most useful for providing advice, offering feedback, and possibly sharing their materials.

Writing a successful fellowship application

Have clearly defined research questions.

Look at your CV. Every line of your CV can be used to convince the fellowship selection committee that you are deserving of the fellowship. Be strategic and chose what is best to highlight in your application. Don't undersell yourself!

Have graduate students, mentors, and advisors read your materials.

Send your letter writers your fellowship materials. This enables them to write more detailed letters and informs them about what you are doing.

If not awarded, apply again for the same fellowship the following year; you may get it the second time around. (This happened to the both of us before!)

There are also websites available that provide advice for successfully obtaining funding for your research. We recommend these, though there are other helpful ones: Karen Lee Kelsky (also known as, The Professor Is In) <http://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/05/dr-karens-foolproof-grant-template/> and Eric Grollman's <http://conditionallyaccepted.com/general-academic-resources/>.

Fellowships Opportunities

There are a number of pre-doctoral and dissertation fellowships for which you may be

eligible. In order to find funding opportunities, it may be helpful to contact your department's Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or talk with fellow graduate students regarding their experiences with applying for funding. It also might be helpful to peruse your university's website to find funding opportunities that might be available for doctoral students from the university or the graduate school. Below is a limited listing of fellowships:

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship

American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

Sociologists for Women in Society Scholarships and Fellowships: (see their website for more information: <http://www.socwomen.org/>)

National Institute of Health search at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/funding/training/index.shtml>

Other Useful Websites for finding Funding Opportunities:

<http://www.fic.nih.gov/FUNDING/NONNIH/Pages/predoctoral-graduate.aspx>

National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Improvement Grant

Best wishes!



About the authors: Amy Irby-Shasanmi and Christy L. Erving are Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Sociology at Indiana University, Bloomington. Amy's research and teaching interests are in the areas of medical sociology, mental health, race/ethnicity, and aging/life course. Christy's research and teaching interests are in medical sociology, mental health, race/ethnicity, and immigration.

Public Mental Health Care

Public Sector Mental Health: In Remission?

Proposal for an Edited Volume

Senior Editor, Teresa L. Scheid

Historically there have been two systems of mental health care: the private and the public. Private mental health care is funded either out of pocket or by insurance and typically serves the “worried well.” Public mental health care is funded by federal, state and local monies and provides services to those with severe and chronic mental health problems. In terms of public policy, the most critical group is those with severe and persistent mental disorders (schizophrenia and bipolar with psychosis). In addition to the severity of their illness, individuals served in the public mental health sector are poor and depend on public monies for the sustenance as well as medical care. Rather than the short term therapy, these individuals require long term care, integrated services and social supports.

While much has been written about “recovery”, in fact, there is a notable lack of efficacious treatment technology to deal with severe mental illness. There is no “cure” and there is also widespread disagreement over what services can indeed provide the best quality of life and hope for at least partial recovery. Most care is now provided in the community, and with the constraints of managed care, much of this treatment is limited to medication maintenance. In addition, public sector mental health care has increasingly become privatized, with private managed care companies either managing or providing critical mental health services. While one could argue that the historic divide between private and public care is crumbling, in fact, public dollars are simply being funneled through private companies with little public oversight or accountability. A direct consequence of the loss of public sector community based care has been that the criminal justice system has become the “de facto” system of care in many localities. Finally, here is no clear-cut federal policy governing mental health care, and

consequently there is tremendous state by state variation.

Public Sector Mental Health: In Remission? is an edited volume designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the realm of public sector mental health and the complexities facing both policy makers, providers, researchers, and community mental health advocates and consumers. The central question is whether the public sector mental health care field is in remission, and if so, can it find a path to recovery?

Below is a very rough outline; feel free to add topics or make modifications. Outlines or abstracts due February 1, at which time I’ll work on getting a contract.

Introduction: Public Sector Mental Health History and Theoretical Framings. Teresa L. Scheid.

This chapter provides an overview the history and development of public sector mental health. Care of and treatment provided to individuals with mental health problems reflects wider social values and priorities. Widely held beliefs about mental health and attitudes toward those with severe mental health problems will shape the political climate, economic priorities, and types of services available. Care for those with severe mental illnesses has gone through a series of cycles, from institutionalized care to deinstitutionalization, and from community based care to managed care. Scheid argues the current system of care suffers from a loss of a central institutional logic, with competing forces seeking at once recovery and community integration and at the same time, increased institutionalization of those with severe mental illnesses (as reflected in the high rates of incarceration of those with mental illnesses and calls for expanded commitment criteria). Behind these competing logics is an overwhelming concern to contain costs – a logic that has **always** pervaded public sector mental health care. Funding has never been adequate, and systems of care have never fully met the needs of those with severe mental illness. The introduction also includes an

overview of the book and key organizing framework.

Part I. Who Requires Public Sector Mental Health Care, and Who Gets that Care?

Chapters to include the following topics:

1. Severe, Chronic Mental Illness
2. Substance Abuse
3. Homelessness
4. Children and Adolescents
5. Aging of the Population
6. Health Disparities
7. Need for Social Supports and Integrated Care

Part II. Who Provides Public Sector Mental Health Care?

Chapters to include the following topics:

1. Community Supports
2. Residential/ Institutional Care
3. Alternative Communities or Housing Options
4. Patient Level Integration of Care (medical homes, etc.)
5. Accountable Care Organizations
6. Standardized Practices and Structures
7. Mental Health Care Providers

Part III. The System of Public Sector Mental Health Care

Chapters to include the following topics:

1. Financing and Access to Care, Managed Care
2. The Criminal Justice System
3. Veterans Affairs
4. State and Federal Initiatives
5. Legal Issues – Commitment etc. Mental Health Courts, new initiatives
6. Consumer Movements, Recovery and the Role of Advocacy
7. Mental Health Policy

Conclusion: The Future of Public Sector Mental Health Care: Is System Wide Recovery Possible? (Scheid and others):

A return to the issue of underlying institutional logics – What are the ideological divides behind current debates over mental care? Introduction of a justice based logic (drawing on Mechanic's work) as a necessary counter to efficiency or professional based logics of care.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I want to remind everyone that I am always interested in ideas that you have which will improve either the Section's newsletter or website. In addition, please send me information about your activities that you would like to share with section members or information that section members would be interested in knowing. Please put "newsletter" in the title of the email.

Here is a list of other possible contributions for future newsletters:

- Upcoming conferences, calls for papers, special issues of journals or grant opportunities.
- Reviews of conferences.
- Newly published books by section members. Please include publication date and publisher information.
- Graduate or post-doctoral students on the market and would like to be profiled. Please send your picture, title of your dissertation, email address, affiliation, and a brief statement of your work (200-300 words).
- Congratulatory information (e.g., promotions, new jobs, awards, honors, grants).
- Short articles on topics that cross boundaries with other sections, such as animal-human interactions and mental health. We ask that you keep submissions brief (no more than 500 words).
- Descriptions of class activities/books/films for use in undergraduate sociology of mental health and illness classes or general tips and strategies for teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

Finally, I would like to thank Christy and Amy for their Graduate Student Perspectives columns. They have been great. However, both of them are stepping down to focus on the job market. Good luck to both of you. If there are other graduate students out there who would like to write a column, please let me know.

See everyone next year with the Spring 2014 newsletter.

SMH

Society and Mental Health

The Journal of the ASA Section on the Sociology of Mental Health

Editor William R. Avison, The University of Western Ontario
Deputy Editors Carol S. Aneshensel, UCLA; Carol A. Boyer, Rutgers University; Scott Schieman, University of Toronto
Editorial Scope of SMH: Society and Mental Health publishes original articles that apply sociological concepts and methods to the understanding of the social origins of mental health and illness, the social consequences for persons with mental illness, and the organization and financing of mental health services and care. Its editorial policy favors manuscripts that advance the sociology of mental health and illness, stimulate further research, inform treatments and policy and reflect the diversity of interests of its readership.

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