

Emotions Section News:

Newsletter of the Sociology of Emotions Section of the American Sociological Association

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From the Chair

Cecilia L. Ridgeway



Welcome to the second online edition of the Emotion News. Thanks to the efforts of our newsletter editor, Alison Bianchi, this edition has an interesting and valuable new feature that I hope will become a tradition in spring and summer newsletters to come. We are pleased to offer brief articles on exceptional graduate students doing work in the sociology of emotions. This is a great way to see the edge of the future in the field in terms of both people and research topics.

ASA has set our Section Day at the annual meeting in Philadelphia for Saturday, August 13. Mark that on your calendar. We expect to have an exciting program with a section session on Theory and Research in Emotions and a session on Emotions and

Mental Health, jointly sponsored with the Mental Health Section. In addition, we will have our always lively roundtables and a reception (on August 13), jointly sponsored with the Theory Section. Look for more details on the section sessions program in the summer edition of Emotion News.

The winter is the time of year when the section committees do most of their work and they have been hard at it. Our Nominations Committee has come up with a great slate of members who have agreed to run for section offices: for Chair-Elect, Viktor Gecas and Dawn Robinson; for Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Francis and Melinda Milligan, and for Council, Kathryn Lively and Amy Kroska. Now it is up to you, folks. Watch for

the ASA ballot and be sure to VOTE for our section officers!

Our section awards committees are also working away. As you will see inside, the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee has chosen Lynn Smith-Lovin as the 2005 winner. I am sure many of you will agree that no one is more deserving. The committees to choose the winners of the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award, which goes to a paper this year, and the Graduate Student Paper Award are at work as well. These awards will be given out at the section business meeting at ASA in Philadelphia. That is another good reason to attend the business meeting (the other being that ASA uses the headcount at our business meeting to estimate how vital we are as a section).

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Lynn Smith-Lovin Receives the 2005 Emotions Section Lifetime Achievement Award



On behalf of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee Chair, Dr. David Franks, we announce the 2005 Emotions Section Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: **Dr. Lynn Smith-Lovin**, Professor, Duke University. Dr. Smith-Lovin's illustrious research career has been dedicated, as she explains on her Website, to "the study of identity, action and emotional response." We add that she is also a superb teacher and a tireless supporter of the emotions field in sociology. **CONGRATULATIONS, LYNN!**

Other Emotions Section Award News ...

Rebecca Erickson, Chair of the Outstanding Recent Contribution Award Committee, reports that this committee is well on its way to making a decision for 2005, and does not need any more nominations.

However, Michael Lovaglia, Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, is still interested in col-

lecting nominations for graduate student papers that contribute to the sociology of emotions empirically, theoretically, or methodologically. Send nominations to

Michael Lovaglia at:

michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu.

The deadline for these nominations is March 31.

Treasurer's Report

Dawn Robinson has provided us with the latest numbers regarding our coffers. Here is the Treasurer's Report for the period ended November 30, 2004.

	1st Quarter Actual	2nd Quarter Actual	3rd Quarter Actual	4th Quarter Actual	Year to Date
Income					
Dues Income	\$84	\$96	\$97	\$61	\$338
Section Budget Allocation	1,029	0	0	0	1,029
Total Income	1,113	96	97	61	1,367
Expenses					
AM Reception Expenses	0	0	354	0	354
Newsletter Expenses	0	462	360	0	822
Award Expenses	0	0	109	0	109
Total Expenses	0	462	823	0	1,285
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	1,113	(366)	(726)	61	82
Net Assets-Beginning Balance	1,107	2,220	1,854	1,127	1,107
Net Assets-Ending Balance	\$2,220	\$1,854	\$1,127	\$1,188	\$1,189

Graduate Student Profile

Christabel Rogalin,
University of Iowa
christabel_rogalin@uiowa.edu



Christabel Rogalin is a Ph.D. student in sociology at the University of Iowa. Her primary research interests are in the sociology of emotions, group processes and gender. Most of her research involves the experimental investigation of (1) the relation between emotion display and social behavior; (2) the relation between network structure and identity processes; and, (3) the relation between identity, emotion, and stress in social interaction.

In earlier work (with Dawn T. Robinson and Lynn Smith-Lovin), she experimentally investigated the role of emotion displays in shaping the character of identity management processes. When responding to another actor who has suffered identity damage, what role does that person's emotion display play? Drawing from the impression and emotion management literatures and from affect control theory, this work tested predictions about how people respond to insulted others depending on the emotion they display. She found that, when actors were insulted and displayed a normative emotion (sadness/distress), respondents accommodated them more on an influence task than

they did actors who were not insulted. In contrast, when actors were insulted and displayed a non-normative emotion (anger), respondents accommodated them *less* on an influence task, compared to non-insulted actors. In related series of experimental studies, they, along with Christopher D. Moore, tested predictions of affect control theory on the restoration of another's damaged identity.

Currently, she is working on a project (with Dawn T. Robinson) that is an initial attempt to experimentally test predictions suggested in the theoretical paper, "Physiological Measures of Theoretical Concepts: Some Ideas for Linking Deflection and Emotion to Physical Responses during Interaction" (Robinson, Rogalin, and Smith-Lovin 2004). This study is an attempt to capture physiological responses instead of using traditional survey methods to collect emotional reactions, so that more refined and useful measures for testing predictions from sociological theories of emotion and interaction may be developed. In order to analyze physiological data, she worked with Dawn T. Robinson to establish up the Socioemotional Physiological Instrumentation Technology (SPIT) Lab within the

Center for the Study of Group Processes at the University of Iowa.

Besides her focus in research within the sociology of emotions, she is currently working on a project with Anthony Paik that examines how the structure of opportunities and racial preferences affect adolescents' choices of the racial/ethnic characteristics of their sexual partners. Using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, they test competing explanations using generalized discrete choice models.

In addition to her strong interest in research, she is also committed to teaching. Christabel has experience leading discussions sections of introductory sociology and social psychology courses, and has taught the course, *Women and Society*. She was also awarded the 2001 Carl Couch Graduate Teaching Award.

Personal statement: The link between identity and emotion is extremely intriguing to me. People judge others based on their emotional reactions. To me, this is an extremely profound idea. In the future I am interested studying this link between identity and emotion outside the laboratory.

Graduate Student Profile

Jason Rosow,
Indiana University
jrosow@indiana.edu



Jason Rosow is currently a graduate student in the department of sociology at the University of Indiana-Bloomington. His primary interests are self and identity, peer cultures, and research methods. His research applies social psychological theories and a varied set of methodologies to topics in the sociology of sexuality and the family.

Since enrolling in the sociology program at Indiana University, Jason has been busy with two distinct research projects pertaining to the study of emotions. He has joined Elbert Almazan on an NIMH and NSF funded project that analyzes data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. They consider the statistical relations between dimensions of sexual orientation and emotional problems of young adults. They find that same-sex attraction is significantly related to levels of depression, self-esteem and alcohol abuse. Surprisingly, young adults who self-identified as gay or bisexual, and those who reported that their parents were aware of their same-sex identification, did not report less emotional problems.

Born out of frustration with the lack of attention given to issues of race and ethnicity in

emotions research and his interest in self and identity, Jason has also embarked on an investigation that compares Black, White, and Mexican-American emotional memoirs as a parent. Working closely with Pamela Jackson and William Corsaro, he uses in-person interviews and supplementary survey data to investigate how racially-based identities are cross-cut by role-specific identities. In this pursuit, Jason integrates Raymond Williams concept of "structures of feeling" and social psychological theories of identity. His research highlights the complexity of the link between identity and emotion, and suggests an expanded explanatory model of emotional processes that considers both an individual's general positions in the social structure and their more specific interactional positions. In the process, Jason provides a revealing glimpse into a fundamental aspect of community life: parenthood.

Personal Statement: Unlike most social acts, my passion for the study of the sociology of emotions had a precise beginning. I was at my first sociological conference seated at the annual banquet for the Society for the Study

of Symbolic Interaction. New to the formal study of social life, I spent the early part of that evening intimidated by my esteemed dinner company. That year, Lyn Lofland received the Herbert Mead Lifetime Achievement award. Perhaps it was the wine settling, but during her acceptance speech my anxiousness was transformed into elation. I sat there, amazed by the grace that was accomplished in that room by a gentle, sincerely grateful, and humble scholar and an admiring audience. It was a beautiful moment. Later that evening, one of those intimidating professors asked me directly if I studied emotions. I gave him a curious look, and he explained that "I seemed to really feel them" based upon my appearance during the acceptance speech. And when I reflected on that emotional experience, I was struck by its collective nature. I became fascinated with the social shaping of what seemed to be the most personal dimension of human existence—the experience of emotion.

Graduate Student Profile

Sarah Harkness,
Kent State University
sharknes@kent.edu



Sarah Harkness is a Master's student at Kent State University. Her continuing research projects involve education, gender inequality and mental health through the use of identity theories and affect control theory. Sarah's thesis, "Self-Enhancement or Self-Verification?: A Test Using College Student Major Choice," is an attempt to account for the gender gap observed in the physical and social sciences through social psychological constructs.

This thesis also contains the development of competing hypotheses regarding the conflicting social psychological motives of self-verification and self-enhancement, and will examine the strength of these proposed drives through the analysis of college student major choice. Identity control theory (hereafter ICT) and social identity theory (hereafter SIT) provide potential cognitive explanations for students' choice of major and, consequently, the gender gap in academia. ICT and SIT give conflicting predictions as to what types of majors students will choose.

ICT proposes that people behave in ways that verify, or confirm, who they think they are,

suggesting that students will choose a major that validates their preexisting impression of themselves. Conversely, SIT postulates that people strive to enhance their position within society to elevate their self-esteem and reduce uncertainty. This theoretical position suggests that students will attempt to replace an original, relatively low-status major to one of higher status to self-enhance, whereas students with a high-status major would either retain this field of study or enhance further to the major of highest status. Sarah's thesis provides a test between the theoretical motivations of self-verification (ICT) and self-enhancement (SIT) by evaluating how effectively each theory explains college major choice. For instance, is it the case that women and men harbor gendered perceptions of the majors, or do the sexes have different conceptions of the majors' status hierarchy and, thereby, self-enhance in divergent ways that subsequently perpetuate the gender gap?

Sarah is also interested in examining the intersections of affect control theory with modified labeling theory. She is working with Dr. Amy Kroska in examining a longitudinal dataset of mental health patients from the

Indianapolis Network Mental Health Survey. They are using simulations derived from *Interact*, a computerized version of affect control theory, to test the predicted coping behaviors derived from the modified labeling theory of mental illness of educating others, withdrawal and secrecy. They are also assessing the construct validity of semantic differential profiles of the evaluation, potency and activity of mental illness identities as a more parsimonious measure of stigma beliefs than Link's classic devaluation-discrimination scale.

Sarah has been accepted to Stanford, Duke, Cornell, Iowa, and UNC's Ph.D. programs.

Personal Statement: I have chosen to study the connection between sentiment processes, inequality and stigma because emotions can offer a sense of personal validation that has the potential to act in ways to perpetuate inequality in American society. I maintain that scholars can better ascertain how status differences are created and sustained through the realization of these processes, and, hopefully, the study of emotions can offer insights in how to contend with these disparities.

Sociology of Emotions Researchers are urged attend the North Central Sociological Association's Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania because of these concurrent mini-Conferences:



Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania
Dusk Skyline

*Symbolic Interaction and Ethnographic Research 2005:
The Intellectual Legacy of Herbert Blumer*

First Annual Spring Group Processes Mini-Conference

April 9, 2005

The North Central Sociological Association's Annual Conference is being held at the Marriot City Center.

Please go to:

<http://www.ncsanet.org/index.html>

for the Preliminary Program, Meeting Pre-Registration form and information regarding hotel reservations and accommodations.

See you in Pittsburgh!

From the International Society for Research on Emotions (ISRE)

ISRE Annual Meeting in Bari, Italy, July 11-15, 2005

The March 1 submissions deadline has been extended to March 7. For further information see www.ISRE2005.net

For membership in ISRE:

ISRE holds annual meetings alternating meetings in North America and Europe.

Members are from the sciences and humanities including psychology, the social sciences, philosophy, and literature.

Members have contributed research and publication in the emotions.

Members hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent)

and have made significant contribution to research on emotion.

Associate Members include students and young scholars with early work in emotion studies; as they contribute more work in emotions studies they become Members.

To apply for membership:

email to either Doyle McCarthy (mccarthy@fordham.edu) or to Gerrod Parrott, Membership Secretary (parrottg@georgetown.edu)

1. a statement of interest in emotion studies;
2. your curriculum vitae with emotion-relevant publications marked or listed separately;
3. the names of your sponsor(s) (2

are required); Doyle McCarthy will serve as your sponsor if you are a social scientist.

The ISRE Executive Committee reviews applications several times a year.

ISRE WEBSITE

<http://facpub.stjohns.edu/%7Ebooner/ISRE/ISRE.html>

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New Book Announcements

Timothy J. Owens, *From Adolescence to Adulthood in the Vietnam Era*.
New York: Springer (2005).

<http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,4-40109-22-34956955-0,00.html>

Children born during the post-WWII era of peace and prosperity entered history at a time dominated by I-Like-Ike politics and domestic security. As they approached adolescence, however, their world was shaken by major cultural, economic, social, and political upheaval. And although it was time of great innovation and progress, a sense of chaos and bitterness began to envelop the country. It was the '60s. For many Americans, a mere mention of this decade evokes an extraordinary time and place in the country's - and their own - history. Adolescents who had been enjoying the technological and medical advances of the era - television, drive-in movies, rock-and-roll, vaccinations that prevented once-incurable diseases - now were also experiencing the fallout from the Civil Rights Movement, domestic terrorism, stagflation, and (perhaps most significant) the Vietnam War. *From Adolescence to Adulthood in the Vietnam Era* provides a unique, detailed, long-term study of the psychological and social worlds of male adolescents who were on the cusp of adulthood as the 1960s were ending. This longitudinal analysis follows adolescent boys who graduated with the class of 1969 and transitioned into adulthood either through military service, full-time employment, or college life. The results examine the different pathways these boys chose and the affect these choices had on their transition from adolescents to young adult men.

Jonathan H. Turner and Jan E. Stets, *The Sociology of Emotions*.

New York: Cambridge University Press (2005).

From the Newsletter Editor: Thanks to All!



Merrill Hall circa 1920

Greetings from Kent State Sociology!

Thank you AGAIN all for your timely contributions to our second online Newsletter! Please continue to send me your announcements, articles, book reviews, etc. The more you are involved with the newsletter, the better it can be! Please feel free to send me an e-mail with comments, concerns, corrections or any other ideas you have for the newsletter. My e-mail address is: abianchi@kent.edu.



Have a terrific Spring! Please watch the Emotions Website and your e-mails for future Newsletter editor requests!

— Alison Bianchi

[We're on the Web! <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~abianchi/index.html>]



**American Sociological Association:
Section on Sociology of Emotions**

The purpose of the Section on Sociology of Emotions is to promote the general development of this area through the exchange of ideas, research, and teaching about emotions, and to link scholars interested in emotions research. The term "emotion" is interpreted in its broadest sense from episodic bodily expressions and affective postures to enduring sentiments, as they relate to social behavior and social organizations. This Section seeks to encourage the study of: emotions in social life, emotionality in research, and the integration of emotions into all appropriate areas of all sociological research.

For more information about us, visit our Website listed above.