

From: Bernieflps@aol.com (Bernie Phillips)
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2008 6:35 PM
Subject: SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION GROUP

Sociological Imagination Group: Session Schedule

Dear Colleagues,

Our 9th annual conference, "Confronting Fundamental Social Problems," takes place at the Westin Copley Place Hotel, 10 Huntington Ave., a block from ASA's meetings at the Boston Sheraton, with free admission to all. Half of the time for each presentation will be devoted to open discussion, with 3/4 hour of break time between sessions, all in the interest of audience participation.

We invite social scientists throughout the world to join what we see as the beginning of a social movement aimed at confronting escalating social problems that threaten all of us. We see our effort to fulfill "the promise of sociology" as desperately needed at this time in history, for other problem-oriented movements--past and present--require the broad understanding that we can increasingly provide. And we completely agree with this conclusion by Mills:

"I do not know the answer to the question of political irresponsibility in our time. . . But is it not clear that no answers will be found unless these problems are at least confronted? Is it not obvious that the ones to confront them, above all others, are the social scientists of the rich societies? That many of them do not now do so is surely the greatest human default being committed by privileged men in our times" (*The Sociological Imagination*, 1959: 176).

Here is the schedule:

THURSDAY, JULY 31

PLENARY: 8 AM-9 AM David Knottnerus, Tom Scheff, David Christner, Bernie Phillips

ACTIVISM: 9-11

Robert Fuller (9-9:30) Democracy's Next Steps: From "Rankism" to a Dignitarian Society

Tom Scheff (9:30-10) Generating Mass Killers: Bullying by Athletes in US High Schools

Ellis Jones, Brett Johnson and Ross Haenfler (10-10:30) Sociology and Social Change: Creating a More Just and Sustainable World (forthcoming, 2008)

Ellis Jones, Brett Johnson and Ross Haenfler (10:30-11) The Better World Handbook: Small Changes That Make a Big Difference (New Society, 2007)

EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION: 11:45-1:45

Severyn Bruyn (11:45-12:15) Either one of these: Universities in the 21st century, Evolution that is interdisciplinary, or a Caucus on International Law

Bernie Phillips (12:15-12:45) The Scientific Method in Everyday Life
Marv Finkelstein (12:45-1:15) Toward Teaching a Liberating Sociological Practicality
Gregory Morales (1:15-1:45) Deflecting Identities and Conditional Knowledge

THURSDAY, JULY 31 (continued)

THEORY AND METHODS: 2:30-4:30

Crystal Adams (2:30-3) On Not Identifying with a Sociological Perspective
Elizabeth Gill (3-3:30) Countersystem Analysis: C. Wright Mills and the Construct of Alternative Futures
Richard Moodey (3:30-4) Three Approaches to Interpreting the Ladder of Abstraction
Michael Roberts (4-4:30) The Question of Imagination in Comte, Durkheim and Parsons:
Toward a Critical Deconstruction of Classical Sociological Theory

HEALTH AND ILLNESS (5:15-7:15)

Carmela Lomonaco and Larry Solomon (5:15-5:45) Using Our Sociological Imagination to Work to Reduce the Burden of Disease: Opportunities at the National Institutes of Health
Irwin Sperber (5:45-6:15) Moving toward a New Medical Sociology: Revisiting Health Care and Environmental Policy
Margaret Hynes (6:15-6:45) Partnerships to Improve the Infrastructure for Documenting and Reporting on Health Disparities--the Connecticut Health Disparities Project
Barbara Wejnert (6:45-7:15) Unsafe Motherhood in Post-Communist Democracies, 1970-2005

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

INSTITUTIONS (8-10)

Kenneth Gould, David Pellow and Allan Schnaiberg (8-8:30) Treadmill Realities versus Sustainability Fantasies: A Critical Prediction
Alex Thornburg and David Knottnerus (8:30-9) MegaChurch tv: Consumer Rituals and the Religious Experience in Modern America
Jane Grant (9-9:30) Forging a New American Social Compact: The Role of Democratic Deliberation, Social and Political Movements, and Ethical and Accountable Leaders
William (Beau) Weston (9:30-10) The Power Elite and the Philadelphia Gentlemen: Arguing with Mills and Baltzell about How the Nation Is Led

RESEARCH PROCEDURES (10:45-12:45)

Paul Gray (10:45-11:15) The Research Imagination: An Eclectic, Balanced and Problem-Solving Approach to Methods (Cambridge University Press)
David Smith (11:15-11:45) Global Needs Assessment: Problems and Prospects
Vince Montes (11:45-12:15) State Power: Toward a Wide-Ranging Analysis of Social Problems
Bob Stebbins (12:15-12:45) A Walk on the Positive Side of Life: A New Direction for Sociology

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 (continued)

SOCIAL PROBLEMS (1:30-3:30)

Karen Halnon (1:30-2) Poor Chic: Poverty Fads, Fashion, and Media

Alberto Moncada (2-2:30) Sociology and Human Rights

Tommy Horejes (2:30-3) A Circular Journey to Kafkaesque Justice through the Supreme Court:

A Focus on the Disability Experience

Randall Rogers (3-3:30) Exploited or Exploiting: The Case of Sex Workers in Bangkok, Thailand

Bernie Phillips and David Knottnerus