



Newsletter

Southwestern Sociological Association

92nd Annual SSA Conference in Sunny San Diego, California

The Southwestern Social Sciences and Sociological Associations held annual meetings in San Diego, California from April 4—7, 2012. The conference, entitled “Striking Gold in the Social Sciences: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity,” was held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel and hosted fifty sociology sessions—a lower number than in Las Vegas in 2011.

Our next meeting is in *New Orleans (2013)*, followed by San Antonio (2014), Denver (2015), and Las Vegas (2016). Conversations are currently underway for conference sites for 2017 and future dates.

Preliminary Call for 2013 Session Organizers in New Orleans, March 27th—30th

If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a session organizer, participant, and/or moderator of sessions at the 2013 Southwestern Sociological Association meeting in New Orleans we would like to know. Each year we are pleased to have the support of our colleagues.

As in previous years, we will offer traditional paper sessions as well as poster and visual sessions. The standard poster sessions will be presentations of empirical research in a display format rather than an oral paper reading. In contrast, the visual sessions will reflect the use of visual mediums (e.g., video, still photos, etc.) as tools to study the social world.

If you have questions or interests, please contact Dr. Cynthia Cready, SSA President-Elect, at cready@unt.edu. The preliminary call for papers will be distributed in summer 2012, with a final deadline of mid October for paper and proposal submissions. Paper submissions will be via electronic submission. The system is expected to be open for receiving submissions by September 1, 2012.

Spring & Summer2012

Special points of interest:

We *moved* our SSA website to centralize information for our members.

For the SSA

<http://www.swsociology.org/html/home.html>

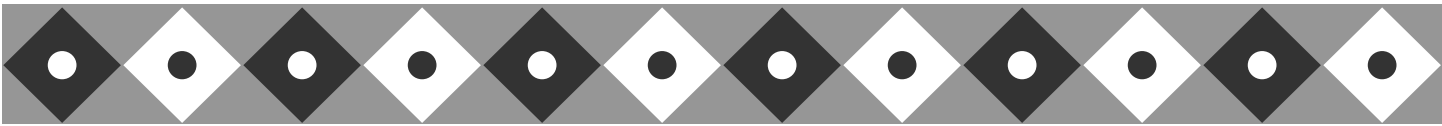
For the SSSA

<http://www.sssaonline.org/>

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Executive Committee for 2012—2013:

- President Charles Tolbert II, Baylor University; Charlie_tolbert@baylor.edu
- President-Elect Cynthia Cready, University of North Texas; cready@unt.edu
- Vice-President David Embrick, Loyola University-Chicago, dembric@luc.edu
- Secretary-Treasurer Ed Rossman, US Army Corps of Engineers; Edwin.J.Rossman@usace.army.mil
- Executive Council Cheng-Hsein Lin, Lamar University (2011-2013); cchang2@lamar.edu
Carson Mencken, Baylor University (2011-2013); Carson_Mencken@Baylor.edu
Carol Walther, Northern Illinois University (2012-2014); cwalther@niu.edu
Jin Young Choi, Sam Houston State University (2012-2014); JYC002@shsu.edu
Student Representative: Oscar Morales, University of Texas-El Paso
- Past President Mark Fossett, Texas A & M University; m-fossett@tamu.edu

Other Officers and Program Chairs:

- Program Chair Cynthia Cready, University of North Texas; cready@unt.edu
- Nominations,
Distinguished Papers &
Department Awards Mark Fossett, Texas A & M; m-fossett@tamu.edu
Norma Williams
- Service Award Sherry McKibben, City of Huntsville; sherrymckibben@yahoo.com
- Elections Beverly Stiles, Midwestern State University; Beverly.stiles@mwsu.edu
- Silent Auction David Embrick, Loyola University-Chicago, dembric@luc.edu
- Student Paper Awards Chiung-Fang Chang, Lamar University; Cchang2@my.lamar.edu
- Student Poster Awards Charlotte Dunham, Texas Tech University; charlotte.dunham@ttu.edu
- Naming Paper Awards Bob Beckley, Doug Eckberg, Elizabeth Estherchild, Beverly Stiles, Jim Williams
- Membership _____
- Historian & Archivist Robert Beckley, West Texas A&M University; rbeckley@mail.wtamu.edu
- Parliamentarian Ray Darville, Steven F. Austin State University; rdarville@sfasu.edu
- Web Master Mark Fossett, Texas A & M; m-fossett@tamu.edu
- Newsletter Co-editors Janet Armitage, St. Mary's University; jarmitage1@stmarytx.edu
- Association Homepage <http://www.swsociology.org/html/home.html>
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2012 CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT



Brint SSA Plenary Speaker

Dr. Steven Brint, Professor of Sociology and Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Education at The University of California – Riverside, was the 2012 SSA plenary speaker. His presentation, entitled “Prospects for Sociology in the Market-Model University” addressed current economic pressures on colleges and universities, and the departments within them. Brint’s remarks addressed the viability and relative standing of sociology as a discipline and the challenges departments face.



Kennedy, SSSA Plenary Speaker

Dr. David M. Kennedy, of Stanford University, was the SSA’s plenary speaker for the 2012 meeting in San Diego, California. His address was entitled “Water and the Making of the West: A Story of Success and Crisis.” Dr. Kennedy is a Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History, Emeritus, and Co-Director of the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University. He is a native of Seattle, Washington and received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University in 1968. His research interests reflect the integration of economic and cultural analysis with social and political history. II.

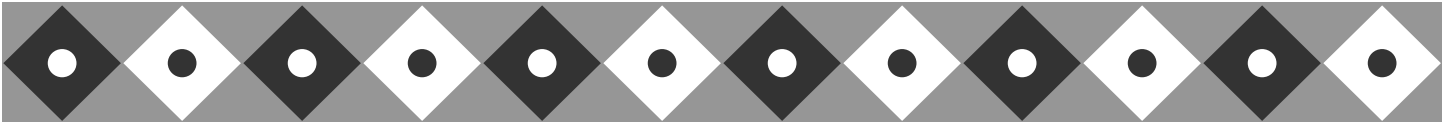
Saenz Recognized for Norma Williams Service Award

The sixth annual SSA Norma Williams Service Award recognized Dr. Rogelio Saenz, Dean of the University of Texas San Antonio College of Public Policy. This award is given to an SSA member, in good standing for 10 years, who demonstrates ongoing service to the SSA through meeting participation and student mentoring. The 2012 Committee, appointed by the President, recognized Saenz for his tireless efforts. Previous service award recipients were Hiram Friedson (2007), Elizabeth Esterchild (2008), and Robert Buckley (2009), Dudley Poston (2010), and Janet Huber Lowry (2011).



Saenz Becomes New SSSA President

Congratulations to our own Dr. Rogelio Saenz as the newly elected President of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association! Dr. Rogelio Saenz, sociologist and social demographer, earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University (1986). His research interests center on Latinos, demography, race and ethnic relations, immigration and inequality; and he recently co-edited a book entitled, *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of America*.



2012 CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Silent Auction

Once again, the SSA hosted a Silent Auction in San Diego with the assistance of University of North Texas students. All proceeds benefit the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program.

Student Paper Competition Awards

This year's doctoral graduate student paper award went to Yok-Fong Patt of the University of Oklahoma for a paper entitled, "Immigrant Children's Assimilation Pathways: A Comparison of Two Theoretical Arguments." Patt was recognized at the SSA General Business Meeting and received \$200. No undergraduate and masters-level papers were selected for awards. Our thanks to Drs. Chiung-Fang Cheng and Cheng-Hsien Lin for co-chairing and judging the student papers.

Visual Sociology Competition Awards

The SSA Visual Sociology Photo Essay Competition awarded three awards in 2012. Congratulations to our photo essay winners and our thanks to our judges: Andy Sharma, Newman Wolf, and Kokos Markides.

First Place: Yok-Fong Patt, The University of Oklahoma, for "Housing in Malaysia"

Second Place: Chad Scott, Texas A & M University, for "You Have the Right to Remain . . ."

Third Place: Lauren Holland, California State University-San Marcos, for "Share the Road: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity"

ASA's Shin Expresses Gratitude

for SSA Support of ASA MFP

The American Sociological Association's Jean Shin attended the SSA meetings for a sixth consecutive year. He expressed his gratitude for our support to the ASA's fellowship program, noting many SSA leaders as former MFP recipients. Our support of this fellowship program grows in importance as federal funding has been eliminated for this program since 2010.

From the Desk Charles Tolbert II
Southwestern Sociological Association President, 2012



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From the President:

First, let me again say that I am very flattered to have been elected President of the Southwestern Sociological Association. This is one of the oldest regional sociology organizations, and there is quite a history. Over the years, the association has weathered wars, segregation, and other externalities that make our times seem fairly tranquil. We have inherited a thriving organization and should be appreciative of our colleagues who led the association before us. Most notably, we all owe a big debt to Past-President Mark Fossett who hosted such a splendid meeting in San Diego. His organizing efforts will be hard to top.

Second, I join all of you in looking forward to the meeting in New Orleans, March 27-30. Mark your calendars now and begin planning a submission. Program Chair Cynthia Cready will begin her work as soon as the submission system opens. Even before she begins, we owe her thanks for the time that she will invest in organizing the program. Watch for news about a new online program submission system.

Third, I am very happy that the meeting for my presidential year is in New Orleans--in the springtime no less. SSA always draws well in New Orleans, so expect a great turnout of professional sociologists and students. We are hoping for a special treat in conjunction with the Presidential Session late Friday afternoon. Stay tuned for details and watch the SSA website at <http://www.swsociology.org/html/home.html>.

Best wishes for the coming fall semester.

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New Orleans
March 27–30, 2013



**Join us for the 93rd Annual SSA Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana—
“New Social Media and Life, Politics, and Society in Early 21st Century.”**

Call for Papers

We are looking for program and session organizers for the 2013 annual meeting. Participate in the 2013 meeting by putting together topics, organizing sessions and panels, or volunteering as a discussant. Contact Dr. Cynthia Cready, SSA Vice President, at cready@unt.edu.

As in San Diego, we are working to promote greater interdisciplinary activity across the Southwestern Social Science Association affiliates. We aspire to offer interdisciplinary sessions—a unique feature of our regional associations—that connect teaching in the social sciences and the collective contributions of the social sciences. We will continue to offer paper, poster, and visual sessions with technological and financial assistance from the SSSA.

2012 SSA New Business

Online Submission System

For the 2012 meetings, we adopted a new online submission system for the program. It was not without flaws, however members and session organizers found it offered benefits to developing an annual conference program. The larger Southwestern Social Sciences Association has not finalized a decision regarding the system for the 2013 program. As Program Chair, Dr. Cynthia Cready will maintain communication regarding this issue.

Post 2012 Conference Survey Results

In response to lower attendance numbers at the 2012 conference and the new submission system, SSA conducted a post 2012 conference survey. Among survey respondents, 52 percent attended in San Diego and the remaining respondents did not attend due to travel cost, travel time, lodging costs, and/or work conflicts. The majority in attendance responded favorably to the conference experience, with greater satisfaction in program academic quality and communication and less satisfaction with conference attendance and associated conference costs.

Regarding future SSA conferences, respondents expressed a need for consideration of academic quality of our programs, costs for travel and lodging, and selected dates for meetings. A majority of the respondents were full members with ten or more years vested in The Southwestern Sociological Association. Our thanks to Ed Rossman who created the post-conference survey.

Southwestern Sociological Association



We are on the web!

<http://www.swsociology.org/html/home.html>

SSA Newsletter Ideas and Information?

The SSA is interested in your sociological experiences, endeavors, projects, and more. If your department has disciplinary information to share with colleagues, please contact us. The newsletter editor can be reached at:

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HERE!**

