

California Sociological Association

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February 1999 CSA Newsletter

California Sociological Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 2

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RETROSPECTIVE: NINTH ANNUAL MEETINGS

By James A. Glynn, Madera College

"This is a great place!" That was the comment that I heard most often at the October 1998, annual meetings at the Mission Inn in Riverside. The hotel is truly a California landmark; one, which is, featured on the Arts and Entertainment channel's series, "Castles." Several attendees questioned me about the chance of returning to this property in the future and I am investigating the possibility. But, at this point, it is doubtful that the facility will provide us with accommodations and a price range that fits our budget.

If space can be freed for the year 2000 meetings of the CSA, the room occupancy rate will be about \$140, roughly 40 percent more than the highest that we've ever paid. Also, the rental of meeting space will be expensive. But, I am counting negotiations with the hotel personnel, the Convention Bureau, and the City of Riverside. I will keep you informed as talks progress.

Very Positive comments were also made about the program. The hard work expended by Gordon Clanton (San Diego State University), his Program Committee, and our colleagues at the University of Riverside was evident. It seems that almost every year there is at least one innovation to the program. This year's was a breakfast with featured speaker Randy Huntsberry (Executive Coaching Associates).

Our keynote address was given at the Friday luncheon by Richard Flacks (University of California, Santa Barbara), who addressed the question: "Has Sociology Made the World Better?" At Saturday's lunchtime meeting, several speakers (Earl Babbie, Chapman University; Robin Franck, Southwestern College; Shoon Lio, San Diego State University; and Jonathan Turner, University of California, Riverside) discussed their ideas about improving the teaching of sociology. Prior to the luncheon, Mayor Ron Loveridge welcomed the CSA to the City of Riverside.

Once again, the program has something of an international flavor with colleagues from south of the border participating. Papers were given by Frank Malgesini and Emma Escobeda (Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua) as well as Rodolfo Cruz-Pineiro, Maria Eugenia Anguiano, Kathryn Kipinak, and Magdalena Barros (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte). In all, there were 43 papers, four panel presentations, and fifteen roundtables.

Although the Executive Board had tried to institute better controls over the past few years, it continues to be nearly impossible to determine exactly how many people attend our annual conference. I can report that 135 people filled out the forms that were distributed, indicating either their attendance or intention to attend meetings. However, I suspect that significantly more people showed up over the two days.

We definitely had the best ever turnout for our lunches. On Friday, eighty-six members were served, and a total of sixty-eight attended on Saturday. Dining outside the hotel was made easier and more predictable because of a restaurant guide developed by Jonathan Turner (University of California, Riverside).

Finally, I can report that I have paid all of the conference expenses and that our organization is financially sound at this time. But, the Governing Board and the Executive Board believe that we need to increase to about twice our current size in order to fair well in the future. On behalf of the Council and the Board, I urge each of you to become recruiters for the CSA and thank you for your continuing support.

TENTH ANNUAL MEETINGS TO BE IN BERKELEY
By James A. Glynn, Madera College

I am happy to announce that this year's meetings--our tenth annual conference--will be held on October 29-30 at the Radisson Hotel in Berkeley. The CSA used this same facility in 1993, when it was operated by Marriott Hotels, and attendees offered many favorable comments about the site. The Radisson is

located at the Berkeley Marina, and many rooms offer wonderful views of the San Francisco Bay.

I believe that over-night rooms will be \$98, and reservations will probably have to be made by the end of September in order to get that rate. I will give members more specific information in the May-June issue of this newsletter.

During the next few months, we will be developing the program. If you would like to give a paper, organize a panel, or lead a discussion at the roundtable, please contact:

Carole Barnes, Program Chair
Department of Sociology
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95810-6005
916 278-5737
cwbarnes@csus.edu

ROBERT BELLAH TO KEYNOTE AT CSA/BERKELEY

CSA is pleased to announce that Robert N. Bellah will be the keynote speaker at the Friday, October 29 luncheon at our tenth annual meetings in Berkeley. His topic will be "Public life in a Privatized Society."

Bellah is Elliott professor of Sociology Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. Born in Oklahoma and raised in Los Angeles, he was educated at Harvard University, receiving the B.A. in 1950 and the Ph.D. in 1955.

Bellah is the author or editor of 12 books including TOKUGAWA RELIGION, BEYOND BELIEF, THE BROKEN COVENANT, THE NEW RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS, VARIETIES OF CIVIL RELIGION, AND UNCIVIL RELIGION: INTERRELIGIOUS HOSPITALITY IN AMERICA. His 1967 essay "Civil Religion in America" reshaped the debate on secularization. He currently is working on a book on religious evolution.

In 1985, Bellah published HABITS OF THE HEART: INDIVIDUALISM AND COMMITMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE, written in collaboration with Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, Ann Swidler, and Steven Tipton. THE GOOD SOCIETY, written by the same five authors was published in 1991. A new paperback edition of HABITS OF THE HEART, with a new introduction by the authors, was published by UC Press in 1996.

HABITS OF THE HEART, winner of a LOS ANGELES TIMES Book prize, is one of the most widely read and most influential sociology books of recent decades.

President's Library

Thank you for choosing me president of your CSA. I'll do my best for the Association, and I'll welcome your suggestions. I am not a crook and I have not had sex with that woman, Ms. Lewinsky.

THANKS to everyone who helped make our 1998 meetings in Riverside a big success: keynote speaker, Richard Flacks (UC Santa Barbara); Riverside Mayor, Ron Loveridge; breakfast seminar speaker, Randy Huntsberry; Jonathan Turner and Valerie Callahan (Who coordinated the outstanding program contributions by UC Riverside faculty and graduate students); Shoon Lio (SDSU); Gary Cretser (Cal Poly Pomona); and the program committee; the session organizers; all those who presented papers or led roundtable discussions; and volunteers too numerous to

name here. The success of a voluntary association depends on the number and the quality of its volunteers. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

CSA/BERKELEY 1999 Planning is now well under way for our 1999 meeting in Berkeley, October 29 and 30, at the beautiful Berkeley Marina Radisson. (This was the Marriott when we met there in 1993.) Please contact program chair Carole Barnes (CSU Sacramento) cwbarnes@csus.edu with suggestions and proposals for sessions or papers.

Our two-day CSA meetings, alternating between Northern and Southern California, provide great opportunities for faculty and graduate students to organize sessions, present papers, and lead roundtable discussions. Our format is flexible, our philosophy is inclusive, and our fees are modest. Our Executive Director, Jim Glynn, works hard to get us a good deal on hotel rooms and meals. Our programs are set up to encourage participation by those who wish to drive in for one day of the conference.

FREE MEMBERSHIPS To ensure the viability and impact of the CSA, your Executive Board has determined that it is desirable that the association grow to about twice its present size over the next five to ten years. We would like to have at least one member from every UC, CSU, community college, and private college or university in the state. To encourage this, the CSA will offer free one-year memberships to persons affiliated with institutions of higher learning that have no CSA members. If you know of such a person, please send name/address/e-mail/phone to CSA Executive Director, Jim Glynn, james.glynn@dol.scccd.cc.cs.us, and he will send out an application. In conjunction with our 1999 meeting in Berkeley, we are especially interested in reaching community college faculty in a two- or three-hour radius of the Bay Area. Rachel Kahn-Hutrak@taurus.sfsu.edu is heading that effort.

Every CSA member can help build CSA membership. Copy this newsletter and pass it along to your faculty colleagues and graduate students. Post announcement to the 1999 meetings. Encourage your associates to submit proposals.

CSA @ PSA I shall chair a panel on "The Future of the California Sociological Association" at the Pacific Sociological Association meeting in Portland, April 15-18, 1999. The panelists will be Jim Glynn, Chuck Hohm, Robin Franck, Carole Barnes, and Earl Babbie. All CSA members and all California sociologists attending the PSA meetings are encouraged to join us for this California caucus at PSA/Portland.

The Executive Board and Governing Council of the CSA will meet at the PSA meetings. Please forward to me any matters that ought to be put before the Board at that time.

Thanks for your support to the CSA.

Gordon Clanton, CSA President

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
California Sociological Association
Annual meetings

The Tenth Annual Meetings of the California Sociological Association will be held at the Radisson Marina Hotel in Berkeley, Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, 1999.

Program Chair Carole Barnes welcomes proposals by faculty and graduate students to organize a session or panel, present a paper, lead a discussion, or participate in other ways. CSA wants to particularly encourage graduate students to organize sessions--we will help recruit additional presenters, if necessary.

Proposals are invited on all aspects of sociology (theory, methods, social psychology, crime and justice, work and organizations, race/ethnicity, gender, teaching--to name a few). The program theme: "Work and Leisure in the New Millennium" will provide a focus for several sessions and at least one keynote address.

Bay Area campuses are challenged to match the high level of involvement by faculty and students in the Riverside and Sacramento meetings of the past two years.

CSA wants to encourage breadth of participation in these millennium eve meetings. We want to reach beyond the CSU to specifically invite participation from the following:

- * UC faculty
- * Community College faculty
- * Part-time faculty and sociological practitioners
- * Graduate and undergraduate students

With the exception of guests from other fields, all program participants will be expected to register for the meetings.

Please send proposals and other suggestions to: Carole Barnes, Department of Sociology, California State University Sacramento, 6000 Jay Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6005, Phone: 916-278-5737, 916-278-5150, email: cwbarne@csus.edu .

CSA at PSA/Portland

CSA President Gordon Clanton will chair a panel on "The Future of the California Sociological Association" at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings in Portland, April 15-18, 1999. The panelists will include Jim Glynn, Chuck Hohm, Carole Barnes, and Earl Babbie. All CSA members and all California sociologists are invited to participate in this California caucus at PSA.

The Executive Board and the Governing Council of the CSA will meet at the PSA meetings. Please forward any matters that need to be put before the board to Gordon Clanton gclanton@mail.sdsu.edu.

CSU's Cornerstones: Summary and Critiques

By James L. Wood

The CSU system has devised a "strategic plan" called Cornerstones which would apply to all CSU campuses if implemented as currently planned for next year. Cornerstones is aimed at radically restructuring California higher education by centralizing academic majors and the "assessment" criteria for university degrees from the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach, a strategy ignoring the many differences between regions and universities in the 23-campus CSU system. This plan will de-emphasize college and university courses and instead rely on "assessing" skills through centralized "objective tests," which is something akin to college students perpetually taking SAT and GRE assessment tests for each of their courses. Furthermore, this approach will likely lead to increased

reliance on distance learning and creating CSU campuses which Professor David Noble has called "Digital Diploma Mills" that will surely weaken the CSU system.

As an indication of the lack of quality higher education envisioned by Cornerstones, the Cornerstones Implementation Plan (CIP) says almost nothing about faculty intellectual development, which is at the heart of any plan to improve the quality of higher education. Thus, any suggestion that Cornerstones--especially its implementation document, CIP--will further quality higher education for California is seriously misleading. Indeed this plan will weaken California higher education through homogenizing and centralizing it beyond anything we have previously seem. For these reasons, the Faculty Coalition for Public Higher Education (FCPHE) feels this plan should be rejected or, at a minimum, significantly revised.

Editor:

J. Daniel McMillin, Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Applied Research Center, California State University Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, Ca 93311-1099, (805) 664-2386, FAX (805) 664-2132, dmcmillin@csubak.edu

The California Sociological Association Newsletter is a Publication of the California Sociological Association, a not-for-profit organization that represents members in the fields of education, research, sociological practice, and government service.

The California Sociological Association Newsletter is distributed to all members who are in good standing with the association. Unsolicited articles, book reviews, and letters are invited and should be mailed to the editor.

Officers of the California Sociological Association:

President: Gordon Clanton, San Diego State University

President Elect: Carole Barnes, California State University Sacramento

Executive Director: James A. Glynn

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