

Child & Youth News

A Message from the Chair

Dear Section Members:

Since I had the honor to begin as the section chair at the ASA Annual Meetings at Boston, my first impression has been one of high enthusiasm and energy among our section officials and members. This revived *Child and Youth News* is an example of such collective effort. I am proud that our publication committee of three talented and devoted members (two graduate students and one faculty member) has successfully maintained a section website updated biweekly and published a quarterly newsletter with the support of our members. I hope everyone enjoys reading the newsletter and surfing the website. Let us know your comments and suggestions.

One of the opportunities for the chair is to select topics for the coming year's ASA Meetings. I would like to promote research on the health domain of development, an emerging area of interest that is

closely related to well-researched developmental domains and offers important insight into the complex mechanisms throughout childhood and youth. Another topic, aligned with the 2009 ASA theme, is community and childhood/youth. For more information, see the 2009 Children and Youth Section Program in this newsletter and a message from our roundtable organizer. I hope this information gives everyone a head start on



their active participation in our section's 2009 program.

My view of our section is that it should be a home for faculty members, graduate students, and professionals who share a common interest in children and youth. It

is a home for our on-going exchange of information on and findings from academic and research activities that complements the ASA annual meetings. To this end, I propose the creation of an on-going agenda for our section that would be carried out through our website, newsletter, and listserv. I call on our senior prominent members to take the lead in identifying research topics and directions that challenge our field, debating controversial issues, and mentoring junior faculty and graduate students through these media. I encourage junior faculty members to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the section for brainstorming research ideas and forming research groups with the field's leaders. I also wish to promote ways in which our graduate students can use our section to broaden their knowledge and to seek external mentorship. Please send your thoughts for such an agenda, which will be published in the next newsletter as letters to the Editor.

--Lingxin Hao

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!!!

Thanks to the brilliant work of Lara Perez-Felkner, our section now has its very own website! Check it out at: <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionchildren>. This newsletter represents only a portion of the exciting things that our section members are currently doing. For more updates and information, see the website! And, if you have material or announcements you wish to submit to this website, please email Lara at larap@uchicago.edu.

We look forward to your future submissions for both the website and newsletter!

The Newsletter of the
Sociology of Children
& Youth Section of the
American Sociological
Association

Fall 2008

SECTION OFFICERS 2008-2009

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2009 ASA Program

The Section's Program Committee is pleased to announce our section's

2009 ASA Program!

"Community and Neighborhood Contexts of Children and Youth"

Organizer: Allison Pugh, University of Virginia, apugh@virginia.edu

"Longitudinal Research on Children and Youth: U.S. and International Perspectives"

Organizer: Elizabeth Cooksey, Ohio State University, cooksey.1@osu.edu

"Transition to Adulthood: The Importance of the Health Domain" (co-sponsored with Aging and the Life Course, listed by Section on Children & Youth)

Organizer: Jeylan Mortimer, University of Minnesota, morti002@atlas.socsci.umn.edu

"Early Life Predictors of Health through the Life Course" (co-sponsored with Aging and the Life Course, listed by Section on Aging and Life Course)

Organizer: Bridget Gorman, Rice University, bkgorman@rice.edu

Open Roundtables (10-12)

Organizer: Loretta Bass, University of Oklahoma, lbass@ou.edu

Changes to the Children & Youth Section Roundtables

2009 ASA Meeting, August 8-11, San Francisco.

[Call for extended abstracts, papers, & research working groups.](#)

The Children and Youth Roundtables Session for the 2009 ASA meeting invites three types of submissions: 1) a complete draft of a paper, 2) an extended abstract or 3) new inter-university working groups. Completed papers, extended abstracts, and inter-university working groups should be submitted through the ASA online submission system. The extended abstract should be proposed as a 3-to-5 page document showing that the author is currently working on this project and has some preliminary results.

For each roundtable session organized from completed papers and abstracts, we would like to recruit senior scholars of the section to preside over each table, stimulate discussion and offer direction to presenters. If you are interested in serving the section in this way, please send an email to the roundtables session organizer, Loretta Bass (Lbass@ou.edu) with your interests (e.g., school-based studies, immigrant children, etc.) within child and youth research. The program committee's goal is to organize roundtables that provide a venue for the exchange of research ideas as well as serving to mentor scholars who may be still finalizing their research ideas. [For more information, please see the Children & Youth website.](#)

- Submitted by Loretta Bass, Organizer-Children and Youth Roundtables

Meet the Grad Student: *Joseph Gasper*

Maggie Hagerman (M) interviewed Joseph Gasper (J), a current graduate student at *John Hopkins University*:

M: Hi Joe.

J: Hi Maggie.

M: I enjoyed hanging out with you in Boston this past August at the C&Y reception at ASA!

J: Me, too. It was definitely one of the best section receptions at ASA!

M: Definitely!! That fondue was great, huh!?

J: Yeah, the fondue was certainly a hit!

M: So, remind me again, what is your dissertation about?

J: My dissertation is concerned with the role played by adolescent rebellion in the decision to drop out of school. Some argue that delinquency, drug use, and other deviant behaviors lead to dropout, whereas others argue that youth who are involved in these behaviors are more disadvantaged and already at a high risk of dropout.

M: So, what is YOUR argument?

J: I think that "either/or" arguments that youthful deviance does or does not lead to dropout are too simplistic. Not all rebellious youth (and not all dropouts) are the same, and whether such behavior leads to dropout likely depends on several factors. For example, a teen with a history of good grades and prosocial behavior might have less to lose from youthful indiscretions than one who has had a history of school and behavioral problems starting early in childhood.

M: How are you collecting data for this project?

J: My dissertation is based on analy-

ses of data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97)—a nationally representative sample of about 9,000 teens followed up annually. The data allow me to construct month-by-month dropout histories since 7th grade as well as information on some aspects of problem behavior for the entire life course.

M: Interesting! Well, good luck finishing it up!

J: Thanks!

M: So, can you tell me more about yourself?

J: Sure. I was born in Trenton, New Jersey and lived in that area most of my life. I originally went to college at *Rutgers University* where I majored in Music Education—tuba was my primary instrument.

M: The tuba, huh? Wow!

J: Haha, yeah. Then, I developed an interest in social science and an itch to get away from home so I went to George Washington University in Washington, DC where I majored in Psychology.

M: And, how far along are you in your current program at JHU?

J: I'm entering my sixth year in my program. I plan to finish my dissertation and graduate this spring.

M: You are almost done! That's exciting!

J: Thanks!

Well, I'm sure you are really busy, but thank you for taking the time to speak with me! It was nice to reconnect!

J: No problem! It was nice to talk to you as well. See you next year at ASA!

M: Of course! See you there!



Joseph Gasper, Graduate Student
John Hopkins University

If you are a graduate student and would like to be interviewed, please email Maggie at Margaret.Hagerman@emory.edu.

Section Business Meeting, 2008

The Business Meeting of the Section on Children and Youth convened at 9:30am on Friday, August 1, 2008 at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association held in Boston (in Sheraton Hotel). Cindy Dell Clark, Section Chair 2007-2008, presided. Thirty nine members were present.

For further business meeting minutes, please see our [website!](#)

Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Submissions!

- The *National Council on Family Relations* (NCFR) will hold its annual conference November 5-8 in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- *The Ethics of Representing Childhood: Popular Culture, Performance and Pedagogy* will be hosted by Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. If interested, please submit a 300 word abstract of your paper/project proposal including contact information by November 3, 2008 to Stephani Etheridge Woodson at: swoodson@asu.edu.



- The *Pacific Sociological Association* will hold its 2009 annual meeting April 8-11, 2009 at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter downtown San Diego. www.pacificsoc.org.
- *Marriage and Family Review* announces a special issue concerned with the demography of marriages and families. Deadline: March 1, 2009. For this special issue, we seek a range of papers that examine the demographic transitions of the family life course at various levels (international, domestic, household) and lead to improved understanding and theory. We encourage contributions based on quantitative as well as qualitative data, including projection-based papers, as well as those that focus on population policy and analysis. Please submit a letter of interest, including a 1-paragraph overview of topic of inquiry via email by October 15th to Kimberly Faust at faustk@winthrop.edu. The full call can be found [here](#).

Children & The Study of Religion

Susan Ridgely at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh is currently looking for contributors to an edited volume tentatively entitled, *Approaches to Including Children in the Study of Religion*.

In Susan's words, "Throughout the time I was working on my book, *When I was a Child: Children's Interpretations of First Communion* (UNC Press 2005), I was continually frustrated by the lack of resources for child-centered work on children and religion, so I am now working to create the volume I wish I had a decade ago. This volume will provide scholars with a comprehensive source to assist them in answering many of the issues that often stop researchers from pursuing projects involving children.

The volume will consist of three parts: The first part will provide readers with a practical guide to developing a successful research method. These chapters will discuss how to negotiate the IRB process as well as how to effectively engage children as subjects by raising their often-muted voices so that they might be heard in academic conversations. The second section will highlight theoretical issues involving children such as: how do popular images of children impact research? How can we begin to see children as capable human beings and not underdeveloped adults? How can scholars engage children (whether

through present-day interviews or through reading centuries-old stories, diaries, or census data) as consultants in a project given the innate power discrepancies? The final section will examine various methods of centering children in both contemporary and historical research from ethnography to Internet research to the use of artifacts and memoir. I am particularly interested in methodological chapters that attempt to access children's perspectives in different historical periods.

"In the end, I hope the book will provide some methodological and conceptual models for scholars interested in doing work with children just as it re-enforces the value of this kind of work through various case studies" writes Ridgely.

To fit with the goals of the book--to

"...I was continually frustrated by the lack of resources for child-centered work on children and religion..."

include children's voices and issues in the study of religion, each chapter must center on the children's understandings of the world around them and their tradition (or how to access this understanding), rather than on the adult understandings of the children or adult desires for the children. The chapter should be approximately 25 pgs.

Please e-mail chapter proposals as well as any questions to Susan Ridgely at: ridgelys@uwosh.edu.

Grad Student Updates

Chris Stapel, a graduate student in sociology at the University of Kentucky, was recently awarded a Small Research Grant from the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation, Law and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law for his work on the educational and residential aspirations of rural Central Appalachian young people. The study examines the educational aspirations of rural lesbian, gay and bisexual young people and asks how the aspirations of LGB students compare to their straight peers. Further, the study identifies factors that lead rural LGB students to either leave their home communities or remain in them.

The grant allows Stapel to further investigate these claims through interviews with rural queer young people who have migrated to cities and with those who have stayed in the countryside. Often-times prevailing notions ignore the complexity of community and place in rural communities. As insiders with deep roots in rural communities, many LGB students do not differ from straight students in their desire to leave and the voices of those who remain are virtually absent from the queer (and even rural queer) literature.

Congratulations, Chris!

If you are a graduate student and would like to share any updates, please email Maggie at Margaret.Hagerman@emory.edu.

New Department of Childhood Studies

The Department of Childhood Studies at *Rutgers University* in Camden, NJ opened its doors in September 2007. The interdisciplinary program offers BA/BS, MA and Ph.D. degrees.

Students come from a variety of backgrounds and bring an impressive array of educational and life experience to the program. Financial aid, teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified, full-time students.

The full-time faculty in the department is complemented by Associates in the Center for Children and Childhood Studies. These faculty have appointments in a wide range of departments and schools around the University, including, among others, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, English, Public Policy, Religion and Philosophy, History and Law.

For more information about this new department, visit: <http://childhood.camden.rutgers.edu>.



Section Member Awards & Publications

ASA Section of C&Y Winners:

Distinguished Contribution Award— Organization:

[Strategies for Children](#), a Boston organization.

Student Paper Award

[Hilary Levey](#) (Princeton). "[Which One Is Yours?: Children and Ethnography.](#)"

Award:

Excellence in Toy Research

An article by Jan Phillips, 'Accomplishing family through toy consumption', published in *Children, Media and Consumption*, Karin M. Ekstrom & Birgitte Tufte (editors), has received the first ITRA-BTHA prize for excellence in toy research. The award is given by the International Toy Research Association with sponsorship by the British Toy and Hobby Association. Jan Phillips was in Nafplion, Greece, on 10 July 2008 to receive the award and deliver a talk on her research.

In the News:

Dr. Sandra Hofferth was cited by the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday, August 27, in a story by Sue Shellenbarger relating to changing levels of children's contributions to housework. [See the Wall Street Journal story.](#) . .

Highlighted Faculty Researcher:

[Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, New York University](#)

New Research Award:

- Yeung, W.J., "Intergenerational Racial Stratification and Children's Cognitive Achievement", National Science Foundation. Principal Investigator. (Co-PI: Caroline Persell).

Recent Publications:

- Yeung, W.J. and Pfeiffer, K.M. Forthcoming. The Black-White Test Score Gap and Early Home Environment, *Social Science Research*.
- Yeung, W.J. and Conley, D. 2008. Black-White Achievement Gap and Family Wealth, *Child Development* 79(2): 303-324.

** If you would like to have your research featured in the next issue, please write to our Newsletter Editor Maggie at Margaret.Hagerman@emory.edu. **



Web Resources on Children and Families

- The Future of Children: <http://www.futureofchildren.org/homepage2824/index.htm> . The Princeton-Brookings Future of Children seeks to promote effective policies and programs for children by providing policymakers, service providers, and the media with timely, objective information based on the best available research. Recent publication topics include Children and Electronic Media, Antipoverty Programs, and Excellence in the Classroom.
- Child Trends: www.childtrends.org Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at every stage of development. Their mission is to improve outcomes for children by providing research, data, and analysis to the people and institutions whose decisions and actions affect children, including policymakers, program providers, foundations, and the media.
- Brookings Center on Children and Families: <http://www.brookings.edu/ccf.aspx> The Brookings Center on Children and Families studies policies on the well-being of America's children and their parents, especially children in less-advantaged families, and seeks a more effective means of addressing poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity in the United States.

See our website for more [resources!](#)

Announcements:

[Special Issue: New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development, Guest Editor: Jeylan T. Mortimer. \(Spring 2008\).](#) This issue examines the impacts of social class origin on the highly formative period of transition to adulthood. The authors indicate new directions for research that will enhance understanding of the problems facing our nation's young people. More [here](#).

MPRC Director Sandra Hofferth has been elected Vice President-Elect of the Population Association of America beginning January, 2009. More [here](#).

Children and Society: The Sociology of Children and Childhood Socialization, by Gerald Handel, Spencer Cahill, and Frederick Elkin, published in 2007 by Roxbury Publishing Company, is now published by Oxford University Press which acquired Roxbury.

Graduate Student Emily Rauscher composed a list of "must-read" sources in the sociology of childhood, with input from membership. See [here](#).

[Volume 18, number 1 of the Children, Youth and Environments Journal is online.](#) Guest edited by [Lori Peek](#), this special issue examines the vulnerability and resilience of children and youth before, during and after disasters. Read more [here](#).

An Update on Membership

The ASA section on Children and Youth experienced membership growth over 2008. Our section surpassed the critical mark of 400 this year, entitling us to three annual meeting paper sessions, thanks to the hard work of Melissa Herman and her membership committee.

Our goal for this coming calendar is to launch a membership drive. We aim to establish a balance of senior, junior, student, and practitioner members. We have seen our student membership rise, with the support of our offerings of free memberships to

first-time student members. This year, we will work to strengthen membership at all levels, and in particular to increase involvement from leaders in the field.

You will soon hear from our membership committee! We will ask you to renew your membership soon, as well as considering sponsoring a membership. Sponsoring is an easy way to encourage a student or colleague to become involved in the sociology of children and youth.

Questions: Contact Brian Gran at (216) 368-2694 or Brian.Gran@Case.Edu.

Working Group on Childhood and Migration

On June 20-22, 2008 the Working Group on Childhood and Migration held a three day conference titled "Emerging Perspectives on Children in Migratory Circumstances" at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.

The program included 70 paper presentations in 19 concurrent panels and two plenary sessions with special lectures by leaders in the field of childhood and migration. The

program was attended by over 120 people from institutions from all over the world. The group is planning on holding a second conference in 2010 at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

For more information on the working group, please see <http://globalchild.rutgers.edu/about.htm>.

To join the listserv or become a member of the working group, please send an email to rrr28@drexel.edu.

New Books!!

How To Keep Your Children Safe: A Guide For Parents.

(University Press of New England, 2007)

Yvonne Vissing

[Summary here](#)

Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers (Oxford, 2007, \$25)

Mark Regnerus

[Summary here](#)

Biography and the Sociological Imagination: Contexts and Contingencies (W.W. Norton & Company, 2007). **Michael J. Shanahan & Ross Macmillan**

[Summary here](#)

Hidden in Plain Sight:

The Tragedy of Children's Rights from Ben Franklin to Lionel Tate (Princeton University Press, 2008)

Barbara Bennett Woodhouse

[Summary here](#)

Sponsor a Student Member

If you wish to sponsor a student member, please write a personal check in any amount payable to "ASA Section 31 Children and Youth" and specify in the memo section "For the Student Membership Account."

Checks can be mailed to:

Diego de los Rios
Governance, Sections,
and Archives
ASA
1430 K Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 383-9005 (x330)

THANK YOU!

Thank you!!!



Call for Nominations for Section Officers, ASA Section on Children and Youth!

The Nominations Committee invites members to identify candidates for Section Office. Members may nominate themselves, colleagues, or students (where appropriate) for positions. A nominee must be a member of the ASA and the Section on Children and Youth. Elections will take place in the general ASA ballot in the Spring of 2009. A suggested nomination does not automatically assure a place on the final slate.

Nominations are needed for the following offices:

- Chair-Elect. This is a three-year term, with one year each as Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair.
- Two Council Members. Council members also serve for a term of three years.
- One Student Member. Student members of the Council serve a two year term.

Please provide Name, Institution, and email address for nominees. The terms of newly elected section officers begin immediately following the close of the 2009 Annual Meetings of the ASA.

Nominations must be received no later than Friday December 5, 2008. Send nominations to Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson, Chair of the Nominations Committee, at monicakj@wsu.edu

Next Issue:

The Winter issue of *Child & Youth News* is scheduled to be published in January, 2009. Please send submissions to Lara at larap@uchicago.edu. If you would like to be interviewed, please let the publications committee know! We would love to feature you. Also, please check out and submit material to the website!

<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionchildren>



Why Join the ASA Section on Children and Youth?

The Children and Youth section encourages the development and dissemination of sociological perspectives on children. The Children & Youth Section offers many benefits, including:

- Section reception at ASA with youth-minded scholars
- Section sessions (3) and roundtables (8); graduate students are encouraged to attend and present
- At 2008 ASA Conference, sessions include leaders in the field, such as Bill Corsaro, Barrie Thorne, anthropologist Jill Korbin, Robert Drago and more
- Website with leads and information pertaining to research on children and youth
- Section listserv access: Opportunities posted about meetings, jobs, books, and other developments in the field.
- Distinguished Contribution and Student Awards
- A network of colleagues with research interests similar to yours.

If you do not belong to the ASA, a prerequisite for section membership, we invite you to join both it and our section using an ASA application form. You can also get a membership application form by calling the ASA at (202) 383-9005. See the Membership section for more information.

Publications Committee

Lara Perez-Felkner (Chair)
University of Chicago
Elizabeth Vaquera
University of South Florida
Margaret Hagerman
Emory University

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Section on Children and Youth is to encourage the development and dissemination of sociological perspectives on children in the areas of research, theory, policy, practice, and teaching. Here, the term "children" includes every human being from infancy through the transition to adulthood.