



WSSA NEWS

Volume 48, Issue 2 Summer 2016



We Gave Back!

*Michèle Companion
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
WSSA President, 2016-2017*

The empty bowl is one of the most evocative symbols of hunger around the globe. It represents the fundamental challenges to survival: want, lack, need. But, it is also a potent symbol of hope and infinite possibility: that which is empty can be filled. This visible representation of hope is prominently displayed in the lobby of the **Food Bank of Northern Nevada.**

WSSA was proud to partner with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (a 501 (c)3 organization) for our annual “WSSA Gives Back” fundraiser during the Friday morning breakfast. We did an amazing job raising much needed funds.

Through the generosity of our

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Featured Article

FINDING FERRIS BUELLER : NEW 3-STAGE PROGRAM

*Barbara Bonnekessen
Pittsburg State University
WSSA Program coordinator 2016-2017*

*(Editor’s note: To improve accuracy in our official records, the official version of the annual conference program is now the online version **after** post-conference updates)*

WSSA members know that each year’s conference program appears in various stages of readiness. First comes the draft program – when the program coordinator has a first program of who may present what at which time and in which space, s/he sends this draft to the section coordinators who, in turn, share with their section members. This is the time to catch typos, rethink the syntax of your paper title, or maybe even argue that your paper would much better fit in with that other panel.

If, by now, you have realized that you will actually not be able to attend the conference after

all, this is the time to let your coordinator know. Once the program coordinator gets the green light back from the section coordinators, the “book” goes to print.

That is the second stage program, handed to you as you check in at the conference. Between that

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Viewing the Journal

Membership in the Western Social Science Association includes a subscription to *The Social Science Journal*. Members have always received their printed copy of the *Journal* at the address they gave when registering for the conference or paying annual dues.

Members will continue to receive their printed copies, as usual. However, our publisher, Elsevier, gives members another option.

Members can log into Elsevier's website and view *The Social Science Journal* for free, using their Western Social Science Association member ID number.

Now you can read the *Journal* on your laptop, tablet, or smart phone, wherever you are.

Your member ID number is the registration ID number that was on your online receipt when you preregistered for the last conference.

For those who register on-site, a member ID number will be assigned at the registration desk.

Membership years begin on April 1 of each calendar year and end on March 31 of the following year.

WSSA NEWS

2016 - 2017

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WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, and around the world; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes *The Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and WSSA News, the Association's newsletter, four times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are included in the annual conference registration. For those who will not be joining us at the conference, but would still like to be voting members and to receive the publications, subscription only memberships can be purchased from our website. Prices are \$45 (individual); \$60 (includes spouse); \$35 (student); \$30 (retired). For further information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, 2307 Chof Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005, phone: 928-606-2248, e-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu
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green light and the printing press, and the day of the conference, things happen – so your printed program will include a piece of paper, titled “Errata,” telling you about canceled papers.

Starting with the 2017 conference in San Francisco, we will move to a mobile app for the conference program; changes will be made in real time and you will know almost as soon as we are notified. We will still offer some hard copies for folks who like their book, but they may want to hang out with an app user to get the most up-to-date information.

But you may have noticed a disturbing problem in our conference and others – often people submit paper proposals, are notified of acceptance and receive the draft program, but do not come to the conference to present their paper and do not inform their section coordinator or panel chair of this. We have all been at panels when the panel chair desperately casts her or his eyes over the audience, “Is Jane Doe here? She’s the second paper! And what about Ferris Bueller? Bueller?”

Hence, WSSA now has a third program stage – the final and **official** program, published **AFTER** the conference. During the conference all panel chairs note absent presenters and give that list to their section coordinators who, in turn, pass the “no show” list to the program coordinator. Absent presenters will be removed from the official program and only the official program will be archived on our website.

We contemplated writing a letter to the mothers of absent presenters, but decided that we should keep this strategy in reserve as a possible fourth stage.

We all enjoy the WSSA conference, to see our friends and colleagues, hear about new work and ideas in all areas of the social sciences, catch up with long-term projects, and create a welcoming and supportive scholarly environment for young scholars and researchers. Nothing is as depressing as a panel where half (or more!) of the presenters are missing, without even the courtesy of an apology. Keeping WSSA lively and relevant requires that we honor those scholars and researchers who attend by removing mention of those who do not.

So, plan your paper or poster – remember that December 1st is the deadline – and figure out how to get to the City by the Bay from the 12th to the 15th of April, 2017! See you there!





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members, we raised \$1,350. WSSA contributed its annual dollar-for-dollar match to raise the total to \$2,700. WSSA decided to round up, so we raised a total of **\$3000** for the FBNN!! This is the equivalent of 1,764 pounds of food! We were happy to have Jocelyn Lantrip (pictured), Director of Marketing and Communication, and Lauren Greeney, Events and Food Drives Coordinator, join us for the President's Luncheon to accept the check. Thank you for your donations!

FBNN serves a vast area, covering 90,000 square miles in northern Nevada and the eastern slope of the Sierra in California. They deliver food to 135 partner agencies, which include emergency food pantries, congregate feeding sites, shelters, senior centers, and child nutrition program sites. Through this outreach, they provided more than 14.4 million meals in the last fiscal year. Our contribution will help support this tremendous need. For

more information, please go to their website: <https://fbnn.org/>

We were also incredibly honored to have **Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.** attend as our 2016 local spotlight organization. Warren Cartright, pictured, and his colleagues spent a good deal of time at the conference to help our members learn about their incredible organization!

They had a major event in town that they needed to attend (I know a number of you went to the powwow!), so they had to leave mid-day on Friday. I heard from some of you about the great conversations that you had with folks at their table. I hope you keep in touch with and continue to support this amazing organization and their work! You can visit

their website: [http://](http://www.nevadaurbanindians.org/)

www.nevadaurbanindians.org/

AND you can follow and like them

on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Nevada-Urban-Indians-222770727751839/>



Our WSSA Give Back partner for the San Francisco meeting in 2017 will be the SF/Marin Food Bank. As with all of our Give Back food banks, they are part of the Feeding America network, with a Four Star rating on Charity Navigator. Roughly 96% of donations go directly into programming. Because they work in a concentrated area, every dollar donated allows them to distribute \$5.00 worth of food! Look for a profile of them and their work in the next edition of the *WSSA Newsletter*! In the meantime, you can check them out at: <http://www.sfmfoodbank.org/>

The 2017 WSSA Local Spotlight Organization will be selected by Christopher Brown, New Mexico State University, our 2016-2017 Vice-President. He will be announcing his selection in the next edition of the *WSSA Newsletter*! Stay tuned for this exciting news!

WSSA Outstanding Emerging Scholars

2016

Past - President's Award : Dr. KuoRay Mao

Colorado State University



Dr. KuoRay Mao is Assistant Professor of Sociology at CSU. His research interests concern how the myriad socio-economic and environmental disjunctions caused by globalization have engendered patterns of resource and risk allocation, which have in turn shaped structural inequality in East Asia. Since 2011, he has studied the role of the developmental state in the perpetuation of environmental harm. His research on the co-development between desertification and the neoliberal economic model in northwestern China has led to a Fulbright Fellowship for Graduate Studies, in addition to fellowships from the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation in the United States. He was also awarded the Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award and the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) Award from the American Sociological Association. His most recent research examines how resource governance in a state corporatist model interacts with community apathy toward environmental hazards and pollution.

President's Award : Dr. Liat Ben-Moshe

University of Toledo



Dr. Liat Ben-Moshe is an Assistant Professor in the University of Toledo's Disability Studies Program, the only one of its kind in the United States. Dr. Ben-Moshe specializes in applying disability studies to imprisonment and incarcerated individuals. She recently edited *Disability Incarcerated: Imprisonment and Disability in the United States and Canada*, a book examining the incarceration and segregation of people with disabilities, which she cites as one of the reasons she received recognition.

Ben-Moshe explained the two fields don't normally intersect. People who do anti-prison work don't really talk about disability, and when they do, they don't really understand disability as an identity and a culture, but as a deficit. And vice versa, people who do really good work in disability areas don't know anything about prisons.

President-Elect's Award : Dr. Julie K. Maldonado

University of California, Santa Barbara

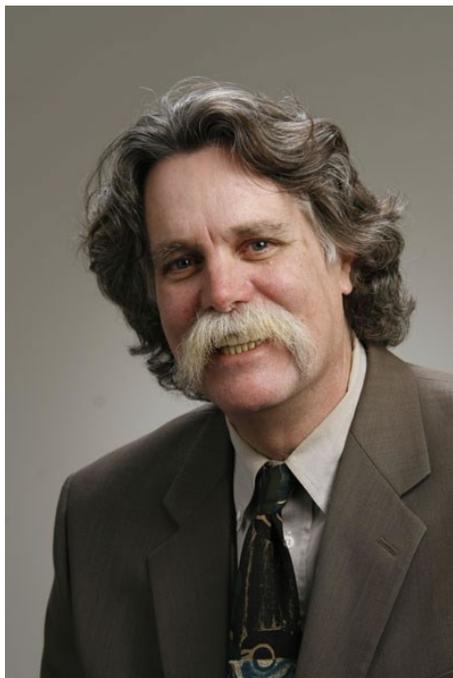


Dr. Julie K Maldonado is a Lecturer in Environmental Studies at UCSB. Her doctoral research focused on the experiences of environmental change and displacement in tribal communities in coastal Louisiana. She has consulted for the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Global Gender and Climate Alliance, and the World Bank, focused on issues of development, disasters, displacement, and involuntary resettlement. Julie worked for the U.S. National Climate Assessment for the past four years, was a lead author on the National Climate Assessment's Indigenous Peoples, Land, and Resources Chapter, and co-organized *Rising Voices II: Adaptation to Climate Change and Variability - Bringing Together Science and Indigenous Ways of Knowing to Create Positive Solutions*. She was also the editor and organizer for the Special Issue of Climatic Change and book, *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences and Actions*.

New Position & New Face

At the WSSA's Spring 2016 Executive Council Meeting, a new position, that of **Student Award/Grant Coordinator** was approved by the Board. This position is Ex-Officio and may be held by a Council Member, or any other WSSA Member in good standing.

The new position combines responsibility for the undergraduate and graduate paper competitions, the John Wicks Dissertation Paper Award the poster session coordination, and the student travel grants. The hope is that the synergy between these areas of student participation will increase overall student involvement in the WSSA Conference.



Bill Schaniel was appointed as the first holder of the position. Bill is Professor Emeritus at the University of West Georgia and President of Global Scholastic Services, and is currently serving as a Council Member (2016-2019)

Board Actions

- ◆ The Association will change its state of incorporation from Texas to Arizona
- ◆ Conference registration fees are now: regular \$180, discounted to \$150 for early registration; student \$110, discounted to \$90; and retiree \$120, discounted to \$110.
- ◆ A committee was formed to do the proposal and request for presentation for the next *Journal* contract
- ◆ Marketing duties are added to the Communication Director's job description
- ◆ Gold Open Access will be added to the options available to authors in *the Social Science Journal*
- ◆ The position of Recruitment and Retention Coordinator was eliminated and a new position, Student Grant and Awards Coordinator, was created. Bill Schaniel was appointed to the new position.
- ◆ The membership will be surveyed to see what their preferences are for the 2021 conference location
- ◆ The "Outstanding New Scholar" award will be changed to "Outstanding Emerging Scholar." The award amount is raised to \$2,000, the awardees will be selected by November 1, and they must attend to receive the award.
- ◆ The Poster Competition now has two prizes: first place, \$250; second place, \$100
- ◆ The travel grant awards will include complimentary registration for the conference.
- ◆ The honorarium for the WSSA Distinguished Book award is raised to \$2,000; for the Larry Gould Best Article Award, \$1,000; and for the John Wicks Dissertation Award, \$1,500.
- ◆ The application descriptions and online forms for the Student Paper Competitions and Travel Grants will be updated for the next season.
- ◆ A Nomination Committee for next year's Officer and Board member elections was selected.

In Defense of the Cliché . . .

by Debra D. Andrist, Ph.D.
Sam Houston State University

Utilizing techniques which elicit “cultural baggage” knowledge, whether in formal or informal communications, can be powerful strategies to engage the listener/reader, as well as to save time and space in sending a particular message that s/he will recognize immediately. A well-chosen cliché, a timeless adage/proverb/saying, or even the occasional documented stereotype with the admonition to “take it with a grain of salt,” are not necessarily writing anathema, to be avoided at all costs, as many modern language-usage and communication experts have insisted. Of course, focus on active verbs and a wide vocabulary of synonyms and accessible sentence structures which the experts tout are great techniques for readability and specificity. However, there are even some academic situations when these stylistic recommendations can be effectively augmented by the traditional “cultural-baggage” references I cite.

At the same time, over-arching dependence on any aspect of the act of writing itself may be undesirable if taken to extremes. Yet, in some academic camps, so-called “sociologues,” also cited by writing experts as “fog factor,” is the preferred norm for writing, as if the more abstruse the style and more rarefied the language, the better—and/or, thus, the more “scholarly” the content. The danger--or possibly, the desired end--in this case is that the layman listener/reader will mistake form and style for content, thinking that s/he just doesn't understand the material as presented by the esoteric scholar rather than that the erstwhile scholar is either not able to, or chooses not to, make the material accessible.

Of course, I am probably referring more to academic writing in the humanities and perhaps in certain applications of social science studies rather than in the hard sciences when I suggest that variations of the less-formal or deviations from currently preferred/recommended writing strategies may be useful or even desirable. I acknowledge that my perspective is interdisciplinary; by original training, I am a sociologist who studies gender, ethnicity and socio-economic class in actual living and dead societies but who now does so in literary and artistic manifestations, created societies, if you will. The same principles and theories yield insights and “data” across the generally not-so-wide abyss between the “real” and the created or fictitious worlds.

For example (shamelessly quoting from my own article),

The story of a single representative hacienda and the members of the society therein, *Las lanzas coloradas* by the Venezuelan author, Arturo Uslar-Pietri, traces the initial revolutionary period (early 19th Century) to the midst of the Venezuelan war for independence from Spain. A flashback establishes the present structure of the microcosmic hacienda. Uslar-Pietri documents the organization of the hacienda, El Altar, i.e., Venezuela, in order to emphasize its dissolution, all from the vantage point of more than a century of hindsight, as well as of modern sociological theory, since he wrote *Las lanzas coloradas* in 1930 and the actual Venezuelan revolution ensued in 1810. Embroidered upon historical facts and personages, the action centers around the behavior of the fictitious hacienda members and the total havoc which results from their "rule-breaking."

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Call for Student Posters, Undergraduate Papers, Graduate Papers and Dissertation Papers

by *Bill Schaniel*
Student Grant and Awards Coordinator

WSSA is looking to increase the rate of student participation. The 2017 Conference in San Francisco is in a great student friendly location. As you complete the semester please encourage student authors of outstanding undergraduate papers, graduate papers and dissertation papers to submit their work to WSSA papers competitions. Spring semester is a great semester to encourage students to submit their work as they will have the summer to do any revisions if needed. There are paper competitions have monetary awards, and the poster session presenters can receive a travel grant.

The graduate and undergraduate paper competitions award winners receive a certificate, a cash prize of \$800, free registration at the conference, and an unique national student award to put on their resume. Authors of excellent papers that are not chosen for the award are eligible to receive a certificate of honorable mention, a cash prize of \$400.

The John Wicks Dissertation paper Award is given to the author of a selected paper to be presented at the Annual Conference in San Francisco, which is based on a dissertation either in progress or completed before January 15, 2017. WSSA will provide a stipend of \$1,000. The award recipient is required to present the dissertation-based paper at the San Francisco conference.

Please also ask the students to submit their work for presentation at the poster session. Students can submit a paper to both the Paper Completion and the Poster Session.

Students whose work is chosen for the poster session and the undergraduate or graduate paper competition session have priority for the student travel grants.

All submissions can be made through the WSSA web site (<http://www.wssaweb.com/>) by clicking on the "Grants, Awards & Competitions" button. The applications are at the end of the description for each award. Please encourage your students to submit their work and participate in the 2017 WSSA Conference.

The WSSA News accepts proposals for articles from members. Persons wishing to submit articles for consideration should e-mail them to the address below, in Word format. Deadlines for inclusion are generally the middle of May for the Summer edition, middle of July for the Fall issue, early November for the Winter issue, and middle of December for the Spring issue. Contact the Newsletter Editor, Kate Herke, at WSSA.Admin@nau.edu, with inquiries, corrections, or suggestions.

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According to sociological theory, the breakdown of a societal structure occurs when a sufficient number of the members of that society no longer behave according to the rules they have previously observed. This includes criminal acts contrary to the legal restrictions but, more importantly, incorporates deviance from the unwritten, unspoken norms of behavior. That rule-breaking signals that a society does not function as such. The resultant anomie . . . frequently culminates in actual political anarchy or revolution.

But, back to the point of the usefulness of cultural-baggage references, for studies by Hispanists of Cervantes' 17th-Century novel, *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, the "stage is set" for cultural-baggage references and writing strategies by the novel itself, since the dialogue by Quijote's sidekick, Sancho Panza, is almost always clichés, adages/proverbs/sayings, or stereotypes, as culturally representative of the Spanish peasant class's verbal practices at the time. Even Panza's surname carries a message "between the lines" for the Spanish speaker, *panza* being the children's term, "tummy," which gives the reader not only a visual of the character, but also insights into stereotypical peasants' attitudes about emphasis on the sensory and on their stereotypically-limited experience/education necessitating traditionally-repeated "cultural baggage" for lack of linguistic and cultural options.

At the same time, use of what have now become alternative, "traditional" writing strategies like eliciting cultural-baggage knowledge, is fraught with peril if used for readers/audiences who are not experienced with said culture. Such readers/audiences may not pick up the "cultural baggage" and, as a result, misunderstand and/or misinterpret the additional messages therein (not to mention the potential problems caused by unrecognized or unacknowledged cultural changes over a time factor of several hundred years). The classic example of such a "disconnect" extant is embodied in the 1960s Broadway musical in the U.S., *The Man of la Mancha*, best known for the lyrics of the signature song, *To Dream the Impossible Dream*. Most 20th-Century Anglophones "hear" those lyrics as touting the 19th-Century ideal of s/he who aspires, who remains loyal to lofty ideals and goals in spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. However, this play, while one which I personally enjoyed in spite of the gross misinterpretation of Cervantes' original intent, caricatures a caricature. With all that happens to the protagonist, Alonso Quijano turned Don Quijote, Cervantes means to demonstrate that anyone who reads (chivalric novels, in this case) and cannot differentiate between fiction and reality becomes an insane fool at risk to suffer all sorts of injuries and indignities from physical mistreatment and cruelty to disdain at best from society.

Certainly, the admonition from the writing experts to "know one's audience" is advice to be heeded should a writer consider including cultural-baggage-eliciting techniques like clichés, adages/proverbs/sayings and/or identified stereotypes!

Future Conferences

2017 San Francisco, California Hyatt Regency San Francisco
(Embarcadero),
April 12, 2017 through April 15, 2017

2018 San Antonio, Texas – Hyatt Regency
April 4, 2018 through April 7, 2018

2019 San Diego, California – Manchester Grand Hyatt –
April 24, 2019 through April 27, 2019