



Saddle Up for Denver



Photo of Downtown Denver from Civic Center Park courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

by Richard V. (Rick) Adkisson
 WSSA President

In 1958 Elvis Presley joined the army, Charles de Gaulle was elected premier of France, postage rates increased from three to four cents, the U.S. Congress created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, the precursor to WSSA, held its inaugural meeting in Denver, Colorado. At the time the population of the Denver metropolitan area was about 900,000. Just as the WSSA has continued in its growth, so has Denver. Today the Denver

metro area is home to nearly 3,000,000 people and it is considered to be one of the most dynamic metropolitan areas of the country. How suitable it is then that WSSA, a growing and dynamic organization, return to Denver, the city of its birth, to celebrate its first 50 years of existence.

The 50th annual meeting of the WSSA will be held from April 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of downtown Denver. If you have been to any recent meetings you know that the Hyatt always provides great service and a pleasant venue for WSSA.

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A Calgary Story

by Scott Carson,
 Section Coordinator,
 Economics General

I had never been to Canada and did not know what to expect when I arrived in Calgary for the 2007 WSSA meetings. I made my way through customs and to the shuttle pick-up, where a shuttle driver was helping an older woman into his van. I asked him if he was going downtown, and he said that he was. My presentation was in only an hour, so I

asked for ride, and he told me to get in. About a mile from the airport, he asked where I was going, to which I replied 'Calgary Hilton.' He replied, 'I think that's downtown.' I sarcastically thought that I had done it again, got into the shuttle that would make me late for my presentation. Two or three minutes later, he turned to the lady and said "Judy and I are thinking about red wine with dinner."

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Calgary Wrap-up

by Doreen Barrie and
 Larry Gould

WSSA's first conference in Canada was one of the best Annual Conferences in recent memory. Although attendance was down from previous years, the sessions were full and we saw a lot of new faces. Some people under-estimated the length of time it would take to obtain their passports and several pulled out at the last moment.

Over 800 papers were pre-

sented and the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) which celebrated its 30th Anniversary, had the largest number of participants. ABS had 28 Panels and Canadian Studies had 21. The Rural Studies Section had 13 Panels and the Section Coordinator commented that this was the best conference for Rural Studies that he could remember. There was also strong participation in the American Indian Studies Section and

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50th Anniversary of WSSA in 2008 Denver – Planning Underway

by Larry A. Gould

In 2003 when we started planning for the 50th anniversary conference in Denver it seemed that 2008 was a long ways in the future. To get an idea of the history of WSSA Nina Burkardt and I spent about 5 hours or so at the Denver Library going through the WSSA archives. Talk about interesting. WOW! Now a larger group of us will spend about 3 days going through the rest of the archives. In that first visit to the Library we scanned a lot of material (some of which has been placed in this newsletter) and have pretty good idea of what our next steps will be in terms of preparing materials for the 50th anniversary. We found the very first newsletter, the very first reference of any kind to WSSA as opposed to RMSSA (Rocky Mountain Social Science Association). It was interesting to see which institutions were represented (Air Force Academy and the University of Wyoming for example played a huge role in the organization back in the 60s). We found old logos and correspondence that suggests the Executive Council was dealing with many of the same issues back then as they are today. Having just completed a great Conference in Calgary, it was interesting to read the discussions that the Council had in the late 60s and early 70s as to whether Canada should be a part of WSSA. How things do change!

A Calgary Story

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I was stunned that Calgary was such a tight-knit community that shuttle drivers knew the folks they picked up at the airport. To my horror, it then occurred to me that I had accosted a local Calgarian who was just picking up his mother in law and happened to be temporarily parked in an unmarked shuttle van in the space for shuttles. Vivid thoughts of headlines in my hometown newspaper flashed before my eyes of a grizzly American-type murder of an innocent decapitated hitch-hiker, and just before I reached for the van door to make my rapid escape from this vehicle that was now traveling in excess of 60 MPH, I realized this was just a nice guy who knew that he was not a taxi driver, but a guy at the airport asked him for a ride. I am an economist, so I generally think folks seek only their own advantage, but this guy knowingly gave me a ride and expected nothing in return. That's just the kind of place I appreciate, and it's the memory that I take with me from Calgary.

WSSA NEWS

2007-2008 WSSA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Richard V. Adkisson
New Mexico State University
radkisso@nmsu.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Phadrea Ponds
Fort Collins Science Center
pondsp@usgs.gov

VICE PRESIDENT

Jack Hou
California State Univ.-Long Beach
jackhou@csulb.edu

PAST PRESIDENT

Doreen Barrie
University of Calgary
dpbarrie@ucalgary.ca

2007-2008 WSSA COUNCIL

Mary Brentwood (2008) **Victor L. Heller. (2010)**
California State Univ.-Sacramento University of Texas-San Antonio
mary.brentwood@csus.edu victor.heller@utsa.edu

Gilbert L. Fowler (2008)
Arkansas State University
gfwler@astate.edu

EX OFFICIO

Larry Gould, Exec. Director
Northern Arizona University
larry.gould@nau.edu

Cynthia A. Klima (2008)
SUNY-Geneseo
klima@geneseo.edu

N. Prabha Unnithan, Editor
The Social Science Journal (SSJ)
Colorado State University
prabha@lamar.colostate.edu

Jeff Corntassel (2009)
University of Victoria
ctassel@uvic.ca

J. Gary Linn (2009)
Tennessee State University
Jlinn87844@aol.com

Rich Greene
SSJ Book Review Editor
Northern Illinois University
rgreene@niu.edu

Leila J. Pratt (2009)
Univ. of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Leila-Pratt@utc.edu

Chris Hiryak
Webmaster
Arizona State University
chris.hiryak@asu.edu

Tom Isern (2010)
North Dakota State University
isern@plainsfolk.com

Irasema Coronado (2010)
University of Texas-El Paso

Ian W. Record
WSSA News Editor
University of Arizona
recordi@u.arizona.edu

THE 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, Canada, and Mexico; 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, two times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011-5302, SBS 1100 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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50th Annual WSSA Conference

Denver, Colorado (Downtown)

Hyatt Regency 800 233 1234 or 203 295 1234

April 1, 2008, cut off for guaranteed conference hotel rate

April 23 - 26, 2008

CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Your name badge, registration confirmation and receipt will be based on the information you provide here.

Please print or type clearly.

This form is for payment by check only. Please see our website at: <http://wssa.asu.edu> for payment by credit card.

Name: _____
as you want it printed on your name badge

Mailing Address: _____

City and State: _____ **Zip** _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ **Fax Number:** (____) _____

Organization/Affiliation/University _____ **E-Mail:** _____

*Note: WSSA membership is not a requirement for conference participation, but we strongly invite new members, who also receive The Social Science Journal and WSSA Newsletter. **All Conference participants are required to pre-register and the pre-registration must reach the WSSA Business Office by fax or mail ABSOLUTELY NO LATER than April 3, 2008; requests for refunds must be made in writing no later than March 25, 2008.***

CONFERENCE PRE - REGISTRATION

- Regular WSSA Members (\$75.00)
- Student WSSA Members (\$45.00)
- Retired WSSA Members (\$55.00)

Membership dues must be current or must be paid along with pre-registration to receive these discounted conference rates.

- Non-WSSA- Member Attendees (\$105.00)
- Non-WSSA-Member Student Attendees (\$55.00)

- Non-presenting Spouse/Partner/Guest of Attendee (\$25.00)

Name _____

OPTIONAL : WSSA MEMBERSHIP

- NEW _____ RENEW _____
Individual (\$40.00) *New members are entitled to "Regular Member" conference fee.*
- Student (\$25.00)
- Retiree (\$25.00)
- Joint - including spouse/partner (\$50.00)
Name of Joint member _____

If WSSA were to publish an e-mail directory of its members, would you be willing to be listed?
This directory would not be sold or given to any other organization.

- Yes No

(Late & on-site fees are \$10.00 more than those listed above)

Please note that some WSSA Affiliates also charge a membership or conference fee, in addition to those fees described above.

OPTIONAL

- President's Luncheon and Awards- (**\$25.00/ticket**) Thursday, April 24, 2008 _____ (# of tickets)
- Plenary Speaker Luncheon (**25.00/ticket**) Friday, April 25, 2008 _____ (# of tickets)

===== **Total Amount** =====

For payment by check: Enclosed \$ _____

For payment by credit card please see the WSSA website at: <http://wssa.asu.edu>

Please make checks payable (\$ U.S.) to WSSA, and send to :

Western Social Science Association
Northern Arizona University
Box 15302
Flagstaff, AZ 86011 - 5302

Dealing With Rejection: A Quick Guide On What To Do When An Academic Journal Turns Down Your Paper

by Prabha Unithan, Social Science Journal Editor

Since becoming the Editor of the SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL (SSJ, official journal of the WSSA) two years ago, I have received and dealt with roughly 180 articles and research notes. The majority, around two-thirds of the submissions, have been rejected. This should not come as a surprise. If you have been in academe long enough you know that there is a good likelihood that the papers you write, in meeting the expectation to do research and publish, are going to be rejected. Much like performers answering “cattle calls” for upcoming productions who hear the dreaded words, “Thank you, we will let you know” only to be never called back, the communication from the Editor of the journal expressing regret for rejecting your a paper is a staple of academic life. Having received my share of them over the years, and now being in a position of having to write rejections to authors who have submitted papers to SSJ, here are a few pieces of advice that may be of help to you in dealing with the aftermath.

1. Determine if the paper has been rejected internally or after being sent out for review. Most Editors look at submissions soon after receiving them with an eye towards deciding if they are “right” for their journal. While SSJ has a broad mandate in that we cover the entire gamut of the social sciences, we sometimes get papers that *prima facie* are not appropriate for us. For example, papers that are theological as opposed to the scientific study of religion or about product design as opposed to human involvement in or social implications of production are better off being sent to outlets other than SSJ. Papers deemed “inappropriate” trigger an internal rejection, which you will hear about fairly quickly. Your task now becomes finding a journal where your paper will fit better.

Papers being rejected after being sent to external reviewers obligate you to read and respond to the comments made by them and the Editor. Although it has been rejected by one journal, there is no reason why you cannot revise it and send it to another one. [It bears repeating that most academic journals will not allow you to submit your paper to multiple journals simultaneously.]

2. Give yourself some time to read and respond to the comments. After you have got yourself over the initial reactions of hurt and disappointment mixed with anger at the “unfairness” of it all, here are some practical steps to take. Painful as it may be, you should force yourself to read through the comments provided by the reviewers and the Editor’s decision letter. Sometimes (very rarely, if the reviewers have done their work with sincerity) they may have misunderstood your work and your words or worse still, be biased against it. You should talk to your co-authors, if any, and others knowledgeable about the publication process or of your substantive area to make sure they share your reading of the reactions. If it is indeed based on misunderstanding or bias, all you have to do is make more copies of the original paper and send it on its way to another journal.

3. If you and trusted others find merit in the criticisms of the reviewers, reflect on what the reviewers are asking you to do. The American Psychological Association [see <http://www.apa.org/journals/authors/guide.html>] notes that articles are rejected outright for the following substantive or methodological reasons. “Substantive concerns include lack of theoretical grounding, confusing or unclear conceptualization or rationale of the research problem, unspecified relationships between variables, and insignificant contribution to the literature. Serious methodological problems include nonrandom samples, confounded independent variables, invalid or unreliable measures, inappropriate statistical analysis, lack of statistical power, and lack of external validity.” From my observation and knowing that the above list applies mostly to empirical/quantitative articles, no one reason will automatically lead to a rejection; however, a combination of two or more of them improves the odds of rejection. Which of these apply to your paper and what can you do to solve the problem?

4. In revising and making changes to your paper consider the theoretical and substantive problems identified by the Editor and the reviewers. Remember, since they have rejected your paper and told you not to darken their door with this paper again, you are under no obligation

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Colorado State University Best Graduate Student Paper Award

by Kant Patel



Robert Seamans, Recipient of the Best Graduate Paper Award

The 2007 best student paper competition attracted many high quality papers from graduate students from a variety of academic disciplines. The range of topics covered included globalization, development of urban open space, residential solar thermal use, climate protection campaign, identity politics, political physiopsychology, rural farmers market, impact of city ownership of telecommunications on behavior of cable firms, Japan's nuclear policy, families and bikes, relationship development through on-line phenomenon, Black people's struggle for freedom and equality, Putin's rise to power, and the effect of the Tennessee v. Garner decision.

The paper competition evaluation committee had a difficult decision in selecting the best graduate student paper from several excellent papers. Jeff Novacki's paper, "A Race-Specific Examination of the Effects of the Tennessee v. Garner Decision" received an honorary mention. Jeff is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Mexico.

The recipient of the Best Graduate Student Paper Award was Robert Seamans. The title of his paper is "How Do Laws Restricting City Ownership of Telecommunications Affect Cable Firm Behavior?" The paper uses variations in state laws to explore whether cities can use the threat of entry mechanism as an effective tool to control private cable firm behavior. Jeff presented his award winning paper at the conference under the Economics (Business and Finance) section of the conference.

Robert Seamans is a PhD student in the Department of Business and Public Policy at the Hass School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. Robert's research focuses on how public agencies shape competitive strategies of private firms. Prior to being a PhD student, Robert worked at Analysis Group and at the Massachusetts Department of Economic Development. Robert holds a MA in economics from Boston University, a MBA from the Yale School of Management, and a BA in English literature from Reed College.

Robert was presented with a check for \$500 and a plaque by Kant Patel, Vice President of the Association at a reception hosted by past presidents and students at the conference.

Congratulations, Robert.

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to respond to everything that they criticized. Revise judiciously and thoughtfully keeping in mind that research in the social sciences is often based on minimal scholarly consensus regarding many issues. Yet at the same time remember that qualified individuals have read your paper and found it wanting. Somehow, in the middle of classes, advising, meetings and conferences, you should find time to revise your paper with a view to fill the gaps exposed in the rejection and in anticipation of winning over the next set of skeptical reviewers. Yes, this is all time consuming. In the meantime, tenure clocks are ticking and promotion application deadlines taunt you. For greater efficiency, divide the task between your co-authors and yourself. After you have completed the revision, ask others to read your revised paper and get their opinion on what you have done.

5. Send your paper to another journal. In the social sciences, we are blessed with a plethora of outlets to which we could send our work. Consider every appropriate possibility: general inter-disciplinary journals (similar to SSJ), disciplinary journals, specialty journals, topical journals, policy and practice journals, etc.
6. If rejected by the second journal, repeat the above process until publication is achieved or academic fatigue sets in. They may not have told you this in graduate school, but your mentors and academic idols have been rejected by journals multiple times.

Good luck and remember that a rejection is not the end of the world. It just means you have to keep trying!

WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

WSSA's 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DENVER, COLORADO

APRIL 16-17, 2008

The Western Social Science Association invites proposals for papers to be presented at its 49th Annual Conference, to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from April 11th to 14th, 2007. Please submit paper proposals and abstracts to the most appropriate section coordinator(s) listed below by December 1st, 2006.

AFRICAN AMERICAN/AFRICAN STUDIES

Theodore Ransaw
Department of Communication
Community College of Southern Nevada
3200 East Cheyenne Ave-J1A
North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4296
Phone: 702-440-6067
E-mail: transaw@earthlink.net

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Jaime Kathleen Eyrych, M.A.
Native Education Outreach Coordinator
Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office
The University of Arizona
209 Rountree Hall, P.O. Box 210176
Tucson, Arizona 85721
Phone: 520-247-4609
Fax: 520-626-1819
E-mail: jaimee@email.arizona.edu

AMERICAN STUDIES

Professor Daniel J. McInerney
Department of History, 0710 Old Main Hill
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-0710
Phone: 435-797-1283
Fax: 435-797-3899
E-mail: danielj@hass.usu.edu

ANTHROPOLOGY

See Sociology and Anthropology

ARID LANDS STUDIES

Conrad Moore
Western Kentucky University (P.O. Box 2100)
2200 Sandspring Ct.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
E-mail: conrad.moore@wku.edu

ASIAN STUDIES

Walter T. Kiang, Ph.D., MSW
Los Angeles County
Department of Children and Family Services
9320 Telstar Avenue, Suite 206
El Monte, CA 91731
Office: 626-569-6803
E-mail: kiangw@dcfs.co.la.ca.us
And
C. W. Kenneth Keng
Chief Advisor-Greater China
Canadian Securities Institute
136 Conley Street
Thornhill, Ontario Canada L4J2X6
E-mail: Kenneth@Keng.ca

ASSOC. FOR BORDERLAND STUDIES (ABS)

Manuel Chavez
Michigan State University
Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
300 International Center
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-353-1690
Fax: 517-432-7471
E-mail: chavezml@msu.edu

CANADIAN STUDIES

Diddy R.M. Hitchens
Department of Political Science
University of Alaska Anchorage
3221 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Phone: 907-786-1582
Fax: 907-786-4647
E-mail: diddy@uaa.alaska.edu

CHICANO STUDIES/LANI GRANTS

Gabino Rendón
Northern Research Group, Inc.
415 Moreno Street
Las Vegas, NM 87701
Phone: 505-54-9779
E-mail: grendon@zianet.com

Linez Smith
Northern Research Group, Inc.
415 Moreno Street
Las Vegas, NM 87701
Fax: 505-425-3661
E-mail: linezsmith@zianet.com

CHRONIC DISEASE AND DISABILITY (& RC-49, RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ILLNESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION)

Professor J. Gary Linn
School of Nursing/Center for Health Research
Tennessee State University
1406 Beechwood Ave., Box 9580
Nashville, TN 37209
Phone: 615-297-1354
Fax: 615-963-5049
E-mail: Jlinn87844@aol.com

And
Stephen Brown, Ph.D.
Center on Disability Studies
The University of Hawaii at Manoa
1776 University Ave UA-46
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: 808-956-5715
E-mail: rds@cds.hawaii.edu

And

Debra R. Wilson
School of Nursing
Tennessee State University
1406 Beechwood Ave.
Nashville, TN 37212
E-mail: debrarose@mindspring.com

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY

Professor Dennis W. Catlin
Department of Criminal Justice
Northern Arizona University (Tucson)
401 N. Bonita Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705-5000
Phone: 520-797-9123
Fax: 520-690-7941
E-mail: dennis.catlin@nau.edu

Aileen Luna-Firebaugh
University of Arizona
Harvill Rm 218
P.O. Box 210076
Tucson, AZ 85721-0076
Phone: 520-621-2262
Fax: 520-621-7952
E-mail: eluna@u.arizona.edu

And

Steven Patrick
Dept. of Sociology
1910 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725
Phone: 208-426-3225
Fax: 208-426-2098
E-mail: Spatric@boisestate.edu

ECONOMICS (ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL THOUGHT)

Eric R. Hake
Dept. of Economics
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
Phone: 217-581-6333
Fax: 217-581-2997
E-Mail: erhake@eiu.edu

ECONOMICS (BUSINESS AND FINANCE)

Dr. Kashi Nath Tiwari
KNT's Academic Financial Research
P. O. Box 4202
California, CA 94704-0202
E-mail: k1k2k3@hotmail.com



ECONOMICS (GENERAL)

Professor Jack Hou
California State University at Long Beach
Department of Economics
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840
Phone: 562-985-4710
Fax: 562-985-5804
E-mail: jackhou@csulb.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Professor Dwight C. Kiel
Department of Political Science, P.O. Box 161356
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL 32816-1346
Phone: 407-823-2608
Fax: 407-823-0051
E-mail: kield@mail.ucf.edu

GEOGRAPHY

John C. Stager
Claremont Graduate University
School of Information Science
130 East Ninth Street
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: 909-437-1871
Fax: 909-278-0947
E-mail: john.stager@egu.edu

HISTORY

T. H. Baughman, Ph.D.
Department of History and Geography
University of Central Oklahoma
Edmund, OK 73034-2838
Phone: 405-974-5491
Fax: 405-844-1961
E-Mail: tbaughman@ucok.edu

HUMAN COMMUNICATION

Gayle Houser or Richard A. "Tony" Parker
School of Communication
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5619
Phone: 928-523-2508
Fax: 928-523-1505
E-mail: gayle.houser@nau.edu
Richard.parker@nau.edu

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Professor Ignacio Medina
ITESO Jesuit University
Pico de Orizaba 167, Colonia Independencia
Guadalajara, Jalisco 44270 Mexico
Phone: 33-36696467
E-mail: nacho@iteso.mx
And
Ramón Gomez
Universidad de Guadalajara
E-mail: rzamudio40@yahoo.com.mx

MASS COMMUNICATION

Gil Fowler, Professor of Journalism
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 2889
State University, AR 72467-2889
Phone: 870-972-2308
Fax: 870-972-3884
E-mail: gfowler@astate.edu

NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA STUDIES

Professor William C. Schaniel
Department of Economics
State University of West Georgia
Carrollton, GA 30118-3020
Phone: 678-839-4780
Fax: 678-839-5041
E-mail: wschanie@westga.edu

PHILOSOPHY

Professor Paul Tang
Department of Philosophy
California State University-Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840
Phone: 562-985-4343
Fax: 562-985-7135
E-mail: pclang@csulb.edu

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Theo Edwin Maloy, Assistant Professor
Dept. of Hist., Political Science & Criminal Justice
West Texas A&M University
Box 60807
Canyon, Texas 79016
Phone: 806-651-2436
Fax: 806-651-2601
E-mail: emaloy@mail.wtamu.edu

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Victor L. Heller
The University of Texas at San Antonio
College of Business
UTSA San Antonio, TX 78249-0322
Phone: 210-587-7135
E-mail: vheller@utsa.edu

And
Nathan L. Heller
School of Public Affairs
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287
Phone: 480-329-6304
E-mail: Nathan.Heller@asu.edu

PUBLIC FINANCE AND BUDGETING

Deborah Carroll
University of Georgia
School of Public and International Affairs
Dept. of Public Administration
204 Baldwin Hall
Athens, GA 30602-1615
Fax: 706-583-0610
E-mail: dcarroll@uga.edu

And
Justin Marlowe
University of Kansas
1541 Lilac Ln., #318
Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: 785-864-9058
Fax: 785-864-5208
E-mail: jmarlowe@ku.edu

RURAL STUDIES

Professor Anthony Amato
Southwest Minnesota State University
Center for Rural & Regional Studies
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-537-6117
E-mail: tamato@southwest.msus.edu

And

Suzanne Kelley
North Dakota State University
3803 Willow Road
West Fargo, ND 58078
Phone: 701-799-3064
E-mail: zzannie@plainsfolk.com

SLAVIC STUDIES

Evguenia Davidova
Portland State University
University Studies, P.O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207
Phone: 503-725-8992
Fax: 503-725-5977
E-mail: evguenia@pdx.edu

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Marvin G. Bulgatz
Psychology Department
Montana State University
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: 406-657-2342
E-mail: mbulgatz@msubillings.edu

SOCIETY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Assistant Professor Heather Albanesi
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
Department of Sociology, P.O. Box 7150
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80933
Phone: 719-262-4137
Fax: 719-262-4450
E-mail: halbanes@uccs.edu

URBAN STUDIES

Professor Thomas Sammons
Director, Community Design Workshop
School of Architecture and Design
College of the Arts, P.O. Box 43850
Lafayette, LA 70504-3850
Phone: 337-482-5310
Fax: 337-482-1128
E-mail: tcs3147@louisiana.edu

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Diane Calloway-Graham
Social Work Program, M239A
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322-0730
Office: 435-797-2389
Fax: 435-797-1240
E-mail: diancall@hass.usu.edu

PLEASE NOTE: Acceptable formats include papers, panels and roundtables. The DEADLINE for all proposals and abstracts is December 1, 2006. Please include the following in your proposal: (1) Title of Presentation, (2) full name, affiliation, address, telephone number, fax numbers and e-mail addresses of each author (3) Abstract not exceeding 200 words. Scholars willing to serve as moderators or discussants should indicate their interest by December 1, 2005. All participants are required to pre-register for the conference by March 1, 2006. For more information, contact: GENERAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Doreen Barrie, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA T2N 1N4, Phone: 403-220-3624, Fax: 403-282-4773, E-mail: dpbarrie@ucalgary.ca. Additional info is available at: <http://wssa.asu.edu/>

CALL FOR PAPERS!

CALL FOR PAPERS!

Student Paper Submission Deadline: Feb. 1, 2007



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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



As a service to the WSSA membership, WSSA News publishes position announcements for a nominal fee of \$25.00. To submit your announcement, e-mail as an attachment to WSSA Executive Director Larry Gould at larry.gould@nau.edu.

As a service to the membership of the Western Social Science Association, WSSA News publishes position announcements for a nominal fee of \$25.00. WSSA News accepts these announcements as sent by the institution or its representative(s). WSSA News assumes no liability for any misrepresentation by the submitting institution or its representative(s).





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Conference Hotel Rate Cut-Off: March 21, 2007



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Need Information Continued

Saddle Up for Denver

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The Hyatt Regency Downtown has some 1,100 guestrooms and plenty of room for sessions and events. Guests have great access to other Denver sites. Within six blocks or so are the Denver Art Museum, the Colorado State Capitol Building, the Colorado History Museum, the U.S. Mint and the Civic Center Park. The hotel is just off of the 16th Street Pedestrian Mall and a free shuttle is available to take you from the hotel to the Artdistrict on Santa Fe.

Who knows for sure what the mile-high weather will be but the weather for late April is typically mild. The average low temperatures fall in the low 60° Fahrenheit range. On average, daily highs reach the mid 80s. There is some chance of rain (an average of about two inches falls in April) and there is a small chance of a late snow.

The theme of the 2008 conference, Blazing New Trails, reflects the idea that while the Denver conference will be a time of reflection, looking back at the history and accomplishments of WSSA, it will also be a time to look forward to the next 50 years. Every WSSA conference brings new

research questions and new approaches to answering them to the fore. This conference promises no less. Plan now to attend the 50th Annual WSSA conference and help us celebrate the WSSA traditions of multi- and interdisciplinary scholarship, service.

Planning continues but you can expect to enjoy some special 50th anniversary events in addition to the usual full menu of scholarly and social events. Of course Denver offers the opportunity for non-conference activities as well. It is a bit early to know exactly what special events will be held while we are in Denver but expect a full array. Perhaps the Nuggets or the Rockies will have a home game. We hope to have more specific information on special events by the time the spring newsletter is published. Meanwhile, if you want to watch the schedule of events unfold; look for the spring WSSA newsletter and watch the websites of Downtown Denver Partnerships, Inc. at <http://www.downtowndenver.com/Visitors/VisitEvents.htm> or the Denver Metro Convention & Visitor's Bureau at <http://www.denver.org/Events/>. Send in those proposals and start planning!





WSSA CALL FOR STUDENT PAPERS

WIN FOR WRITING

**BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND
GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE
ELIGIBLE**

The WSSA Student Paper Competition

You can win **\$500**, a free one-year subscription to the *Social Science Journal*, free conference registration at the April 2008 WSSA conference in Denver, Colorado and the opportunity to present your paper at the WSSA 2008 Conference.

HOW TO WIN

Papers are judged based on a) advancement of knowledge, b) appropriateness for a broad social science audience, c) quality and implementation of research design, d) definition and significance of topic, e) analysis of findings and discussion of their implications and f) clarity and cogency of writing. Undergraduate and graduate papers are evaluated separately. Authors of excellent papers that are not chosen for the award are eligible to receive a certificate of honorable mention.

Paper Requirements

- Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (which includes bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting materials). Abstracts and cover sheets do not count as part of the 25 page maximum.
- Papers longer than the 25 page maximum will not be read (strictly enforced).
- All pages must be double-spaced and in 12 pt Arial font.
- Papers may not be theses or dissertations previously presented or published.
- Authors may wish to consult the *Social Science Journal's* style guide for formatting information.

Papers must be received on or before **February 1, 2008**. Please clearly indicate undergraduate or graduate status, institutional affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address. Send an e-mail copy (Word or rich text) or three hard copies to:

Jack Hou
Dept. of Economics
California State University
Long Beach, CA 90840-4607
TEL: (562) 985-4710
E-mail: jackhou@csulb.edu

PLEASE POST

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Western Social Science Association
Northern Arizona University
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Box 15302
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5302
SBS 1100

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Calgary Wrap-up

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many delegates were very pleased to network with Canadian colleagues.

The success of the conference was due to the efforts of President-Elect Rick Adkisson and the Section Coordinators who put together a wonderful program. Plenary Speaker, Senator Elaine McCoy's speech on "Crossing Borders" was well received.

The Hyatt Regency was an excellent host, providing us with great meeting space, wonderful catering and very good service. We had tremendous support from the Canadian Government, the University of Calgary, Mount Royal College and many other local supporters.

The main purpose of the conference is promoting the social sciences and maintaining the flow of information through the exchange of papers, discussions and thoughts. However, at the end of the day, we also like to relax – and we did that in style! We had live music on three of the four nights of the conference, some of the best attended receptions in memory and the best food ever.

From the reaction of numerous delegates who told us in Calgary and e-mailed afterwards, the 49th Annual Conference was a resounding success. The conjunction of stimulating papers, exciting social events and great weather will ensure that this conference will be remembered for a long time. The comments of one delegates typifies many who gave us feedback: "I was amazed how polite and courteous everyone associated with the conference was and the many things that the Canadian government and the University did to make it into a very pleasurable and rewarding experience.....congratulations to you, your university and the government for an excellent conference."



**FUTURE
CONFERENCE
SITES**

**2008 - 50th Anniversary
Denver, Colorado
April 16-19, 2008
Hyatt Regency**

**2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 15-18, 2009
Hyatt Regency**

**2010
Reno, Nevada
April 14 – 17
Hilton**