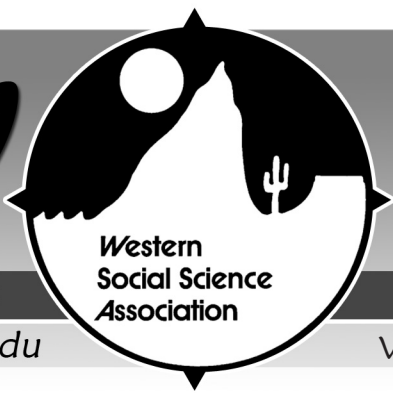


WSSA NEWS



Since 1958

wssa.asu.edu

Scholarship - Service - Collegiality

Volume 40, Number 2

SPRING 2008

Welcome Home!



Photo of Denver International Airport courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

By Phadrea Ponds
WSSA President Elect

Well close enough. I am so excited to welcome you all to Denver. This is where it all began. In 1958 the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association held their first meeting in very tight quarters not too far from where we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in downtown Denver. I can only imagine what those folks would think about the Association now. We have grown from occupying three classrooms on a university campus to filling up an entire confer-

ence center at one of the busiest times of the year. Our scholarship spans more than 30 social science disciplines and our research transcends borders, gender, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Did our founding members expect that we would expand our commitment to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship to this level? I am sure that they could only imagine what we could accomplish in such a short history. Every single breakout room and concurrent session is filled

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Election Results In: New Officers and Council Members to Take the Helm

by Doreen Barrie
WSSA Past President

Election results are in and WSSA will have a fine group of new officers and members of the Executive Council. New officers include Jack Hou, Professor of Economics at the University of California, Long Beach, will take over as President-

Elect; and Cynthia (Cyndy) Klima, Associate Professor of German, Slavic and Humanities at SUNY-Geneseo will serve as Vice President. Both Jack and Cyndy have been involved with WSSA for a number of years and have been members of the Executive Council. Jack will be Program Chair for

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A Taste of WSSA History

by Larry A. Gould
WSSA Executive Director

The Western Social Science Association is planning a commemorative book for distribution at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Association. Below are a few notes from that text of that booklet.

While the records are a bit unclear, it appears that faculty from the University of

Wyoming and various institutions in Colorado formed the Colorado-Wyoming Social Science Association in 1948. It does appear that the roots of WSSA may go back even further. From 1927 to 1958 the Colorado-Wyoming Social Science Association, an independent body, met as part of the Academy. The Colorado institutions included (names at the time)

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A Taste of WSSA History

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Colorado College (Colorado Springs), Colorado State College (Greeley), and Loretto Heights College (Loretto). Few records have been saved from the first ten years of the association. On Friday, October 3, 1958, the Colorado-Wyoming Social Science Association separated from an organization referred to as the Academy of Sciences. Nothing is really known about the Academy of Sciences other than vague reference to them as an organization that co-located its annual meeting with the Colorado-Wyoming Social Science Association.

In a letter dated January 9, 1959, Raymond Cary, announced the following:

"The votes on the proposals submitted by the Council last autumn were decisive. Sixty members voted for independence from the Academy of Sciences; three opposed, Fifty-six voted to change the name of the Association; two opposed; five voted to delay action until the 1959 meeting. Sixty-one voted to expand the area of membership; two opposed.

Thus, we launch out as an independent organization, with a new name and with an expanded area of potential membership and participation. Whether or not these changes will have substantial effects upon instruction and research in the social sciences in the region will depend upon the strength of the membership and the concern of every member that the activities of the Association be vital and significant."

In that first year a subcommittee was formed to gather information concerning the creation of a journal for the new Association. Members of the committee included Oscar Lewis, Bentley Gilbert and Mary Lewis. In 1959 Bentley Gilbert became the Chair of the Journal Committee. This began a complex relationship between the Journal and the Association.

The first Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association was held on May 2, 1959, at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The dues were \$1.00 and 183 people attended.

During the early years of the Association the primary sections were Sociology, Economics, Political Science, History, Geography, American Studies and Slavic Studies. The 60s and 70s was a growth period for the Association in terms of the number of members and the diversity of the sections. On September 24, 1966, the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers joined the Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Irasema Coronado (2010) University of Texas-El Paso

EX OFFICIO

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

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

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

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

Jim Peach
WSSA News Editor
New Mexico State University
jpeach@nmsu.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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The “Dos and Don’ts” of Study Abroad: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Study and Travel

By Cynthia A. Klima
WSSA Executive Council Member
SUNY: College at Geneseo

In May 2006, I took my first group of students overseas to Prague, Bratislava and Vienna for a two-week study trip. All in all, the trip was very successful, not undue to many tips and “rules of the road” that I related to the students before we embarked. Indeed, there are certainly problems one can come across with a group of students, however, it is best to avoid the most controllable in order to make the trip a pleasant experience for everyone. The following list of items can be reinforced in students’ minds before the onset of the trip. Hopefully, it will be of use to other colleagues who are planning study abroad experiences for students and will minimize the troubles a group leader can have when leading a large group.

1. First of all, do make it clear to students that they are NOT in their own country. Upon interviewing students before our trip, I was surprised to learn that many were of the belief that Central European laws were the same as American ones. Of course, although the knowledge that drinking at age 16 was acceptable over there was known to them, the fact that public drunkenness could land a foreigner in jail where no one knew English was not. My mantra of “Know your limit” was pounded into their heads with a forceful hammer. To that effect, students should also know to never accept an opened bottle or a drink from strangers in bars. “Knock-out” drugs abound and robbery and/or rape are distinct possibilities for both males and females.
2. Seek out apartments, apartment complexes or dorms that rent to large groups and make sure that there is a washing machine in the complex or apartment itself or at least a laundromat nearby. When speaking to various study abroad groups not affiliated with my college, I was shocked to find out how little students took care of their wash if facilities were not convenient. In fact, it was a major reason some of them were not at all happy with their trip.
3. Reiterate to students that packing should be kept at a minimum. “If you can’t carry it, don’t bring it.” There is really no need for heavy battery packs, Ipods, or laptops (internet cafes abound in Europe and some student facilities have internet connection), as theft of such items is rampant in Europe. Shampoo and other liquids (with the exception

of some contact lens solutions and anti-perspirant/deodorant) can be bought readily in Central Europe, as can other toiletries. Avoid the weight and buy when you get there. Also, a foldable duffel bag can be packed to use for souvenirs. Luggage kept at a minimum keeps prices down, as public transport can easily and cheaply be used to get to and from the airport. (We liked Osprey backpacks and the REI UL 45 pack. They can fit into overhead bins.) Taxi drivers in Central Europe are not known for low fares or for their honesty in giving correct change.

4. Take students on a tour of the city, purchase their transport tickets with them (depending on how long your group will be staying, it is also good to have a couple of passport-sized photos along in case monthly-passes require them) Take a list of student names with you on official letterhead signed by the Study Abroad Office to get student fares. Be sure your students have the ISIC card as well. You should find out in advance where the 24-hour clinics are and provide those addresses to the students, just in case someone gets ill or injured in your absence. Make sure that students have their insurance cards secured in a safe place.
5. Clothing should be neat and practical. I banned shoes that did not have a strap on the back, i.e. beach thongs and backless sandals, all of which are unsafe when running for a tram or train or, in the case of thongs, can simply break apart, leaving the student shoeless. Students should have a good pair of sturdy walking shoes (we liked Ryka and New Balance as well as broken in, NOT NEW, hiking shoes), a pair of dressier shoes for concerts or other events, and some extra cash in case another pair of shoes is needed. Midriffs, shoulder-baring or low cut tops should be avoided by female students as this will not only ban them from the premises of many churches, but might also gain unwanted attention. Male students should also not wear tank tops or t-shirts with eye-catching slogans. I try to get my students to “blend in” with the rest of the public so that they are less likely targets of pick-pockets or troublemakers.
6. Keep scheduling flexible. Anything can happen, from a tour guide not showing up for a scheduled tour to a place being closed for “technical reasons”

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Thursday, April 24 11:30AM-12:45PM, Presidential Luncheon



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By J. Gary Linn, PhD
WSSA Executive Council Member
Center for Health Research
School of Nursing
Tennessee State University

WSSA – Social Science in Action

The Vital Role of the Social Scientist in AIDS Treatment in Rural Mozambique

Over the past 3 years, I have worked with the Friends of Global Health HIV treatment project in Mozambique supporting the expansion of anti-retroviral therapy in rural Zambezia Province. An important lesson learned from this experience is that clinicians and social scientists must form a partnership to succeed in the mission of bringing wider HIV (and other) therapy to people in developing areas.

Mozambique is about the size of California and has approximately 19 million people. Since the end of civil strife there in 1992, this former Portuguese colony has experienced significant economic growth, yet it is still one of the worlds' poorest countries (ranking 168 of 177 in the 2005 Human Development Index), and most of its population has very limited access to healthcare. It has one of the worst healthcare worker-to-population ratios in the world, and approximately 40% of its population travel (on foot) more than 20km to reach a primary care facility. In rural districts of central Mozambique, there may be only a single physician for 100,000 to 250,000 residents. In a typical rural clinic, two nurses attend 60 or more patients per day. Nationwide, Mozambique has an HIV prevalence rate of about 16 percent with some predominantly rural provinces (e.g. Zambezia) reporting higher (18 to 20 percent) rates of infection. Anti-retroviral therapy was introduced in public clinics in 2004. Following a program of decentralized healthcare promoted by the Ministry of Health, there were 50,000 Mozambicans served by more than 160 clinics throughout the country under treatment in the summer of 2007.

The role of the social scientist in supporting expanded HIV (and TB and malaria) care in Sub-Saharan Africa cuts across three broad areas: needs assessment, community support and monitoring, and evaluation. Before bringing PEPFAR (President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief) supported nurses and physicians to Mozambican clinics, existing clinical and community resources were studied. Site visits were made to rural healthcare facili-

ties in Zambezia targeted for expanded HIV treatment. Clinical staff, services, patient loads, buildings, medical supplies, and equipment were inventoried. The relationships of the healthcare facility to the Mozambican healthcare system and the surrounding community were mapped and analyzed. The significance of local languages, customs, and traditional medicine for the utilization of modern healthcare was documented.

This information was used to develop a comprehensive community support plan for the clinics, which covered prevention (including prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV), counseling, testing, and adherence to anti-retroviral therapy, homecare, and nutrition/food production.

Operationalizing the community support plan has required a long-range commitment of resources, i.e., hiring clinical, education, and administrative personnel, acquisition of office and residential space, purchase of appropriate vehicles, and completion of contracts and agreements with governmental and non-governmental organizations. All of these activities depend upon close working relationships with agencies of the Mozambican government at the national and provincial levels. What is key here is an understanding of Mozambican health policy as it guides the "roll out" of anti-retroviral therapy in all the provinces of the country. An important lesson learned has been that attention to HIV must be integrated with other care and health/medical education. For reasons of stigma prevention and efficient health service provision, persons with HIV cannot be singled out for special care; they must be treated with other patients seeking primary care. As a corollary, opportunities for voluntary counseling and testing must be widely available throughout the healthcare system, and access to treatment unencumbered with bureaucratic delays.

Effective AIDS treatment in rural Mozambique also requires an understanding of how individuals and the community perceive HIV/AIDS, persons who are infected, and the healthcare system. Information provided by patients, Mozambican healthcare professionals, local groups working in prevention, and non-governmental organizations providing homecare has been invaluable. The mentoring by other expatriate organizations working in AIDS care, such as Columbia University affiliated ICAP and Doctors Without Borders, has provided a basic orientation for

healthcare professionals recruited from the United States and Brazil. As a result of this collective learning process, a new role is evolving for persons with HIV attending clinics in rural and urban areas, the "paciente perito." Literally translated from Portuguese, this means the expert patient. In a healthcare system with too few trained healthcare professionals, persons receiving AIDS treatment can be employed to provide prevention education and treatment adherence education and support. They should prove to be invaluable for bringing individuals in the Zambebian community to treatment and supporting their psychosocial needs so that they remain in treatment.

As treatment of HIV (and TB) by expatriate and Mozambican clinicians has increased and community support evolved, the capacity to effectively monitor and evaluate these services has also expanded. Working closely with the Ministry of Health and expatriate organizations also providing AIDS therapy (e.g., Columbia University/ICAP), a more sophisticated digital monitoring and evaluation system is being adopted. Data entry specialists supported by PEPFAR are being added to the clinics so that patients in HIV (and other) treatment can be more effectively tracked and evaluated. Experts in monitoring and evaluation will have better tools with which to assess the efficacy of drug therapies and the social and psychological factors associated with drug adherence. Also, social assistants recommended by community organizations, are being recruited to serve the clinics in a liaison role. They will go to the village to locate patients who have failed

to show for appointments, and they will meet with home care organizations to help select likely candidates for anti-retroviral therapy.

Ultimately, long-term compliance with anti-retroviral therapy requires adequate nutrition so that patients can successfully ingest their medication. Food shortages and poor nutrition are common to rural Mozambique. This means that the clinics in Zambezia must work with the Ministry of Health on a plan for the distribution of a "basic food basket" to households with members under treatment. More importantly, there is a concern with keeping rural HIV compromised families with diminished labor capacity in agriculture, their only current source of food and income. This means that agricultural practices must be adapted to help mitigate the effects of HIV. It requires the diffusion of new labor saving and less labor-intensive agricultural practices to them. These innovations include micro-irrigation, nutritional gardens, and improved fallows such as gliricidia-maize intercropping.

Clearly, the expansion of anti-retroviral therapy in rural Mozambique, as in other developing areas, depends upon multiple interrelated organizational processes. When the social scientist joins the clinician in the "roll out" of AIDS treatment, they expand the more restricted focus of the medical model to include important dimensions of local culture and community, regional healthcare organization, and national health policy. This complex global perspective offers a greater potential for success.

SPECIAL SESSION: Publishing in the Social Science Journal

By Prabha Unnithan
SSJ Editor

WSSA prides itself in its efforts to welcome students and young scholars into its fold and to help them along in their careers. One of our regular efforts in this regard is to provide a special conference session where interested authors can hear about opportunities to publish their work in WSSA's official journal, The Social Science Journal.

This year's special publication session will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2008 in Imperial Ballroom B of the Grand Hyatt in Denver. The session will run from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. At this session, Prabha Unnithan, Editor, and Rich Greene, Book Review Editor, of the Social Science Journal will discuss their editorial philosophies and the submission, review, and decision-making procedures regarding articles submitted to them. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask general questions regarding the publication process. However, throwing rotten fruit at the Editors' is discouraged.

Besides its obvious value to scholars looking for a publication outlet, this special session provides a great opportunity for you to introduce your students to the world of academic publishing. Please use this opportunity to encourage your students and colleagues in their publishing efforts.

Thursday, April 24 1:00-2:30PM, Social Science Journal Special Session



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Why Should I?

by Richard V. (Rick) Adkisson
WSSA President

Why should I? This is an excellent question often asked by adolescents stretching their wings and other thoughtful people who like to attach some reason to their behaviors. I expect that most readers of this essay have asked this question more than once, not the least, in regard to their professional choices. The particular “why should I” that I concern myself with now is why should I maintain my membership and association with the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) or, for that matter, with any other professional organization?

Let's explore the answer from the negative side, you shouldn't join. After all, things change. Budgets for travel are stretched to the point that it is difficult to justify spending hundreds or thousands of dollars to send a faculty member across the country or world to visit face to face with someone they could contact instantly (and cheaply) by e-mail. New communications and information transfer technologies have evolved that allow documents to be bounced around the virtual world instantaneously. Most colleges and universities provide electronic access to a wide array of academic journals thus devaluing the journal subscriptions often included in membership fees. Let's face it. Much of what we do in academe could be done from the comfort of our office, perhaps even from our home. Perhaps we shouldn't join WSSA or any other academic organization.

Without denying the phenomena mentioned above, we need to ask what is left to recommend membership and participation in organizations like WSSA. In my opinion, much remains.

Active membership in professional organizations provides a greater sense of community than is possible when we all stay

home and alternate between staring at our computer screen, a book, and the four walls of our offices. When we meet face to face, our communication takes on dimensions not manifested in other, less personal, forms of communication. We can engage one another with all five senses at once. We can gain confidence in our opinions of one another and build mutual trust in ways that serve both our humanity and our professional goals. We can know one another more intimately. We can better enjoy our similarities and appreciate our differ-

ences. From a professional perspective being engaged in a wider academic community has many advantages. It provides a forum for honest appraisal of our academic work. It gives us a medium to test new ideas. It provides opportunities to practice leadership and build reputations at the national and international levels. It helps us when we need outside evaluation for promotion and tenure purposes. Generally, actively participating in professional organizations helps us to develop a professional support system and, at least occasionally, to develop a lasting friendship.

Regarding scholarship, would you rather be a recipient of scholarship (a passive journal subscriber/reader) or be an active shaper of scholarship? This is not to suggest that one can only participate in scholarship by joining an organization or attending conferences, but again, I think it is a matter of broadening the dimensions of scholarship. We all know that published papers have been shaped not only by the authors but by multiple referees, editors, and often by the comments of interested colleagues and participants in conference sessions. I am sure there are many war stories but my personal experience is that this shaping process has only improved my work. By being engaged in a professional community it seems more likely that one will be asked to review manuscripts, serve on editorial boards, be asked to comment on a colleague's manuscript, or to offer a comment in a session. By these means one becomes fully engaged in the process of scholarship, having his or her own work shaped by other thoughtful colleagues and having the opportunity to shape others' scholarship.

Finally, sometimes we just need a change of pace and a source of inspiration. We all work within organization-specific environments that can sometimes leave one feeling isolated, frustrated, and/or stifled. By attending conferences and interacting with our professional community we might find that we are not the only underpaid and overworked professional. We might hear of a creative solution to an organizational problem we face in our home institution. We might receive a great teaching tip. We might be inspired to think of a problem from a new perspective. We might just feel less alone.

Perhaps I am preaching to the choir. After all, if you are reading this newsletter, you have already decided to join WSSA. Still, I want to encourage you to consider your involvement. Have you organized a session? Have you considered offering to chair or co-chair your section? Have you considered running for an office? Have you encouraged others to join the community? I encourage you to continue your membership and participation, as well as to bring others in who will challenge our thinking, participate in our scholarship, join us as colleagues, and perhaps offer a familiar smile when we cross paths at WSSA events.

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



(a phrase whose meaning can span from “We have no electricity” to “Our guides are all out sick.”) Have an alternative plan in your pocket. When the National Gallery in Prague was closed due to “technical reasons,” I took my students to the Museum of Medieval Torture. Needless to say, it was probably more popular than the National Gallery would have been, but at least it turned into an educational experience for the students and they were wildly enthusiastic about the visit.

7. Impress upon the students to keep their facilities neat and to keep quiet in the halls when returning to their rooms. This is not only a reflection on you as tour guide, but also on the college you represent. I have seen groups from other nations leave facilities in a shambles and create havoc in the halls (much due to consumption of alcohol) and since I want to rent from the same establishment the following year, I remind students that their activity can have an influence on the trips for students in the future.
8. Cell phones are a must, are cheap and very easily budgeted into the trip for the students. I allowed students to purchase their own phones or to bring their own or we purchased a phone in Prague for every 4 students. Having the ability to communicate with my students saved time waiting and looking for people. Also, parents could call the students with no air time charged to the students who had the European phones. The cell phone also proved to be a very useful tool when one student got ill.
9. Remind your students to use the “buddy system” when out and about, especially at night. Best is a group of three or four (females should have males with them), since distraction about one’s surround-

ings is kept to a minimum and a small group does not attract as much attention on the streets. I asked my students to always carry at least one phone per group so that no students were left without communication.

10. Encourage your students to use public transport as much as possible and to seek out interesting venues on their own when they have free time from class-related activities. Some of my students found things I was not aware of and we all ended up checking out interesting activities they discovered. Be enthusiastic and do some spontaneous outings with your students. Those outings can turn out to be very educational, even if they weren’t meant to be so! However, riding in the back car of trams is not the best idea (this we noted in Prague, especially.) Sometimes they are empty for a reason as pickpockets and troublemakers know the driver is in the first car and not available in an emergency. Urge students to take note of possible troublemakers in and around public transport.
11. Remind students of TSA regulations regarding size of bottles and types of liquids that can be carried on board a flight. Also, banned souvenirs, such as lighters, will be confiscated at the airport from carry-on luggage and cannot be checked due to their flammable nature.
12. Keep a copy of your students’ passports, insurance papers and family phone numbers with you just in case. Make sure students also have copies of the same with them, but packed separately from their luggage.

I am sure that each year will bring something new to add to the list of items for students to keep in mind. If you are planning a trip in the future, I hope that the hints that I have provided above keep trouble to a minimum and help your trip run smoothly!

Future WSSA Conference Sites and Dates

WSSA 2009

Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 15 – 18 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown

WSSA 2010

Reno, Nevada, April 14 – 17 at the Grand Sierra Resort

WSSA 2011

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 12 – 16 at the Hilton

WSSA 2012

Houston, Texas, April 11 – 14 at the Hyatt Regency

Concurrent Panel Sessions, 8:00AM-6:00PM, Daily



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Book Reviews as Scholarly Activity

By Richard V. (Rick) Adkisson
WSSA President

One ongoing challenge in the academy is to measure performance. One major category of performance measures is “scholarly activity.” For most of us the gold-standard evidence of scholarly activity is the published, double-blind, peer-reviewed journal article but, many other activities also serve to enrich our scholarly mission. I would like to take a few moments to consider the place of book reviews on the spectrum of scholarly activity.

I have had the opportunity to review books for several journals. Also, in my role as editor of a scholarly journal, I solicit and publish book reviews. My experience both as a reviewer and as a publisher of reviews leads me to conclude that reviewing books is a very useful scholarly activity. Some of my reasons for this conclusion are selfish, others are more professionally altruistic.

On the selfish side I like to read but seldom find sufficient time to enjoy all the books I want to read. If you don't believe me just stop by the house and take inventory of all the half-read books lying about. By committing to review a book I impose discipline on my reading. Once I commit to the review I know I will read a current book (the whole thing), I will read it carefully, and I will complete the process in a limited amount of time. Coincidentally, I usually agree to review books that fit with my research agenda (see gold-standard comment above) or that will help me in my teaching. Writing reviews also helps me exercise my writing skills when I am between larger projects. Based on a very unscientific lunchtime poll of three of my colleagues, I am not the only one that sees book reviewing in this way. One colleague commented that he uses reviews as a means to “ramp up” for bigger writing projects. Another colleague relates that his book reviews often result in more feedback than his larger research pieces. Meanwhile, the production of a published book review helps flesh out the old annual performance review and, you usually get a free book!

From a broader perspective, book reviews provide an important service to the profession. Obviously thousands of new scholarly books are published every year. None of us individually has the time to carefully consider the usefulness or quality of each book. By publishing thoughtful book reviews we help each other sort through

the enormous volume of new material. By reading reviews we can more efficiently identify the new literature that will best serve our needs and interests.

Many academic journals, including WSSA's The Social Science Journal (SSJ), regularly publish book reviews. SSJ reviews are typically four or five double spaced pages in length and focus on recently published books of potential interest to social scientists. If you would like to review a book (or suggest a book for review) please contact SSJ Book Review Editor, Rich Greene, at rgreene@niu.edu or visit with him at the special publishing session mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

WSSA POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jack Hou
WSSA Vice President

The WSSA Executive Council typically conducts two series of meetings per year. In the fall the Council meets at the site for the next spring's conference to plan the meeting and conduct business as necessary. The other series of meetings is held during the spring conference. Here are a few highlights from the fall 2007 meeting in Denver that might be of interest to you.

The recent renewal of the contract with Elsevier to publish The Social Science Journal has improved WSSA's financial position. Much discussion and planning has been spent to assure that the Council manages these funds responsibly. At the recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee the Council adopted a five-point proposal on improving the monitoring of financial transactions of the Association, to include a more defined (but stream-lined) monthly report from the Executive Director.

The Council agreed to renew the terms of Prabha Unnithan as editor and Richard Greene as book review editor of The Social Science Journal. Prabha and Rich have been doing excellent work on the Journal. Please take a moment to thank them for their hard work.

Plenary Speaker

Blane Harding

This year's WSSA Plenary Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 25th from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. This ticketed event provides a great time to enjoy lunch with your colleagues and listen to an outstanding speaker. You may order your tickets in advance when you pre-register or ask at the registration table. This year our plenary speaker is Blane Harding of Colorado State University.



Blane Harding currently serves as the Director of Advising, Recruitment, and Retention for the College of Liberal Arts, the Prelaw Advisor, and as an adjunct faculty member for the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE) at Colorado State University. In addition, he served as the Chair for the CASAE Advisory Board and as the faculty representative on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He teaches courses on African American history and Black Studies. Mr. Harding also serves as a retention faculty member with the Council for Opportunity in Education which oversees the national TRio programs. He is involved in a variety of activities, workshops, and multicultural training sessions for area schools and organizations. He serves as the faculty advisor for several student organizations on campus which include the Ethiopian Student Organization and the Baptist Bible Study.

Mr. Harding is extensively involved with K-12 teacher training and was recognized in 2001 by Denver's Channel 7 Television station as an "Everyday Hero". He most recently was involved in a three year Department of Education grant titled "Project TEACH" which included six public school districts in the state of Colorado. Mr. Harding is a lead scholar for this project which facilitates a more inclusive approach to the teaching of United States and Colorado history. He is the recipient of several honors and awards including: CSU Minority Distinguished Service Award, College of Liberal Arts Excellence in Teaching Award, CSU Alumni Association "Six Best" Teacher Award, History Department Phi Alpha Theta Outstanding Professor Award, Mortar Board "Rose", the Provost's Jack E. Cermak Advising Award, the Athletics Department Excellence in Education Award, the Blanche M. Hughes Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award, and has been inducted as an Honorary Member of Golden Key National Honor Society. Recently Mr. Harding received the 2005 NACADA Region 10 Conference "Best of Region" presentation and the 2007 Colorado State University Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award.

WSSA POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED

The Council authorized Executive Director to purchase a couple of LCD projectors. The purchase represents an experiment in using WSSA owned AV equipment that will possibly allow us to use LCD technology more intensively in the future.

The Council appointed a committee headed by Gil Fowler to find an editor for the WSSA Newsletter. The editor will begin by publishing the fall 2008 issue. Please contact Gil at GFOWLER@astate.edu if you are interested or would like to recommend someone for this position.



Paul Stewart, founder of the Black American West Museum, which tells the forgotten story of African American cowboys.

Photo by David Falconer. Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Friday, April 25 11:45AM-12:45PM, Plenary Speaker Luncheon



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2008 WSSA Conference Program Overview

Wednesday April 23rd

- Continental Breakfast for Executive Council –
7:30 a.m.(Executive Council Only)
- WSSA Executive Council Meeting -
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m
- Conference Registration Opens
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- WSSA Welcoming Reception
(All Attendees Invited)
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday April 24th

- Conference Registration
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Presidential Luncheon and Address
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
WSSA President Rick Adkisson
(Please register for this ticketed Event)
- Special Session: Social Science Journal
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday April 25th

- Conference Registration
7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Centennial Breakfast
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Plenary Speaker Luncheon: Blane Harding,
Colorado State University
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
(Please register for this ticketed Event)
- WSSA Section Coordinators Meeting
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(Current and New Section
Coordinators must attend)
- WSSA Business Meeting
(TBA)
- Canadian Studies Reception Hosted by the
Denver Canadian Consulate
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m
(Invitation only)

Saturday April 26th

- Conference Registration
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- WSSA President's Reception
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
(All Are Invited)

Welcome Home!

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with innovative and scholarly discussions on themes ranging from transcontinental border issues to workshops on professional development.

If you decide to break away from the conference – we have chosen the best location in the entire state (in my humble opinion). We are minutes away from the 16th Street Mall. Don't go looking for revolving doors, air conditioning, and big box department stores. There are a few department stores, however, what you will find are all of my very favorite restaurants. I love to eat! You can walk one block east or west and find at least 10 outstanding eateries – there are 8-10 blocks on the Mall so loosen your belt. OK, so, if eating is not your thing. Denver has a spectacular botanical garden and the Denver Art Museum is a must see whenever you are in town. This year, we are lucky, because

the Inspiring Impressionism tour will be in town until May 25, 2008. A visit to the Rocky Mountains will require transportation and at least a half day of your time – but if you allow for an



Photo of the Colorado State Capitol courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention & Visitor's Bureau

extra day you will not be disappointed. The ninth annual Starz Denver Pan African Film festival, hosted by the Denver Film Society will be in town April 24- 27. For our sports fans, the Colorado Rockies will have two games in Denver (Rockies vs

Phillies April 21-22 and Rockies vs Cubs April 23-24). Coors Field is within walking distance of the hotel. The 16th street Mall offers free bus rides close to the field, however you will still have to walk several blocks to get to the stadium.

Finally, did I mention the restaurants? If you will have transportation, I will encourage you to venture to some of the "local" eateries in the Cherry Creek area. There are hundreds of restaurants in Denver – from Mongolian Barbeque to Buffalo Meatloaf, you will have to just follow your nose and let your feet do all of the walking. I am hoping that you all will have the best time of your lives here. Take this opportunity to meet new colleagues and to be a part of WSSA history. I am looking forward to celebrating this very special anniversary with all of you.

Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee, headed by soon-to-be Past President, Rick Adkisson, will be assembled very soon. Nominees will be needed for several offices including President-Elect, Vice President, and Executive Council (three positions). Please consider whether you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) and send written nominations to Rick Adkisson at radkisso@nmsu.edu. If you nominate someone, please check with them to assure that they are willing to accept the nomination before submitting it.

Send Nominations to radkisso@nmsu.edu



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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

Election Results In

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the 51st Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM, in 2009. Cyndy will act as scribe at Council meetings and organize the student paper competition next year.

Three new Executive Council members were elected for three-year terms. They are Chris Brown, Doug Nord and Barbara Wiens-Tuers. Christopher Brown is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at New Mexico State University. He is an active member of the Association of Borderland Studies (ABS), and served as President of ABS from 2006-2007. Doug Nord is Professor of Political Science at Western Washington University. He has attended WSSA conferences since he was a graduate student and is currently Vice President of ACSUS, the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States. Barbara Wiens-Tuers is Associate Professor of Economics at Penn State-Altoona. She has been a Board Member of AFIT, the Association for Institutional Thought, from 2002-2005 and is currently serving as a Board Member for the Association of Evolutionary Economics.

WSSA will be in good hands in the future as the torch is passed to new officers and Council members. I would like to congratulate all of them and wish them the best of luck.

WSSA thanks all those candidates who agreed to stand for election this year. Every candidate who ran in the election has contributed significantly to the Association and deserves our gratitude. The Association depends on the commitment and dedication of its volunteers, without them WSSA would not have survived and prospered for half a century.



**FUTURE
CONFERENCE
SITES**

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

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

**2011
Salt Lake City, Utah
April 12-14
Hilton**