

Child & Youth News

A Message from the Chair...

Dear Section Members:

In many parts of the country, leaves are falling and, in some cases, the first flakes of snow have already dropped from the sky. While the approach of winter is inevitable, we can still reflect fondly on the memories of our meetings in San Francisco back in August. My predecessor, Lingxin Hao, deserves a tremendous amount of gratitude for putting together such a wonderful set of sessions for our section. Everything, from the section's reception at a local restaurant, to the sessions, to our roundtables, and eventually to our business meeting, went quite smoothly and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

This has been a very momentous year for our members. As many of you are aware, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention establishes a set of standards, which governments around the globe are expected to maintain, to protect the basic human rights of children. It attempts, quite simply, to provide for the protection of children, who are obviously among the most defenseless and vulnerable populations in any society.



*Sampson Lee Blair, Section Chair
SUNY Buffalo*

At our meetings in San Francisco, the founder of our section, Gertrud Lenzer, gave a very moving and heartfelt talk, reminding us all that our own work and research has had a substantial impact upon the development of policies and legislation which affect the lives of children. Admittedly, it is often the case that people in academia live in a somewhat insulated world, where they are unable to see the real-life applications of their research. As Gertrud so marvelously emphasized, we must always give thought to how our research can ultimately improve the lives of children. This can, of course, be quite challenging, as much of the work produced by social scientists is read primarily by other such researchers. If we can somehow begin our work with the understanding that it has the potential to help make children's lives better, perhaps we can, indeed, see how it affects policy-making and the real-world applications thereof. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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

Fall 2009

SECTION OFFICERS 2009-2010

CHAIR:

Sampson Lee Blair
SUNY Buffalo
slblair@buffalo.edu

CHAIR-ELECT:

Robert Crosnoe
University of Texas, Austin

PAST CHAIR:

Lingxin Hao
John Hopkins University

FOUNDING CHAIR:

Gertrud Lenzer
Brooklyn College and the
Graduate Center, CUNY

SECRETARY-

TREASURER:
Jean Wei-jun Yeung
New York University

COUNCIL:

Rachel Gordon
University of Illinois, Chicago

Melissa Herman
Dartmouth College

Rosalind King
NICHD

Valerie Leiter
Simmons College

Nancy Marshall
Wellesley College

Allison Pugh
University of Virginia

STUDENT REPS:

Melanie Jones
University of California, Davis

Emily Rauscher
New York University

WEBSITE EDITORS:

Lara Perez-Felkner
University of Chicago

Elizabeth Vaquera
University of South Florida

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Margaret Hagerman
Emory University

Letter from the Chair (continued)

(continued from Page 1)

Next year's ASA meetings are built around the theme of "Toward a Sociology of Citizenship: Inclusion, Participation, and Social Rights." With this theme in mind, we had quite a few suggestions for sessions (thanks to everyone who submitted ideas). Since our membership level is above 400, we were allocated three sessions, along with a combined roundtable/business meeting session. The sessions will include: "Children in Global Perspective" (organized by Maria Schmeckle and Liz Boyle), "Race & Ethnicity in the Lives of Children" (organized by Holly Heard), and "Policy Research on Children & Youth" (organized by Nancy Marshall). The roundtable sessions will be organized by Cynthia Osborne.

The meetings in Atlanta next summer will provide an excellent forum for engaging in the endeavor of improving the lives of children. Between now and the submission deadline, I very much encourage each of you

to assemble and submit your manuscripts to our section's sessions.

In addition, as we are also approaching the deadline for 2010 memberships, I would also like to encourage everyone to try to bring someone into our section. Very simply, I ask that you try your best to encourage a colleague to join our section. If you are a professor and have students who are interested in children and youth research, consider bringing them into the section by offering to pay for their membership. If you are a student member, solicit the members of your cohort and encourage them to join, as well. Ultimately, the larger our section can become, the stronger our collective voices in support of children and youth will be.

Take care, and I look forward to seeing y'all in Atlanta!

—Sampson Lee Blair
Children and Youth
Section Chair



Lingxin Hao (Past Chair),
Gertrud Lenzer (Founding Chair),
Maggie Hagerman (Newsletter Editor),
Sampson Lee Blair (Chair)
Section on Children and Youth Reception
ASA Annual Meeting
August 8, 2009



Elizabeth Vaquera (Website Editor),
Lara Perez-Felkner (Publications Committee Chair &
Website Editor),
Melanie Jones (Student Representative),
Sarah Ovink (Student Member)
Section on Children and Youth Reception
ASA Annual Meeting

November 20, 2009: 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

On November 20, 2009, the international community will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the United Nations General Assembly.



In addition, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on November 20, 2009, UNICEF is dedicating a special edition of its flagship publication “The State of the World’s Children” to child rights. The report broadly assesses the Convention’s impact on children’s well-being and human development during the past two decades, addresses the critical challenges for the next 20 years and outlines an agenda for action to ensure the Convention’s promise becomes a reality for every child. To order or download a copy, visit:

http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_51772.html

Call for papers for the Sociological Studies of Children

The editors of SSCY invite completed papers for volume 14, to be published in the spring of 2011. The Series Co-editors, David A. Kinney and Loretta E. Bass, encourage prospective contributors to think creatively, critically, and philosophically about the sociology of childhood. Papers are welcome focused on children and youth from a variety of topics and all theoretical and methodological orientations.

The editors seek to include papers that are timely and in need of critical examination in the areas of research, theory, and policy regarding children and youth. The editors conceive of the sociology of children and youth to mean individuals from infancy through the transition to adulthood.

SSCY (Emerald Publishing, UK) is an edited volume devoted to publishing research focused on children. This volume was first published and edited in 1986 by sociologists, Patricia Adler and Peter Adler, who aptly noted, "the study of children and child development is empirically and theoretically central to the discipline of sociology." Since 1986, the American Sociological Association created the Section on Sociology of Children and Youth, and the International Sociological Association started Research Group 53 on Childhood. The SSCY volume has a history of publishing work and continues to welcome contributions by scholars from around the world. Contributions are peer-reviewed by the series editors, members of the editorial board, and other researchers.

Submission deadline is June 1, 2010. Submit papers electronically to Loretta Bass at Lbass@ou.edu, or in hardcopy to SSCY, Loretta Bass, 780 Van Vleet Oval, 331 KH, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019.

Members: Please Donate!

The Section on Children and Youth would like to continue to offer free first-time student memberships as way to attract new members to our section as well as to support those beginning their studies of children.

Please consider donating to the Student Membership Fund so that we can continue to offer this assistance to our new students!!

Thank You!



Membership Announcement!

We currently have **435 members**, a record high! Let's keep this energy going and continue to invite new scholars and students to join the Section on Children and Youth!

Child Welfare Policy Job Posting Brooklyn College Children's Studies Program and Center

Responsibilities:

The interdisciplinary Children's Studies Program and Center invites applications for a tenure track rank open position beginning in September 2010. The successful candidate will teach courses in the Program as well as children and youth centered courses in his or her discipline. It is expected that the candidate's research can be coordinated with the mission of the Children's Studies Program to study the experience of outcomes for children and youth of the New York Child Welfare System along with its relationship to such other city and state agencies as are concerned with education, juvenile/criminal justice, mental and physical health.

It is the intention of the Children's Studies Program and Center to spearhead interdisciplinary accountability research, utilizing the latest research methods, for the analysis of policy issues central to the well being and rights of New York's children and young people. Since the state and city-focused New York Child Welfare systems do not exist in isolation from federal legislative and fiscal realities, the successful candidate also needs to be familiar with such contexts. This position provides the opportunity of breaking new ground in urban child policy research.

Qualification:

A Ph.D. or the equivalent in a relevant discipline such as anthropology, fiscal economics and the public sector, public health, history, public policy analysis, psychology, social work, and sociology. Record of teaching experience and scholarly productivity, the latter evidenced by publications and funded grant applications. Also desirable are: familiarity with policy and evaluation research in the child welfare sector; the ability to work collaboratively with diverse communities of researchers, practitioners, public policy makers and private sponsors; management ability, including experience in project development, fundraising and budgeting. The selected candidate should be familiar with relevant major ongoing child research in the social sciences.

Salary:

Competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.



Please send curriculum vitae, copies of representative publications, evidence of teaching proficiency, and three letters of recommendation to:

Michael T. Hewitt
Assistant Vice President for
Human Resource Services
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889

Congratulations to the 2009 Section Award Recipients!!

Early Career Award

Award Committee: Rob Crosnoe (chair), University of Texas at Austin; Jessica Field, San Francisco State University; Holly Foster, Texas A&M University; Amanda Lewis, Emory University; Nancy Marshall, Wellesley College

Lori Peek, an assistant professor of Sociology at Colorado State University who earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2005, is the 2009 winner of the Early Career Award from the ASA Section on Children and Youth. Lori is a qualitative sociologist who studies child and adolescent development in the context of natural disasters, with a special focus on differences by race/ethnicity and gender. She was nominated for this award by Alice Fothergill and Kai Erikson. Only four years into her professional career, Lori has already amassed many important accomplishments, publishing 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals (including top journals like *Child Development*) and another 12 chapters and encyclopedia entries. What impressed the committee most, however, was not so much quantity of production but quality. In particular, Lori is delving into important and timely issues that are woefully understudied. How children and youth represent an incredibly vulnerable population in the wake of natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, the resilience they demonstrate in such disasters, and what they can contribute to recovery from such disasters are all valuable questions for sociologists to ask, but they are not asked enough. Lori asks these questions, and then conducts hundreds of hours of interviews with and observations of children and youth coping with natural disasters and their families to provide meaningful answers. These answers, in turn, provide insights into child development and the ecology of child development that generalize far beyond any the specific settings of natural disasters. For these reasons, Lori Peek exemplifies the spirit of this award. She is forging her own career path and doing so with great success.



Jeremy Staff, an assistant professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University who earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota in 2004, was the runner-up for the Early Career Award from the ASA Section on Children and Youth. In fact, the competition was so fierce and he came so close to winning that the committee decided to bestow, for the first time, an Honorable Mention to Jeremy, who was nominated for the award by Jeylan Mortimer. Jeremy is a life course sociologist who studies inequality and stratification among American youth, with a special interest in crime and delinquency. He has been incredibly prolific, publishing 13 articles on the connections among adolescent behavior, school/work experiences, and peer dynamics in some of the top journals in sociology, including *Social Forces*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *Criminology*. He also has published 6 book chapters. This work, organized by core sociological theories, applies cutting edge statistical techniques to a variety of data sources and seeks to inform policy. Impressively, Jeremy is also amassing a solid track record of external funding for his work, including winning a K01 Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for a five-year project on adolescent work experiences and the transition to adulthood. Clearly, Jeremy is going places.



Congratulations to the 2009 Section Award Recipients!!

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Winner: Kyle Longest

Award Committee: Cindy Clark (Chair), Penn State University; Bill Corsaro, Indiana University; Katy Hadley, California State University—Sacramento; Jessica Kenty-Drane, Southern Connecticut University; Dan Cook, Rutgers University

The winner of our section Graduate Student Paper, **Kyle Longest**, received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is now an Assistant Professor at Furman University. His paper, "Popularity Lost: Identity Status and its Consequences During the Transmission to Adulthood," asks the question whether high school popularity is destiny with a lasting impact on adulthood. Intriguingly, his answer might be thought of a tightly argued, scholarly version of the one-time film, *Revenge of the Nerds*, which garners popularity in high school may not bring long term social success after all.



Robert Crosnoe (Chair of Early Career Award Committee), Lori Peek (Winner), and Jeremy Staff (Runner-Up)



Kyle Longest and Cindy Clark (Chair of Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Committee)



Pictured at left: Lingxin Hao (2008-2009 Section Chair), Lori Peek, Jeremy Staff, and Kyle Longest

Congratulations Award Winners!
and
Thank You Awards
Committee Members!

Photos from the Section on Children and Youth's ASA Reception

Thanks to Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek for the photographs!



National Center for Family & Marriage Postdoctoral Fellow Announcement

The National Center for Family & Marriage Research (NCFMR) seeks one postdoctoral fellow for a one-year appointment (renewable for an additional year with satisfactory progress). The fellowship is designed to provide an opportunity for an outstanding young scholar to perform research and receive training in residence at the NCFMR at Bowling Green State University.

For further information and application instructions please go to <http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/opportunity/postdoc.html>

Family & Child Studies Job Posting: Montclair State University

DESCRIPTION:

Tenure-track Assistant Professor position. Appointment includes teaching and advising students in a range of undergraduate and graduate courses in Family and Child Studies. Faculty members are expected to be active scholars, develop a significant body of refereed publications, advise students, engage in curriculum development, and participate in department, college, and university committees. Faculty member will play a role in the continuing development of this relatively new department, which includes a planned Ph.D. program.



QUALIFICATIONS:

Earned doctorate in Family and Child Studies or closely related area. College level teaching experience preferred. Desired areas of research and/or expertise include but are not limited to family policy, family relations, Child Life Specialist, and the hospitalized child. Candidates must demonstrate a well-defined research agenda and evidence of scholarly activities. The department and the College of Education and Human Services are committed to student and faculty diversity and value the educational benefits that derive from such diversity. We are seeking candidates who demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively in and with socially, culturally, and economically diverse communities; have a commitment to education for social justice, democratic practice, and critical thinking; and are interested in addressing issues of diversity in research, teaching, and curriculum development.

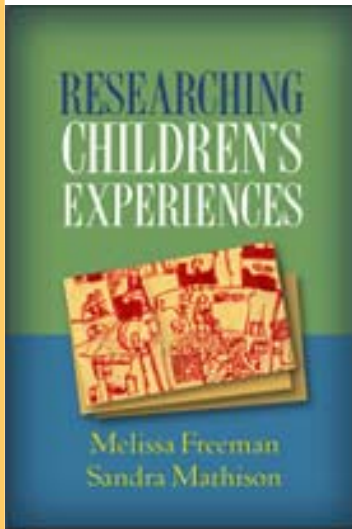
SALARY: Salary dependent upon qualifications.

STARTING DATE: September 1, 2010

Send Letter of Application, Resume, and Three Letters of Reference to:
Dr. Tamara Lucas, CEHS Associate Dean
Montclair State University
BOX C316, V- F10
Montclair, NJ 07043



New Books!



***Researching Children's Experiences*, by Melissa Freeman and Sandra Mathison**

This accessible book presents approaches to planning, carrying out, and analyzing research projects with children and youth from a social constructivist perspective. Rich, contextualized examples illustrate how to elicit and understand the lived experiences of diverse young people. Data-collection methods discussed in depth include drawing, photography, the Internet, games, interviewing, focus groups, journaling, and observation. Also covered are strategies for fostering the active contributions of children in the research process; navigating consent and ethical issues; enlisting the support of parents, school personnel, and other gatekeepers; and interpreting data. Throughout, the authors emphasize the need to attend to the social setting in which research with children is done. End-of-chapter questions and exercises encourage readers to reflect on taken-for-granted conceptions of children and childhood and to try out the book's ideas in their own research projects.

***The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*, Richard A. Shweder, Editor in Chief. Edited by Thomas R. Bidell, Anne C. Dailey, Suzanne D. Dixon, Peggy J. Miller, and John Modell**

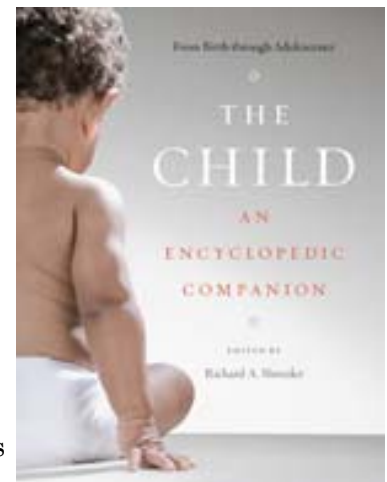
The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion offers both parents and professionals access to the best scholarship from all areas of child studies in a remarkable one-volume reference.

Bringing together contemporary research on children and childhood from pediatrics, child psychology, childhood studies, education, sociology, history, law, anthropology, and other related areas, *The Child* contains more than 500 articles—all written by experts in their fields from around the world and overseen by a panel of distinguished editors led by anthropologist Richard A. Shweder. Each entry provides a concise and accessible synopsis of the topic at hand. For example, the entry “Adoption” begins with a general definition, followed by a detailed look at adoption in different cultures and at different times, a summary of the associated mental and developmental issues that can arise, and an overview of applicable legal and public policy.

While presenting certain universal facts about children’s development from birth through adolescence, the entries also address the many worlds of childhood both within the United States and around the globe. They consider the ways that in which race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural traditions of child rearing can affect children’s experiences of physical and mental health, education, and family. Alongside the topical entries, *The Child* includes more than forty “Imagining Each Other” essays, which focus on the particular experiences of children in different cultures. In “Work before Play for Yucatec Maya Children,” for example, readers learn of the work responsibilities of some modern-day Mexican children, while in “A Hindu Brahman Boy Is Born Again,” they witness a coming-of-age ritual in contemporary India.

Compiled by some of the most distinguished child development researchers in the world, *The Child* will broaden the current scope of knowledge on children and childhood. It is an unparalleled resource for parents, social workers, researchers, educators, and others who work with children.

See <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/TheChild/> for table of contents. Section members featured!!



Announcements from Child Trends

Database of Programs That Work (or Don't) to Enhance Children's Development

Since 2000, Child Trends has been compiling a database to inform evidence-based practice in out-of-school time programs. LINKS, which stands for Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully, presents summaries of over 400 evaluations of programs found to "work," or not, to enhance children's development. LINKS visually shows that varied program approaches can contribute to children's development, that different approaches are appropriate at different ages, and that developmental inputs build on one another over time, as a child grows. Child Trends researchers are synthesizing the lessons learned from the programs in the LINKS database and a recently released fact sheet highlights what works for summer learning programs. The LINKS database and fact sheets are available at www.childtrends.org/WhatWorks.

The Child Indicator

The Child Indicator summarizes major developments and new resources within the child and youth indicators field on a regular basis. Child Trends produces and distributes The Child Indicator with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Fall 2009 issue includes articles on:

- New data from the National Survey of Children's Health and Census Bureau.
- Recently released reports on racial/ethnic disparities in behavioral and learning disorders, young children in the criminal justice system, and high school graduation rates.
- National survey of 15-year-olds.
- International child indicators, including the first reports on child well-being from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the African Child Policy Forum.
- New editions of KIDS COUNT Data Book and America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being.

Sign up to receive announcements about new issues of The Child Indicator and view current and past issues at www.childtrendsatabank.org.

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at all stages of development.



Child & Youth News is currently looking to feature scholars, students and research centers in future newsletter issues. If you have any suggestions or would like to be featured yourself, please contact Maggie Hagerman at Margaret.Hagerman@emory.edu.

Section Information:

Section on Children and Youth
American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Mission Statement:

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

Next Issue:

The Winter issue of Child & Youth news is scheduled to be published in January, 2010.

Please send submissions to Lara at larap@uchicago.edu. And, if you would like to be interviewed, please let the publications committee know! We would love to feature you. Also, please check out and submit material to the website!

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

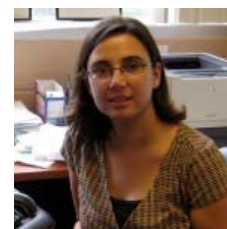
Publications Committee



Maggie



Lara



Elizabeth

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

