

CHILDNEWS

*The Official Newsletter of the Sociology of Children Section
The American Sociological Association*

Winter 1994

Chair

Doris R. Entwisle

Chair-Elect

David J. Eggebeen

Secretary-Treasurer

Judith D. Auerbach

Council

Linda M. Burton

William A. Corsaro

Ivar Frones

Gerald Handel

Donald J. Hernandez

Gertrud Lenzer

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A Message from the Chair

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to follow Gertrud Lenzer as Chair of the new ASA Section on Children. All of us owe her a tremendous debt. Without her superb organizational skills and boundless enthusiasm, this section would not have been established. It is a Section whose time has come, however, as evidenced by our strong membership, already over 450 individuals.

The Section has another strength: its diversity. Our members include sociolinguists, demographers, social psychologists, economists and representatives of many other subdisciplines. We on the Council hope to keep and even increase this diversity, and are looking to you for help. Please bring the new Section to the attention of your colleagues both within and without ASA.

Los Angeles meetings promise to be a continuation of our organization building activities. We hope in 1994 to have some kind of get-together like an informal reception. Please keep alert for later announcements on this. Our Section day at the L.A. meetings will be Monday, August 8, so be sure to schedule your attendance at ASA to cover that day.

Finally, I want to call to your attention two national societies with which you, as a person whose scientific interests include children, may want to affiliate. One, the Society for Research in Child Development, is ancient by comparison with other social science groups.

It meets biennially in odd years (1993, 1995, etc.), and welcomes sociologists' participation at all levels. Its current President is Glen Elder, one of our most distinguished colleagues in sociology. The other, the Society for Research on Adolescence, is an upstart by contrast, only 6 years old, but growing. It meets biennially in even years (1994, 1996, etc.). The next meeting is planned for San Diego, February 10-13, 1994. Our beloved colleague, Roberta Simmons, was one of the founders of this Society and up to the time of her death continued to play important roles. This Society, too, is eager for sociologists to participate. It maintains a disciplinary breadth of outlook that we all find exhilarating.

For your information, the names and addresses of your current Council members are listed below. We would welcome your comments and suggestions. Let us know your preferences so we can guide the Section in ways that best meet your needs.

Officers of the Sociology of Children Section

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Sociology of Children Section

Call for Papers

1994 American Sociological Association
Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California

The Sociology of Children Section will sponsor three regular paper presentation sessions at the ASA meeting to be held on August 5-9, 1994 in Los Angeles, California.

The sessions are as follows:

1. "Children and Public Policy"
2. "Multicultural Perspectives and Children"
Send papers for the above two sessions to:
Doris Entwisle, Dept. of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA; (410) 516-7016
3. "Methodological Approaches for the Study of Children."
Send papers to: David Eggebeen, S110 Henderson Bldg., Human Development & Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA; (814) 863-0241; E5X@PSUVM.

**Sociology of Children Section
Business Meeting Minutes
August 15, 1993
Miami Beach, Florida**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Gertrud Lenzer, Acting Chair of the Sociology of Children Section.

I. Announcements

Gertrud Lenzer made the following announcements:

- * As of July 1993 and after one year the Section had 450 members, which means it is "viable and strong." It also means the Section will have three regular sessions at the 1994 annual meeting in Los Angeles.
- * CHILDNEWS was established as the Section's newsletter and Gertrud Lenzer thanked its editor, Donald Hernandez for all his effort on behalf of the Section.
- * All the organizers of the 1993 Sections were thanked.
- * Thanks to Sandra Hofferth and the Nominating Committee for organizing the Section election, which had the following results: Chair: Doris Entwisle; Chair-elect: David Eggebeen; Secretary-treasurer: Judy Auerbach; Council Members (2 years): Linda Burton, Ivar Frones, and Donald Hernandez;

Council Members (1 year): William Corsaro, Gerald Handel, and Gertrud Lenzer.

II. Past Activities

Gertrud Lenzer reported on the following activities:

- * The Section has established cordial relations with the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). Glen Elder will be SRCD's next President, and Doris Entwisle is also an active member.
 - * The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and SRCD obtained a contract to develop the Second National Head Start Research Conference, which was held November 4-7, 1993 in Washington, D.C. Our Section is a cooperating member and was represented by Donald Hernandez.
 - * The Section also has been invited to participate in the next International Sociological Association (ISA) meeting, to be held in Bielefeld, Germany in 1994.
 - * We have established relationships with the European Network on "Childhood as a Social Phenomenon" and "Childwatch International," a global network of child researchers.
- Donald Hernandez reported on the following:
- * The Section newsletter, CHILDNEWS, welcomes comments, contributions, and ideas. People are encouraged to submit book announcements and awards notifications, as well.
 - * The National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine have recently established a new Board on Children and Families that consolidates earlier activities. The topics and agenda for the Board are still being refined, but at this point include for discussion: a National Survey on Children; improving child development measures in social surveys; looking at the science of early childhood programs; looking at the consequences of economic insecurity for children; and examining children in health care reform.

Ivar Frones from Norway reported the following:

- * Norway has a special Minister for Children.
- * The Norwegian Centre for Child Research generated the initiative for Childwatch International Research Net.
- * The new global journal, Childhood, encourages contributions from Section members.

Jens Qvortrup from Denmark reported the following:

- * He noted the existence of the European Centre project on "Childhood as a Social Phenomenon," and its influence on the activities of the ISA's childhood group, of which he is the President. In particular, he mentioned the program on "children at risk."

Gertrud Lenzer added:

- * The European Centre has produced country reports with statistics and information about children. A forthcoming book provides an important theoretical foundation for the sociology of childhood.
- * The City University of New York (CUNY) has established the first interdisciplinary undergraduate degree program called Children's Studies in the country.

III. Future Activities

Gertrud Lenzer noted the following:

- * The growth of the Section places tremendous responsibility on the officers and members. In particular we must be concerned with how to nurture the intellectual and theoretical diversity that exists among our membership. This will become important for program development for the 1994 meetings.
- * Linda Burton has agreed to chair a Membership Committee. Hopefully a member directory will be generated.

* The Section might wish to consider the possibility and desirability of initiating a Section award. Funds for such an award currently are non-existent. We might need to raise Section fees from \$8 to \$10. Currently, all \$8 goes to the ASA. If we were to raise our dues, the remainder would help support Section activities, including an award or a reception.

* According to the Section's Bylaws, 2/5 of the members on the Nominations Committee shall be elected each year. This meant we needed to elect two new members today.

ACTION: Donna King (SUNY-Cortland) and Kathe Lowney (Valdosta State) were nominated and elected by acclamation.

Lenzer then asked members in attendance to offer any criticisms and/or recommendations for Section activities, including ideas for program development. An open discussion followed:

Donna King reported on SSSP interest in offering a community outreach program on children at the 1994 meeting in Los Angeles. This would be an all-day workshop, open to the public, reaching out to practitioners, advocates, etc. She is the organizer, and solicited input and participation from the Section.

King also said that she was interested in forming a committee within the Section on sociological methods in doing research with children. She introduced two considerations: first, that we must recognize that we're not inventing the wheel, i.e., that other disciplines already do this and we should find out what and how they do it; and second, that we should ask what sociology has to contribute that is different and unique.

Frank Stluka noted that in the last issue of CHILDNEWS, Victoria Chapman had called for a child panel at the 1994 meeting. One idea was to start with an essay contest with children in L.A. schools, to have the papers of the winners written up and consolidated for a "textual analysis."

Discussion ensued on how such a panel could be organized, and what the appropriate role of the Section ought to be. One suggestion was to make a child panel be a Plenary Session.

Dick Moodey reported that the Theoretical Sociology Section has a miniconference on a particular theme and then consolidates the papers into an edited book, from which it profits. Perhaps the Section on children could try this. We could use the money for a Section award.

Gertrud Lenzer raised the issue of the ASA's endorsement of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. She noted that the American Psychological Association (APA) endorsed the Convention, with qualifications, in 1989. She asked whether the Section wishes to recommend that the ASA Council endorse the Convention, as well.

Discussion ensued about whether or not it was appropriate for the ASA to endorse an essentially "political" document. Opponents of the recommendation to Council argued that while it might be fine for individuals to endorse the Convention, it was not appropriate for the ASA to do so. Proponents of the recommendation argued that the Convention was historically important, and that researchers would be playing a role in monitoring its implementation and effects.

ACTION:

A motion was made that the Section recommend to the ASA Council "to consider and explore the ASA's position in relation to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child." The motion passed (24 "yes," 2 "no", 2 "abstain.")

Judy Auerbach, Secretary-Treasurer agreed to draft a recommendation to this effect and deliver it to the ASA Council early the next morning (Aug. 16) for consideration at the Council meeting.

Gertrud Lenzer thanked everyone for their help and support over the past year in getting the Section established.

IV. New Business

Doris Entwisle assumed her new role as Chair of the Section, and noted that the Section was now legally constituted as a group. She also noted that if we wish to raise Section dues, we must put it on the ballot in next year's Spring mailing, and that it would be effective in 1995. In the meantime, she noted, Gertrud Lenzer was able to get ASA to give us \$400 in start-up funds.

David Eggebeen, Chair-Elect, identified two central tasks of the new Section: 1) Survival -- the need to solicit additional members and keep the membership active; and 2) Identity Formation -- the need to contribute through the newsletter, ideas for program development, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Judith D. Auerbach
Secretary-Treasurer

**Sociology of Children Section
Business Meeting Attendees
August 15, 1993**

Attendance

*M. Frank Stluka
Johns Hopkins University
*Joanne Roberts
Hill Community College
*Julie Gricar Beshers
SUNY - Cortland
*Donna Lee King
Orange County Community College
*Elizabeth Cooksey
The Ohio State University
*Diana Papademas
SUNY - Old Westbury
*David Popenoe
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
*Tanya Fusco Johnson
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
*John L. McAdoo
Michigan State University
*Harriette P. McAdoo
Michigan State University

*David Kinney
 Research for Better Schools (Phila.)
 *Daniel Cook
 University of Chicago
 *An-Magrit Jensen
 NIBR, Oslo, Norway
 *Jens Qvortrup
 SUC, Esbjerg, Denmark
 *Imbke Behnken
 Universitat Siegen, Germany
 *Jurgen Zinnecker
 Universitat Siegen, Germany
 *Ronald Elliott Hughes
 California State University, Fullerton
 *Joe Kotarba
 University of Houston
 *Kathe Lowney
 Valdosta University
 *Glen H. Elder
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 *Richard W. Moodey
 Allegheny College
 *Sandra Hoffert
 The Urban Institute
 *Patricia Garrett
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 *Gary Huang
 National Center for Education Statistics
 *Mark Berends
 RAND (Washington, D.C.)

Officers

*Gertrud Lenzer
 CUNY, Brooklyn College & Grad. Center
 *Doris Entwisle
 Johns Hopkins University
 *David Eggebeen
 Pennsylvania State University
 *Donald Hernandez
 U.S. Bureau of the Census
 *Linda Burton
 Pennsylvania State University
 *Ivar Fronnes
 University of Oslo
 *William Corsaro
 Indiana University, Bloomington
 *Gerald Handel
 CUNY, City College and Grad. Center
 *Judy Auerbach
 National Academy of Sciences

**Sociology of Children
 Section -- Bylaws**

The purpose of the Section is to foster the development and dissemination of sociological perspectives on children in the areas of research, theory, policy, practice, and teaching. By children we mean every human being from infancy to the age of legal majority.

I. Officers of the Section:

The Officers of the Section shall consist of a Council that includes a Chair, a Chair-elect, a Past-Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor serving ex officio, and six other members. All Officers shall serve a two-year term except the Chair who will be on Council for three years. The Chair-elect will serve in the first year as the Chair of the Program Committee for the ASA meeting the following year. The Chair will serve as Chair for one year, and will act as Chair of the Council and shall preside at the annual business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take and circulate minutes of meetings, and keep and present the documents and financial records of the Section. One member of Council shall be elected and serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Newsletter Editor shall Chair the Publications Committee.

In the first year of the Section's existence, special procedures will be used to establish a rotation of Council membership. In the first election of the Council following establishment of the Section, both the Section Chair (who will be on Council for only two years) and Chair-elect will be elected. Three Council seats shall be allocated to two year terms; one of these will be the Chair-elect of the Nominating Committee. Three Council seats will be allocated to one-year terms only; one of these will be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Chair with the concurrence of Council for a term that will commence immediately and expire at the end of the next meeting, at which time the Editor may be reappointed or a new Editor appointed to a two year term. This paragraph shall be removed from the Section's bylaws by following the first election held under it.

Officers cannot succeed themselves. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. No member may be a member of Council for more than a continuous five-year period, nor may any member hold Council positions for more than seven years of any ten-year period.

All voting members of the Section are eligible for election as Officers. If an elected office is vacated before the end of its term, it will be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Chair with the concurrence of the Council. If the Chair's office is vacated, the Chair-elect shall fill the functions of the Chair. If a Past-Chair cannot serve on Council, no replacement shall be appointed.

II. Powers of the Officers:

The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations of the Section. The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meetings by a majority vote of its attending members and between meetings by mail, e-mail, conference phone call or any similar method designed to allow all council members a chance to register their votes. Any action to be made on behalf of the Section will be brought to the next Section Business Meeting for a vote if requested by three or more Council members. In addition, an action to be made on behalf of the Section may be brought to the next Section Business Meeting for a vote by a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members, whichever is less.

Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, all appointments to Committees shall be made by the Chair with the concurrence of Council.

III. Elections and Voting:

The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected officers and Council members shall assume office on the day following the annual Business Meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting.

There shall be a Committee on Nominations, formed each year at the annual business meeting of the Section. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, three appointed by the Council and two elected from the floor at the business meeting. No members shall serve on the Nominating Committee for two consecutive years. It will be the obligation of the Nominating Committee to see to it that the different theoretical and research perspectives of the Section membership are well represented by the candidates. Two candidates will be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations. Other Committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council on an ad hoc basis.

IV. Committees:

There shall be a Program Committee consisting of at least three members appointed for one year terms by the Program Committee Chair with the concurrence of the Council. The Chair-elect of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Program Committee. Other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Program Committee Chair in concurrence with the Council. The Program Committee shall develop sessions of interest to the Section at each annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in cooperation with the Program Committee of the association. The Program Committee may also develop programs outside of this framework with the consent of the Council.

There shall be a Publications Committee consisting of the Newsletter Editor who shall be appointed for two years and serve as Chair and at least two other members appointed for one-year terms. The Newsletter Editor shall edit the Section newsletter and serve, ex-officio as a member of Council. Other members of the Publications Committee shall serve as Contributing Editors of the newsletter. The purpose of the Publications Committee shall be to prepare a Section newsletter to be distributed to all Section members through the American Sociological Association. This committee shall also compile periodic reports as requested by the Council of the Section or the Committee on Publications of the Association and deal with any other publications-related business of the section.

Other committees may be established by the Chair of the Section on ad hoc basis subject to approval by the Council.

V. Membership:

The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of the membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

VI. Dues:

Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accordance with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

VII. Bylaw Changes:

Proposed changes in these bylaws must first be discussed at an annual meeting of the Section. Next, the changes must be approved by a majority of the entire Council. Finally, the changes must be submitted to vote of the Section members through a mailed ballot and approved by a majority of those submitting valid ballots.

If the Council members fail to approve a proposed bylaw change but there are three or more dissents, the change shall be submitted to those members attending the next subsequent annual Business Meeting. If the change is approved by a majority of those voting at this meeting, it shall be submitted to the general membership via mailed ballot and shall take effect upon approval of a majority of those submitting valid ballots.

A New Board on Children and Families at the National Academy of Sciences

Background

Established in 1993 under the joint aegis of the National Research Council's Commission on Social and Behavioral Sciences and

Education and the Institute of Medicine, the Board on Children and Families provides a permanent and highly visible locus within the Academy complex for promoting a more effective alliance between those who develop knowledge about children and families and those who use it to shape policies, programs, and public opinion. It indicates the National Academy of Sciences' strong commitment to assuring that the complex issues that affect children and families receive the prominent and sustained attention of the scientific community and that the finest scientific thinking becomes integral to the development of programs and policies aimed at this population.

While most children in America grow up well loved and in supportive communities, a sizeable and, in recent years, increasing number are being reared under highly precarious, and even damaging, conditions. At the same time, public and private resources have been reallocated away from children and towards other groups and activities. Family incomes have been eroded as a result of declining wages and high rates of under- and unemployment. Even access to parental time has dwindled as more children are reared by one parent rather than two, and as many parents have bolstered their family incomes by reallocating time previously spent with children to the workplace.

This convergence of circumstances demands a renewed effort to address the serious problems threatening children's health and development. The need for impartial and credible analysis regarding the multifaceted problems that face children and families, and the public and private responses that hold the greatest potential to make a positive difference in their lives, is particularly acute given the fact of scarce resources and thus the inevitability of hard choices.

The Board on Children and Families has been established to address this critical and pressing need. It is uniquely poised to bring the knowledge and tools of the social, behavioral, and health sciences to bear upon the ways in which policymakers conceive of and address the many challenges that confront children, families, and the institutions that affect their well-being and future prospects.

The Board also aims to encourage the development of research as a resource that requires long-range, coordinated planning and oversight if it is to address the information needs of our nation's decision-makers.

Objectives and Functions of the Board

Standing committees and boards at the National Academy of Sciences provide an enduring structure for the sustained analysis of issues affecting a population or problem area. The Board on Children and Families is somewhat unique in that it is specifically structured to establish a solid alliance between health concerns and social and behavioral perspectives in order to assure an integrated exploration of issues that are too often separated, to the detriment of children and families.

The activities of the board aim to:

- * Mobilize sustained attention to issues that are of enduring importance to the well-being of children and families, to topics that cut-across or fall in-between traditional disciplinary, organizational and political boundaries, and to issues that affect children and families but are not being examined from this vantage point,
- * Enhance the accessibility and utility, for policy and program audiences, of scientific information that bears on efforts to understand and alleviate problems that have far-reaching effects on the development and future prospects of children and families,
- * Identify areas that warrant greater policy attention, or on which new evidence challenges prevailing policy assumptions,
- * Encourage greater coordination and cross-fertilization of research and policy agendas among the research community, agency personnel, legislators, program administrators, and others whose work affects our national capacity to promote and protect the health and development of children,
- * Forge more effective working relationships with the media to assure the widest distribution of the Board's work and to provide a model of the contributions that science can make as an unbiased guide for public education, and

- * Serve as a central coordinating, facilitating, and disseminating body for work on child and family issues in the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

One of the most important tasks of boards is to select areas of current concern that warrant the sustained attention of the Academy complex. The Board on Children and Families will focus its energies on the following five areas:

- * Children in Precarious Family Circumstances
- * The Developmental Effects of Social and Economic Disruption
- * Schooling in a Diverse Society
- * Children and the Media
- * The Scientific Infrastructure of Child and Family Policy

For more information, contact Deborah Phillips, Board Director, (202) 334-1935.

Chairman

Sheldon H. White
Professor of Psychology
Department of Psychology
Harvard University

Vice Chair

Jack P. Shonkoff
Department of Pediatrics
University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Jomills Braddock
Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
University of Miami

Larry Bumpass
Professor of Sociology
Center for Demography and Ecology
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Liaison from IOM Council

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Promotion and Disease Prevention**

Ruth T. Gross
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**Liaison from Commission on Behavioral and
Social Sciences and Education**

Ann L. Brown
Professor
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Staff

Deborah Phillips
Project Director

Nancy Crowell
Research Associate

Drusilla Barnes
Senior Project Assistant

Scholars in Washington Program

Child Trends, Inc., a leading social science research organization on issues related to children, youth, and families, is seeking its fourth Scholar In Washington. Established scholars are invited to spend part or all of their sabbatical pursuing independent and/or joint research projects on these issues in a diverse, policy oriented research environment.

The application deadline is March 31, 1994 for the 1994-95 academic year. Summer appointments also considered.

Contact:

Dr. Brett V. Brown
Scholars in Washington Program
Child Trends, Inc.
4301 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 362-5580 (office)
(202) 362-5533 (fax)
e-mail: childtrends@attmail.com

Fellowship Program in Child and Family Policy

The Center for Children and Families at Teachers College, Columbia University, is pleased to announce the third year of the summer fellowship program. Putting Children First is a Fellowship Training Program in Child and Family Policy with a developmental perspective, which provides the opportunity to link academic learning across disciplines with interests in social policy. In cooperation with the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) and the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Putting Children First offers full-time summer placements for 8 weeks in a variety of policy settings in New York City government and non-profit agencies. Fellows also attend weekly seminars at Columbia University at the Center for Children and Families, with leading policy scientists and practitioners under the leadership of J. Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D. Application deadline is March 31, 1994. Fellowships will begin on June 1 and end on July 31st. Fellows receive a \$2700 stipend and a \$250 travel grant. Students must arrange their own housing. To apply, send a 3-page statement describing your interests in policy and research, a current resume, and 2 letters of recommendation. For further information, contact: Judith Smith, Center for Children and Families, Teachers College, Columbia University, Box 39, 525 W. 120th Street, New York, NY 10027, (212) 678-3961.

Fellowship Opportunities at Chapin Hall

The Chapin Hall Center for Children is an independent research center affiliated with the University of Chicago and dedicated to the study of policy and practice affecting children and families. The Center is pleased to announce two fellowship programs for the coming year. Both are open to persons with any of a wide range of disciplinary interests and training, including economics, education, history, human development, law, medicine, psychology, public policy, social work, and sociology.

Summer 1994. Chapin Hall and the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago are pleased to offer fellowships for the third year of their summer program for graduate students in child and family fields entitled "Fellowships in Child Welfare and Family Policy." These fellowships are offered with core support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and in cooperation with the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) and the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). The program will offer full-time summer placements in a variety of policy settings in Chicago, combined with weekly seminars at the University. Placements will be for two to three months, between June and August. Fellows will receive a monthly stipend but will be responsible for travel to and from Chicago, and for making their own arrangements for housing.

One Year Appointments, Beginning Autumn 1994. The Chapin Hall Fellowships in Children's Policy Research is a program designed to increase R&D capacity in the field of child and family policy and to develop leadership for this enterprise. Fellows will work on existing Chapin Hall projects in one of three broadly defined areas of research: (1) developing conceptual bases for and evaluating implementation of community-based supports and services for all children; (2) developing and using data to improve analysis, planning, and management of services for children; and (3) developing and testing new ideas, policies and programs for children. Some senior fellows may also work on projects of their own design that fit the Chapin Hall research agenda. The program is open to those who have completed the bachelors or masters degree, to doctoral students, and to post-docs; separate competitions will be conducted for fellowships at each of these three levels. Appointments will be for one year. Competitive stipends will be provided; travel and housing will be the fellows' responsibility.

Application process: Please call Debra Russell at (312) 753-7320 to request application materials for either the "Summer Fellowship" or "Year-long Fellowship." Deadline for both programs is February 1, 1994, but early applications are appreciated.

Address: The Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Conference on Multiculturalism and Transnationalism

"Multiculturalism and Transnationalism" will be the theme of an international conference to be held at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, October 15-17, 1994. The organizing committee seeks papers from a wide range of perspectives, including those which address historical, comparative, cultural, economic, institutional, and other dimensions. Papers that deal primarily with the North American case are germane to this theme, but so are those that seek to incorporate issues of ethnic conflict/coexistence, nationalism, colonialism and anti-colonialism, gender, and world systems analysis. The overarching aim of the conference is to articulate connections between the two phenomena in a way that would benefit from comparative research. Inquiries are welcome. Send proposals and abstracts by April 1, 1994 to Mohammed Bamyeh or Levon Chorbajian, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Lowell, MA 01854.

Call for Papers

Sociological Studies of Children. Formerly The Sociology of Child Development (Greenwich, Conn.:JAI Press). Will publish a special volume (1994-95) on Theory or Linkages between Theory and Research on Children/Childhood. As we are seeking to cover a wide range of topics, especially those which have been neglected in the traditional literature, please first submit a two to three page overview to the guest editor, Anne-Marie Ambert, Department of Sociology, York University,

Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3, Canada. Subsequently, manuscripts will be peer reviewed. In addition to theoretical rigor and empirical grasp (when appropriate) high value will be placed on creativity and intellectual breadth. An inter-disciplinary approach is also welcome.

Call for Papers

Childhood is enthusiastic about receiving contributions from sociologists. The aim of the journal is to analyze concepts and realities of childhood from a social and cultural perspective. While children, including adolescents, have traditionally been studied in many different disciplines, recent thinking has called for an international, interdisciplinary view of the culture, language, health, social networks and peer relationships of childhood, with a new emphasis on the rights of the child and the child's position in society. Studies of children also embrace the historical background to concepts of childhood in various cultures.

The development of international communication in recent decades has stimulated interest in the problems of childhood from a global point of view. We therefore welcome studies of childhood from the widest possible variety of geographical, social and cultural settings.

Manuscripts should be sent to:

CHILDHOOD
Ivar Fronnes, Editor
Editorial Office
Norwegian Centre for Child Research
University of Trondheim
N-7055 Dragvoll
Norway

Books to Consider

Barrie Thorne, Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School (Rutgers University Press, 1993, paperback).

Gender Play is an ethnographic journey into the worlds kids create in classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, and in different niches on school playgrounds. Thorne conceptualizes children as social actors who collectively -- sometimes

in concert with and sometimes in opposition to adults -- construct gender. She traces the "play of gender" in the organization of groups and in activities such as "chase-and-kiss," "cooties," "goin' with," and teasing. Critical of "socialization" and "development" approaches, Thorne argues for broadened sociological understanding of children.

The American Family Data Archive: New Research & Teaching Resources

State-of-the-art research data on the American family are now available through Sociometrics Corporation. The American Family Data Archive contains machine-readable raw data and documentation from the following nationally recognized studies on important issues relating to American Family life, demographics, and family patterns:

- The National Survey of Families and Households: 1988 (J. Sweet, L. Bumpass, & V. Call)
- The National Survey of Children: 1976-1987 (N. Zill, J. Peterson, K. Moore, & F. Furstenberg)
- The National Child Care Survey, 1990, Parent & Low-Income Studies (S. Hofferth, A. Brayfield, et al)
- A Profile of Child Care Settings, 1990 Center & Home-Based Studies (E. Kisker & V. Piper)
- National Commission on Children: 1990 Survey of Parents & Children (K. Moore)
- Marital Instability Over the Life Course: 1980-1988 (A. Booth, D. Johnson, L. White, & J. Edwards)
- Stanford Child Custody Study: 1984-1990 (E. Maccoby, R. Mnookin, & C. Depner)
- National Family Violence Survey: 1975, 1985 (M. Straus & R. Gelles)
- National Health Interview Survey on Child Health: 1988 (National Center for Health Statistics)
- Treatment Process: A Problem at Three Levels: 1988 (G. Patterson & P. Chamberlain)

Each of the over 20,000 variables in these data sets has been categorized by topic (e.g., Child care, health) and type (e.g., behavior, attitude).

The data sets can be purchased individually or in user-specified combinations. The complete, comprehensive archive consisting of all the above data sets can also be obtained at a discount.

Machines-readable files are available on user's choice of mainframe tape, diskettes for PC or Macintosh microcomputers, optical or 8-mm video cartridges for SUN workstations, and CD-ROM in ISO 9660 format. Standard orders include: raw data file(s), SPSS & SAS program files, SPSS dictionary & frequency files, and a printed User's Guide. Original data collection instruments are also available for optional acquisition.

Powerful search & retrieval software, developed at Sociometrics, is included with orders for data sets purchased on CD-ROM. This software allows the user to search for variables by topic, type, keyword, and data source, and then build SPSS and SAS program statements to extract data subsets defined by the user.

The Family Research Toolkit, an educational workbook and diskette containing data extracted from the 1976-1987 National Survey of Children, is also available. The exercises in the workbook allow the novice researcher, undergraduate student, or graduate student to use survey data to answer questions about the experiences of children, adolescents, and young adults in the United States. In the process, the user learns how to prepare data for analysis, handle basic statistical techniques, and use SPSS, one of the most widely used computer statistical analysis packages.

Call Sociometrics at (415) 949-3282 for more information, to place an order, or to receive (at no charge) a newsletter, product flyer, or product catalog. Individual data sets are \$100-\$150 on mainframe tape or \$175 on CD-ROM. The complete collection or comprehensive archive of three CD-ROMs, 14 Study Guides, and a User's Manual is \$950 for the DOS CD-ROM version with search and retrieval software, \$850 for all other media. The Family Research Toolkits are \$30/each (singly) or \$20/each (orders of 10 + copies). All orders include free technical support from Sociometrics' Research Support Group.

Nominations for Award Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology 1994

This annual award honors outstanding contributions to sociological practice. The award may recognize work that has facilitated or served as a model for the work of others, work that has significantly advanced the utility of one or more specialty areas in sociology and, by so doing, has elevated the professional status or public image of the field as a whole, or work that has been honored or widely recognized outside the discipline for its significant impacts, particularly in advancing human welfare. The recipient of this award will have spent not less than a decade of full-time work involving research, administrative, or operational responsibilities as a member of or consultant to private or public organizations, agencies or associations, or as a solo practitioner. Nominations may be sent to Donald J. Hernandez, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-3400. The deadline is April 30, 1994.

New Publication Announcement

Writing Sociology is a quarterly newsletter aimed at helping sociologists write more clearly, authentically, and creatively. We seek 750 to 1500 word essays on the nature of writing as a craft; the link between writing and the self; styles and effects of sociological writing; how writing is affected by the conditions under which it is done or by the tools a writer uses; solutions to writing problems; and about the use of writing to teach sociology. We also want to promote good sociological writing by way of example, so we will consider strong essays on any topic. Inquiries and submissions can be sent to Michael Schwalbe, Department of Sociology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8107; or to Cliff Staples, Department of Sociology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 58202. A four-issue subscription costs \$10.

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Your active participation in *CHILDNEWS* is essential if it is to be valuable to you and your colleagues. Please help make *CHILDNEWS* a success by sending news items, calls for papers, new book announcements, calls for proposals, receipts of professional awards, etc. to: Donald J. Hernandez, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-3400.

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Thanks to Peggy A. Armstrong and Terry A. Lugaila for manuscript preparation. DJH

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