

Letter from the Editor

by Jen van Stelle

Welcome back to *The Soap Dispenser*, the newsletter by and for grad students of Stanford's Sociology Department!

This issue starts off with some musings by Brian Colwell, distinguished former editor of *The Soap Dispenser*. Next up is the second in the N-part "Dissertation Variation" series – three more grad students in different stages of their dissertations reflect on their ideas, processes, and issues.

Yan Li's restaurant reviews follow – you will find yourself heading out for Chinese food after you read her entertaining article, I guarantee it! After that, you'll find a few announcements from our ASGS co-chairs and some of the officers concerning a variety of topics, including the new Wine-and-Cheese series, our student bulletin boards, and an exciting new database project.

Next comes a piece especially for first- and second-year cohorts: a compilation of

second-year paper titles and (in most cases) abstracts. Sincere thanks to the many grad students who so generously responded to my last-minute call. In editing this section, I realized what a wealth of diversity we have in our department! I'm pleased to be able to offer you this cross-section of second-year paper topics, a sample of the intellectual work of our grad student population. I hope that reading these will help those of you contemplating this hurdle in your graduate careers. Accompanying this piece is a brief note about a (relatively) local sociologists' meeting, in case you're inspired to present your work after reading this far.

On the last pages you'll see an update on the TA website, Puzzle #8 (with the solution to #7, for those of you who've been desperate to see if you got it right...) and a preview of our next issue. Yes, it sounds much like last quarter's preview. (It's fun to keep you guessing...) Don't forget to look for Songhua Hu's amusing cartoons among the articles.

Once again, thanks to all of you who contributed to this issue or have promised a piece for the next issue. Those of you who haven't contributed something yet, please think about it. As you know, "We'll Print Anything!" So go ahead, write about your impressions of Stanford, baseball's spring training, your frustration and/or elation with academic writing, the Bush administration, last week's Putnam Classic, your favorite movie(s), your favorite sport(s), what it's like to be a parent, what it's like to be from whatever country you're from, why you wear sweaters in summer, why you chose that particular cereal for breakfast. We're sociologists – we're interested in everything! To submit an item, just email me at ivanstel@stanford.edu.

Enjoy the newsletter, and best wishes for a productive and successful quarter.



As always, views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the ASGS.

Tsunami Relief: An Ongoing Effort

Although some of the immediateness and feeling of urgency has gone out of the news coverage of the South Asia tsunami that occurred on December 26, the impact is still being felt by survivors and their families. While some of us may be more inclined to observe than to act (it's perhaps one of the characteristics that compelled us to become sociologists), I would urge everyone to take the step of getting involved, giving a donation – of whatever size – to aid in the relief effort. There are two web sites that provide lists of charities, where I am sure anyone can find an organization that they consider appropriate to support:

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/12/28/tsunami.aid/sites/>
and http://www.google.com/tsunami_relief.html

Alternatively, consider donating to the Red Cross in honor of the Stanford graduate student who was lost in the tsunami: James W. Hsu. An MBA student at the Graduate School of Business, James "was vacationing in the resort area of Koh Phi Phi with three other Business School students following a research trip to Singapore and Thailand that had concluded a few days earlier;" he was last seen near the beach on the day of the tsunami and is presumed to have been swept away by it (GSB press releases 12/29/2004 & 1/6/2005). The effort to raise funds for tsunami relief in his honor has been organized by his GSB classmates. To donate, go to http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/news/headlines/hsu_howto_donate.shtml.

Obnoxious Songs and Pleasant Places

by Brian Colwell

*I've been to Nice and the Isle of Greece
Where I sipped champagne on a yacht.
I moved like Harlow in Monte Carlo and
showed 'em what I've got.
I've been undressed by kings
and I've seen some things
That a woman ain't s'posed to see;
I've been to paradise,
but I've never been to me.*

From: "Never Been to Me"
Lyrics by Ken Kirsch & Ron Miller
Sung by Charlene

Poor you. Must be rough. I don't want to offend anyone, although I do consider it one of my regrettable talents. I have opinions and sometimes I run off at the mouth. That said, I assert that the song containing the above lyrics is the most obnoxious Top 40 song ever written.*

For me, listening to this song is like hearing nails on a chalkboard, salting an open wound, and eating stale candy-corn, all at the same time. Unfortunately, Clear-Channel must have put the above song on their '80s hits rotation because I heard it at least four times as I drove around the great state of California visiting its prison archipelago. Yes, I always listened to the entire song. Why? Part masochism, part Schadenfreude at the expense of the writers and singers (though I'm sure they laughed all the way to the bank).

* I stopped listening to the Top 40 around 1985, so I can't really vouch for anything after that. Or before 1980 for that matter.

*Hey, you know what paradise is? It's a lie.
A fantasy we create about people and
places as we'd like them to be.
But you know what truth is?
It's that little baby you're holding, and it's
that man you fought with this morning,
the same one you're going to make love
with tonight. That's truth, that's love.*

Such a deep, heartfelt way of saying, from one woman to another, "Stay in the kitchen, there's nothing going on out here, really". Aspiration killer. No?

Maybe it's not such a bad song. Maybe it's all context, since usually I was listening to this depressed ballad of a yacht-riding, champagne-drinking jet-setter while either on my way or coming from interviewing people with substantial ("I was stabbed three different times") rather than metaphysical ("I've never been to me") problems.

But enough negativity. Besides complaining about an old song, I thought I'd clue you in to one of the most tranquil, while easily accessible, locales I encountered on my trip around the state. I found this place on my way to conduct an interview at a prison fire-camp. It is accessible by car, beautiful, and most strikingly, completely still. There are plenty of beautiful locations, but it is the silence at this one that struck me as unique. Normally, any remote location that doesn't require hiking a long trail is subject to the background noise of a distant

highway, overhead air travel or an electric buzzing of some sort. For the first time in memory I was able to step out of my car and experience the unadulterated sounds of nature. Not to mention the freshest air I have ever experienced and an abundance of wildlife. Therefore, if you are looking for something to do, it's about a 3½-hour drive:

- Mapquest "Willows, CA" off of I-5.
- Take the "162 West" exit at Willows, head west on 162 until you cross over a bridge and have to go left or right (about half an hour). GO RIGHT.
- Stay on 162 and enjoy. The road turns to gravel shortly before dead-ending about 20 miles later.

There are quite a few nice places to pull off and enjoy the vistas, silence, and air quality.

My advice: Don't mess around with Nice or Greece; just go into the Mendocino National Forest in Glenn County! Who knows, maybe you'll find yourself. I know I found 'me' there.

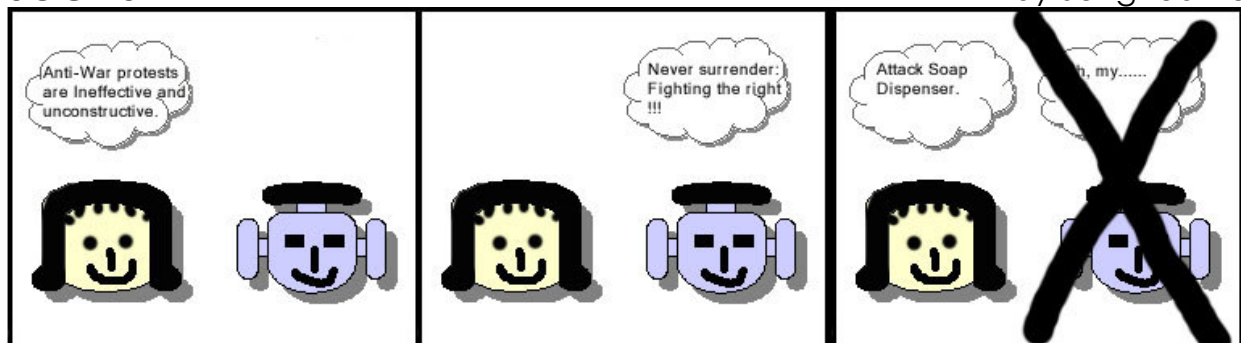


Editor's note:

See www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/ for the latest conditions and advisories. And make sure to look around carefully while hiking, or you might stumble across one of the illegal marijuana gardens: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/news/2004/9-14-gardens/>

SOC 101

by Songhua Hu



Dissertation Variation

Second in an N-part series instigated by Stef Mollborn, asking grad students in our department to write about their dissertation topic/proposal/process.

HEILI PALS

I have been contemplating a lot whether to write about my dissertation. But I guess there is no escape from it. ;-)

So, I am looking at who succeeds in the former Soviet Union, but with a twist: I claim that those who were rebels in high school (i.e., skipped school, had conflicts with teachers, ignored school rules) fared better in the labor market of the chaotic transition period after the collapse of the former regime. So it goes against the whole (or almost the whole) literature on criminology, adolescent development, etc.

I am using the Paths of a Generation data, the very same survey many of you have used for data crunching in Soc382 and Soc383. It is a compilation of hypotheses on the same big topic/idea, trying to figure out how and why this kind of thing happened.

Why am I looking at it? Because it intrigues me. Because I think that the attainment processes in these regions were in many ways dramatically altered after the collapse of the soviet regime. Because the former Soviet regions have 28-year-olds leading the countries and it makes me wonder, what the heck am I doing in grad school? Because I know this PG dataset as if it is my own child...

I will be taking the I-Rite course on how to talk about one's dissertation - I hope it will help me (Irena promised that it will). Ask me after couple of weeks, and I can tell you whether this is a good idea or not. Meanwhile, back to my write-ups..

KJERSTEN BUNKER WHITTINGTON

Research on gender differences in research activities (i.e.

scientist's productivity) rarely includes measures sensitive to the organizational and employment sector context of scientific work. In addition, little is known about how the durable gender inequality in productivity has been affected by the increasingly blurry boundaries between industry and academia, or the increasingly common use of commercial ventures in university work.

My dissertation is a compilation of three analyses which together attempt to 1) assess the extent to which gender differences vary across employment sectors and work settings, 2) formulate arguments for how and why employment sectors act as opportunity structures for increasing or decreasing these disparities, and 3) document the nature of commercial activity among male and female scientists, from a variety of sectors and disciplines, and across time.

I consider this topic through a series of three, separate, quantitative (and network) analyses, conducted with three datasets on male and female scientists. I supplement the statistical results with a series of interviews with a sample of university and industry. I investigate these issues beginning from a macro level (across several disciplines) and moving sequentially more specific to the case of the life sciences.

My dissertation topic began with some surprising findings from my course project for Michael Rosenfeld's log-linear analysis class. Those findings became my second year paper, and this dissertation addresses the same topic in more depth. The idea of using three different datasets and analyses came about when I began "collecting" and creating different datasets that addressed

issues of gender and scientific productivity. While each dataset could not perfectly or completely address my questions, the three together help portray complementary aspects of commercial work across organizational contexts.

These three datasets are the best and worst thing about the project. On the one hand it is nice to be able to look at this issue from multiple sides, and to have several datasets to use for future projects. On the other, it is tough to tell a coherent story across datasets, and to incorporate the various strengths and weaknesses of the data together in the dissertation. In the end, it is my qualitative interviews which have been the most surprisingly useful to me. They have helped to integrate the analyses and speak to motivations and influences I never could measure or assess quantitatively.

ALEX GERBASI

My dissertation seeks to complement the work on affective commitment in different types of exchange by Lawler (Lawler and Yoon 1996, 1998, Lawler, Yoon and Thye 2000) and Molm (Molm, Takahashi and Peterson 2000), by adding a cognitive model of behavioral commitment which emphasizes attribution processes and perceptions of trustworthiness. The goal of this dissertation is to examine the cognitive processes through which individuals make behavioral commitments in exchange relationships.

I develop a theoretical argument that specifies how actors form commitments in response to different levels of uncertainty inherent in different types of

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exchange. I argue that the level of uncertainty and the behavior of a partner condition the attribution of the cause of the partner's behavior, which in turn has a direct impact on the level of trustworthiness the actor perceives in her partner. This level of perceived trustworthiness directly affects the level and type of behavioral commitment formed.

Specifically, my dissertation tests four hypotheses: 1) type of exchange and partner behavior condition the attribution made, 2) the attribution and the behavior of the partner affect the perceived level of trustworthiness, 3) the normative nature of the

behavior directly affects the type and level of commitment (measured as repeat exchange), and 4) the perceived level of trustworthiness directly affects the level of commitment (measured as investment in a new type of exchange). I will test these four predictions in an experimental setting. About 150 subjects will be recruited to participate in one of five conditions. Subjects will make decisions using a computerized exchange program developed specifically for this research.

A few words of advice:

1) If you are going to be an experimentalist, plan on applying for grants. I received both an NSF dissertation improvement grant

and a GRO (Graduate Research Opportunity) grant from Stanford's School of Humanities and Sciences; hence I won't go broke while running my experiments.

2) Don't work in isolation. Workshops, friends, and especially advisors have useful comments... Use this information, as it can help you really develop your topic.

Good Luck!

In our next issue, we'll hear from three more students: Irena Stepanikova, your editor Jen van Stelle, and a student to-be-named-later ... maybe you!



Dissertation News

In early January, three of our number defended their dissertation proposals before their committees – Young-Choon Kim, Kjersten Bunker Whittington, and your humble editor, Jen van Stelle. Congratulations to all!

The January 12, 2005 issue of the "All-But-Dissertation Survival Guide" includes a very interesting article by Melissa Rigney, Ph.D., about **choosing your dissertation committee**. For those of you who are at this stage in the process, her article is definitely worth reading. The 1/12/05 issue should appear in the ABDSG archive at <http://www.abdsurvivalguide.com/secret.html> in the next few weeks; if you're anxious to see it before then, email me at janstel@stanford.edu and I'll send you a copy of the issue.

As mentioned in last quarter's issue, the "All-But-Dissertation Survival Guide" is a free periodic e-mail newsletter that contains, among a few other tidbits, a brief article "devoted to practical strategies for successfully completing your doctoral dissertation." You can subscribe to the "All-But-Dissertation Survival Guide" newsletter by going to www.abdsurvivalguide.com.

Yan's Recommendations of Lesser-Known (by Americans) Chinese Restaurants

by Yan Li

I have to say that just because I'm Chinese and have lived in the Bay Area for almost four years, it doesn't mean that I know all the good Chinese restaurants in the Bay Area. But my non-Chinese-speaking friends keep deferring to me, thus constructing a reality in which I feel I do have something to contribute – look what I'm writing now! Since my Chinese

colleagues here have adequate language skills to go around town finding palatable authentic Chinese food, I'm writing here mainly for the non-English readership in the department.

Since so many people like spicy Chinese food, I'll start with that. The ones I'm recommending below are all decently priced (a.k.a. affordable by graduate students), with vegetarian and meat dishes for \$7-9 and seafood

for \$10-15. These are all places where you see more Chinese than Americans, and they all have a Chinese-only menu in addition to a bilingual one:

CHILI GARDEN, 3213 Walnut Ave., Fremont; 510-792-8945

This is my recent favorite. Its Chinese name literally translates into "Fire Palace." They are famous for their spicy crab (about \$16

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depending on the season): the crab is taken apart when cooking – probably sautéed (sorry, I have very basic grasp of cooking vocabulary in English) with ginger, green onion, and dried chili pepper, but presented like a whole crab on the plate. The shell has a lot of flavor – VERY spicy, and the meat has a hint of sweet taste in it and is not spicy at all. Beware that you'll have to eat with your fingers. And they might not have it on the English menu, so if you're not going with a Chinese-speaking friend, write down *Xiang La Xie* in case the waiter is not sure what you mean by "spicy crab."

Their other specialties are various mini-pots on a sterno stove. Try the beef or lamb stew pot (*Gan Guo Niu Rou*). It's quite spicy, and they bring you noodles to cook in the pot when you're done with the meat. Good veggie dishes: last time I went with American friends from this department, we tried braised eggplant with hot garlic sauce (this one is on the English menu I think), and winter bamboo with tofu skin (*Fu Pi Dong Sun*), and they loved both. Other veggie dishes on the Chinese menu are hard to recommend because vegetables have their own distinctive flavors and it's hard to predict who will like what, but in general, you can't go wrong with the tofu dishes, and there are a lot of them on the English menu. Comments from an American meat eater: "No comment... not as big a fan as an American-Chinese eater [would be], though crab was quite good!" ☺

SU JIA ("BIG SICHUAN"), 35233 Newark Blvd., Suite F, Newark; 510-742-8777

If you dare, ask for their frogs. Or shredded eel with bell peppers. All their spicy dishes on the Chinese menu with chili peppers (dried or pickled) are pretty good. I also love their pickled vegetables

(as a pre-appetizer) that the owner (the tall middle-aged women not dressed like a waitress) sometimes gives you if she decides she likes you (or at least that's my theory, because I don't get it all the time). They also have a variety of dumplings and pot stickers that are pretty good.

LITTLE SICHUAN, 168 E. 4th Avenue, San Mateo; 650-345-9168

I haven't been there for a while, but they have a consistently good reputation.

HUNAN CHILI, 102 Castro Street, Mountain View; 650-969-8968

This one is not as great as the others, but good enough and is close by. I would probably stick with the chef's specials before venturing into other dishes.



Another popular Chinese cuisine here is Cantonese/Dim Sum. For that, I have a couple of recommendations, too:

KOI PALACE, Daly City, on the web at <http://koipalace.com/>

This place is the best Cantonese restaurant in the Bay Area. It can get really expensive (especially when you order shark's fin soup, abalone, etc.), but you can also find lots of "standard" dishes in the \$9-16 price range. What I can't get over is the BBQ meat combo appetizer. The meat includes red BBQ pork and crispy pork rind and two other kinds, all very tasty, but the soy beans underneath are my favorite – I don't know how exactly they prepare them but the beans are all soft and honey-sweet and I just can't stop eating it. (Makes good chopsticks-practice, if you want.)

If you like coconut, you should definitely try one of their *hashima* (it's part of an animal) in coconut shell as dessert. They also have very good tea. I haven't tried their dim sum but I can't imagine

they're not great. The place gets packed around dinner time every day even though they have a huge hall, so reservations are highly recommended.

Other good dim sum places close to Palo Alto:

ROYAL GARDEN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, 35219 Newark Blvd., Newark; 510-494-8989

PARC HONG KONG RESTAURANT, 1135 N. Lawrence Expy., Sunnyvale; 408-734-2828



Lastly, I want to introduce you to "Chinese fondue" (a.k.a., "hot pot") if you haven't had it. Basically, you cook raw materials in a big pot of boiling broth in the middle of the table. Different regions in China have different styles of hot pot, but the one that seems to be most popular in the Bay Area is Taiwanese style, which combines hot pot with a grill.

Hot Pot City, 500 Barber Ln., Milpitas, CA 95035, 408-428-0988

This is a chain restaurant that does exclusively Taiwanese hot pot. It's buffet style and \$12.99 per person, which covers beverages (though the price depends on the day of the week). You can choose from seafood broth only, or (for a little extra charge) the "lovers' pot", which is half spicy/half seafood broth. You go to a sauce bar to make your own dip – my recipe is: lots of sesame sauce, plus satay sauce, sesame oil, a little soy sauce or salt, and cilantro.

You then go get your own raw meat, shrimp, squid, sausage links and/or vegetables (there are dumplings and noodles, too), and put them into the broth to boil or grill them on the foil around the pot. Then you dip the food in the sauce you mixed and eat. Try the

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blood tofu and let me know what you think – it's the black tofu blocks (it's actually pig blood and not tofu, and you should boil it instead of grilling).

A few months ago a group of us in the department went and people all liked the place. Stef said, "I loved Hot Pot City--lots of veggie options, great noodles, and the sauce was amazing (Yan's note: Stef followed my recipe!), plus it was lots of fun to choose and cook the food yourself." Hollis said, "A definite must - access to anything and everything edible, and unlimited bacon in case of culinary cold feet." Chandler also went recently, and thinks it's okay but not as good as the ones in Beijing – well, I think he just wants you guys to be jealous. Oh, one thing: they will charge you \$3-5 for large amounts of uneaten food, so make sure to just take small portions of food on each trip to the bar.



I hope people will try these and let me or others know what your experiences are. And in the next newsletter, I hope to see recommendations of Korean restaurants or American ones (you can tell that I need education on American cuisine by how I lump different regions and ethnic cuisines into the "American" label). But before I sign off, I have more to say about Chinese food.

I think when people ask for my recommendations on good Chinese restaurants, they really mean authentic Chinese cuisine. I have tried to slip in some of that above, but let me be more explicit here. The quickest route to knowing authentic Chinese cuisine has two steps. Well, actually the *really* quickest route has only one step – go to any big city in China – but I'm proposing a less expensive way. First, you haaaave to give up sweet-and-sour chicken! I'm

sorry, but no shortcuts. Don't get me wrong – I don't hate sweet-and-sour chicken – but every *Chinese from China* hates it! ☺ Except maybe those who own a Chinese restaurant here. But no, I don't have any personal issues with sweet-and-sour chicken. I've actually recently discovered that it is a close relative of sweet-and-sour pork, which is a real Chinese dish with a Chinese name that doesn't translate into anything near "sweet-and-sour." (Then again, is that news?) But back to the point I'm trying to make: sweet-and-sour chicken is like an addiction – once you're used to it, you'll just order sweet-and-sour-chicken from every Chinese restaurant in town. I had a friend visiting from Germany last year and I was so delighted when she told me that among all the world's cuisines, she could have Chinese food for dinner every night. With much flattered ethnic pride, I took her to a different Chinese restaurant each night, and soon found out that what she meant was that she could have sweet-and-sour chicken for dinner every night, with a standard deviation of zero. You see what I mean?

Well, if you can't 100% quit sweet-and-sour chicken, that's not the end of the world. And I will still love you, my American friend. I will even tell you the second step, but this is a must (I can't believe I'm letting out all these national secrets!): you've got to try animals' body parts other than the muscle and fat. Not all Chinese know who Confucius was, but all Chinese know the saying, "Every part of the pig is treasure." Ears, tongue, skin, feet, (pigs make good characters for erotic novels, too!) intestine, kidney, bones, blood, and even the tail. (When I renew my driver's license next week, I'm going to gather some pig spirit and become an organ donor.) Every part of a pig makes delicious Chinese dishes. And you know what other benefits come

with these piggy delicacies? Less garbage and more food. Economists often don't realize that part of the reason China's development has been so fast is because we have much more efficient and costless recycling mechanisms. Americans have a lot more to learn about Chinese cuisine than they think.

Okay, after being so vegetarian-unfriendly, I'm going to make it my next mission to explore some of the Chinese veggie restaurants in the area. After all, in our five thousand years of history, we've had a lot of monks who needed to be strong enough to practice Kung Fu and a lot of poor people who couldn't afford tripe – I guess what I'm trying to say is that our veggies are as good as our meats. Stay tuned!

Enjoy! *Bon appetit!* **Qing man yong!**



ASGS News (especially good to read if you missed the ASGS meeting)

by Heili Pals and Brandy Aven, with contributions from others

RSI Workshop

ASGS held its first event in the Wine and Cheese Series: Avoiding Repeated Stress Injuries (RSI), presented by Tim Bowman, a Physical Therapist from Vaden Health Center, at the Sociology Department on February 9th.

A number of us learned techniques for writing our articles in a healthy way, while enjoying wine and cheese! Tim covered proper sitting posture, stiff and sore necks and backs, proper ergonomics, stretches and taking breaks, etc. The next Wine and Cheese Series event will be announced later.

ASGS Goes Official

ASGS is finally registered as an official student group. Denis has **Continued on page 7**

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earned the title of Honorary Constitution Creator for his big job in preparing the ASGS constitution: you can find the constitution on the ASGS webpage at:

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/soc/WWW/ASGS>.

The main aim for registering ASGS was to create an alternative opportunity for funding through GSC. A concern rose about the membership limitation in the constitution on whether GSC can give funds to an organization whose membership is limited. If any of you know about this, please let us know. If necessary, we need to make an amendment to the constitution, to help with fund requests.

Want Help with Your Proposal?

Have you puzzled over how long a second year paper should be? Pondered what parts a dissertation proposal should have? Wondered what fellowships and grants people in your field have applied for? Wanted to see a grant proposal that actually got funded? ASGS has good news – it is planning to add to the ASGS website a page containing a collection of second year papers, dissertation proposals, and grant or fellowship applications written by sociology grad students. The page will be password-protected to limit the access to sociology grad students only. We need your help to jumpstart this project:

Please send your second year papers, dissertation and grant proposals, and grant applications to Irena at ika@stanford.edu. Hopefully, we will launch the new site soon!

Admit Weekend Fun is Starting!

Admit weekend is coming up: March 4-6. Your ideas on social events for Friday evening and Saturday are all welcome! Your help and active participation with the weekend is more than welcome: email Jonathan at jhaynes@stanford.edu. The recruitment is in full swing – help with greeting the new admits!

Space Volunteers Needed

No, not astronauts... Email Brandy at baven@stanford.edu to volunteer for this exciting opportunity to be on the guidance committee for office space. Help brainstorm, provide feedback, and be a liaison between the committee and your fellow students.

Fresh NEW Student Bulletin Board

Have you noticed that one bulletin board on the first floor has gone through a total transformation? Would you like to see changes in others? Lynny and Alicia are heading the effort to make the boards in the department a bit more up-to-date. Please send the following to lynnchin@stanford.edu:

1) a title page of paper/article that you have written/are writing/have published/are in the process of getting published.

2) Get a representative image(s) – any way you want to represent yourself. This can be a photo (family, friends, pets welcome – be sure to tell us their names so they can be listed), but it can also be anything else, such as drawings/cartoons you've done, paper dolls, puppets, action figures, post cards, hand or foot prints, pressed leaves or other flora, flags, a game, your own autograph, whatever, as long as you feel it is representative of you.

As long as it isn't too over the top or too big, and you don't mind Lynny sticking a pin/glue/or tape through/on it, and/or isn't some-thing we could get into legal trouble for, it'll be cool. Expect a surprise picture taken by Lynny if you don't cooperate!

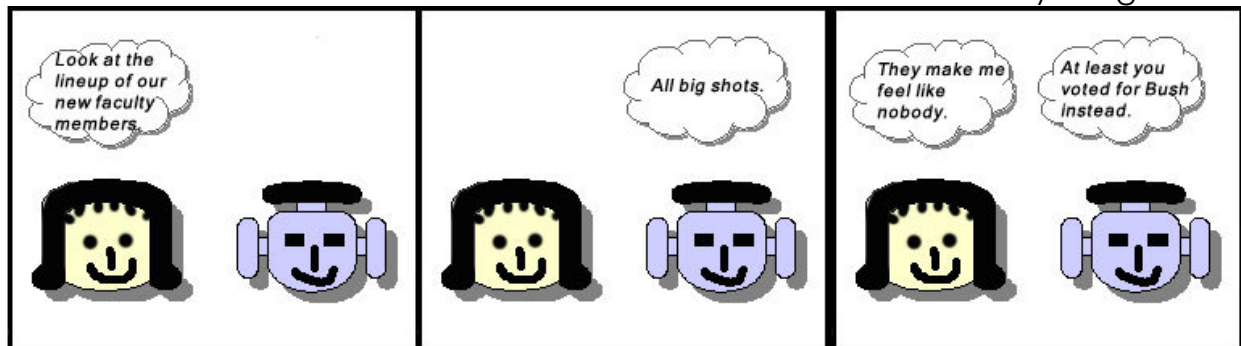
Not Happy with ASGS?

Become an auxiliary member. Learn from Victor (who is the first one)! Contact an officer directly or email Heili at heili@stanford.edu or Brandy at baven@stanford.edu. Follow an old saying: *Kus viga näed laita, siis tule ja aita!* (Oops, that was in Estonian.... A free translation would be something like: If you're not happy what has been done, come and help!)



SOC 101

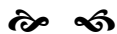
by Songhua Hu



Second-Year Papers: A Cross-Section of Ideas, Methods, and Theories

As your Editor, I've compiled the piece you are now reading with the generous help of many of you, as a way for the first- and second-year cohorts to hear about the sorts of topics and projects that have been done in past second-year papers. While Jenny Hernandez in the Sociology office has a binder that you can check out containing examples of second-year papers, I thought this alternate venue might be a little more convenient for busy grad students such as yourselves.

As mentioned earlier, in scanning these entries I think one can't help but realize what a wealth of diversity we have in our department. I hope that reading this cross-section of second-year paper topics will help those of you contemplating this hurdle in your graduate careers.



Frank Samson: "Native/Black/Other: Exploring Immigrants' Racial Attitudes Towards Blacks"

This study examines factors that influence immigrants' racial attitudes towards Blacks. Modeled after research on whites' racial attitudes towards Blacks, this study explores the effects of education, age, gender, and political perspective on immigrants' racial attitudes. In addition, this study also explores the effects of immigrants' race, social networks, and neighborhood characteristics, as well as interview language and interview race-matching, on immigrants' attitudes towards Blacks. Using the Los Angeles subset of the Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality, the key findings of a linear regression model indicate that social networks and interviewer race-matching have a significant effect on immigrants' racial attitudes. Neighborhood quality and problems also have a

significant, though weaker, effect on immigrants' racial attitudes towards Blacks.

Denis Trapido: "Binding Conflict: The Competition-to-Cooperation Switch in Firm Dyads"

How does a history of competition between two economic actors affect their willingness and ability to work together for mutual benefit? Theory and research disagree in their answers to this question. Studies in the social interdependence tradition offer mixed predictions and results. Other studies advocate the view that economic competition and cooperation are "polar opposites", so competition between firms hinders cooperation between them. The competitive embeddedness hypothesis, on the contrary, postulates that the likelihood of cooperation between two firms is positively related to the intensity of competition between these firms in the preceding period. The mechanism leading to this outcome is familiarity and knowledge-based trust, both of which are greater between competitors than between non-competitors or two randomly selected actors. My analysis of investment syndicates in the venture capital industry supports the competitive embeddedness hypothesis.

Wade Cole: "Power, Profit, Propriety, or Propinquity? Predicting Ratification of the International Human Rights Covenants, 1966-1999" [*Editor's note: Wade wins the Alliterative Title Award.*]

Countries that ratify human rights treaties voluntarily compromise their sovereignty by placing limits on their behavior and subjecting their actions to external scrutiny. Given the now-axiomatic assumption that states jealously guard their sovereignty,

why is ratification of human rights treaties so prevalent? Several theories of state action resolve this paradox by specifying the conditions under which countries are expected to ratify, but few rigorous empirical studies have tested hypotheses derived from these theories. Using event history models to analyze data on over 130 countries between 1966 and 1999, I examine the factors that make states more or less likely to ratify the International Human Rights Covenants. I focus on four theoretical perspectives: rationalism, world-systems, world polity, and civilizational membership. Results indicate that democratic countries and those with dense organizational linkages to the world polity are at greatest "risk" of ratifying the human rights covenants. Other factors that promote ratification include socialization effects, diffusion processes, and regime changes. In order to adjudicate between rationalist and world polity theories, empirical studies of implementation, in addition to ratification, are required.

Lu Zheng: "Entry into the Emerging Private Sector in Urban China, 1978 to 1996: An Event-History Analysis"

In the context of reforming China, job mobility from the state to private sectors not only indicates a significant institutional change, but also reflects changes of the mechanisms of stratification. Using life-history data on a sample from 24 provinces in urban China from 1978 to 1996, this research addresses three issues: (1) What are the period effects of the market-oriented reform reflected in job-shifts from state sector to private sector? (2) How do different types of work organizations (Dan Wei), which have structural segmentation,

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influence the cross-sector mobility? (3) Which groups inside the redistributive system are more likely to enter the emerging private sector? With a framework of a multi-level system consisting of interacted three levels (the states, organizations and individuals), firstly, the results show that employees in state-owned firms are more likely to transfer to the private sector than those who are in government or public sector. It implies the decline of state-owned corporations, and the persistent power and privilege of the latter [sic]. Secondly, the research sheds light on the divergence of the "dual elites" – professional cadres and administrative ones – when facing the flourishing private sector in the transforming economy. Lastly but most importantly, I found that better-off people, "voting with their feet," are more likely to enter into the private sector in the recent period, suggesting that the development of the private sector has reached a threshold where it wins a more advantageous place than the state sector in the economic realm.

Tahu Kukutai: "Understanding the Inter-Generational Transmission of Minority Identity: How Mothers in New Zealand Label Their Biracial Maori European Children" [no abstract available]

Cynthia Brandt: "An Event History Analysis of Quitting Teaching"

This paper examines factors affecting public school teachers' hazard rate of quitting. I use data from the career histories of teachers in Michigan (1972-1985) and event history methods to examine the time pattern of quitting and to estimate the effects of individual teacher and school district variables on teachers' quit rates. I apply arguments from microeconomics, but go beyond this perspective to investigate the impact of gender and family formation, as well as the social context of work, on quit rates. Results indicate that each of these three sets of factors impact teacher quit rates. Teachers with higher salaries have lower hazard rates of quitting. However, math and science teachers do not have higher hazard rates of quitting. As expected, being female, young, and especially a young female, increase the hazard rate of quitting, as does teaching junior or senior high school. White teachers appear to have lower quit rates until measures of median family income and racial composition in the district are included. In the full model, the effect of median income in the district is inconsistent, and teachers' race does not affect quit rates, but higher percent minority in the district predicts higher quit rates.

Stefanie Mollborn: "Exploring the Impact of Contemporary Teen Parenthood on School Dropout"

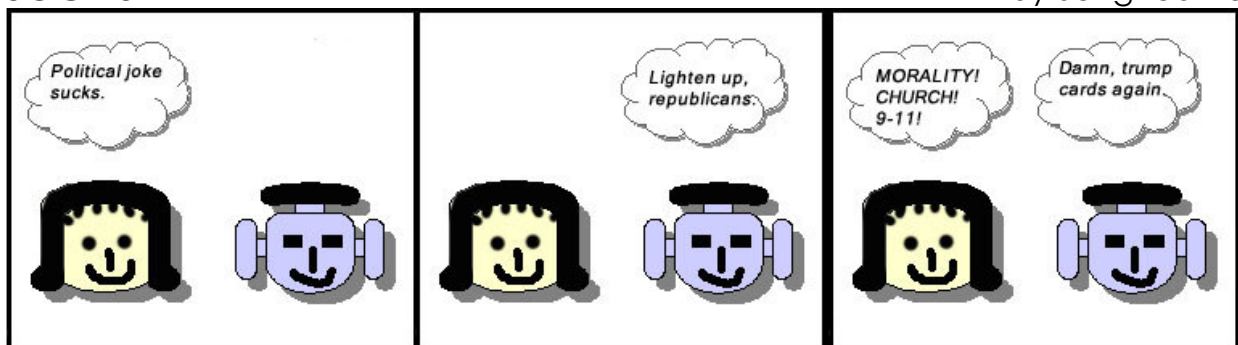
This study uses recent data from the National Education Longitudinal Study (NELS) to investigate the effects of teen parenthood, resources, and gender on high school dropout. Theories about role conflict and life course transition norms are contrasted with a resource-based perspective. Results show that even when family background, educational achievement and aspiration, and marital status are controlled, adolescent parents are more likely to drop out of school than others. Material resources are an important factor in predicting school dropout among teen parents. While gender affects the division of labor between child care and paid work, it has little independent impact on parents' likelihood of dropping out. The results provide support for the resource-based approach. I propose a mechanism by which resources mediate the relationship between life course transition norms and teenage parents' educational outcomes. Finally, I discuss policy implications and suggestions for future research.

Jack Thomas: "Population Size, Network Density, and the Origin of Inherited Social Inequality"

The inheritance of social standing from one generation to the next did not occur for much of humanity's existence, but only became common once human societies grew beyond a certain size. This paper offers a theory of **Continued on page 10**

SOC 101

by Songhua Hu



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how social inheritance may have resulted from this change in size, simply through the accompanying decrease in social network density. This decrease brought about differentiation in social network positions, creating structural advantages and disadvantages in group decision processes. As these processes determined social worth and leadership in societies, social network position became integral to social status and political prestige. And because network structure tends to be passed from parent to child, social status came to be passed on, not (at first) through the inheritance of power or property, but through the inheritance of social connections. To illustrate the relationship between structural advantage and network density, a simple model of leadership selection is analyzed in an array of small networks. The results support the hypothesis that network position becomes increasingly determinant of leadership decisions as density decreases, and network positions become increasingly differentiated.

Young-Choon Kim: "Resources and Identity in Social Networks: A Comparison of Strategic-Information Networks and Friendship Networks in a Multinational High Technology Company"

This paper examines informal relationships of employees in a multinational high-tech company using the conceptual distinction of networks as resource-based and identity-based. This paper consists of two parts. First, I compare resource-based networks with identity-based networks in terms of size and composition. The findings show that resource-based networks are larger and more heterogeneous than identity-based networks. Second, I examine the relationship between the network pro-

perties of informal relationships and organizational commitment in the two types of networks. I assess the effects of network size, duration, communication media, and network composition on organizational commitment. Employees with large resource-based networks are highly committed to the company, while employees with identity-based networks of long duration are also highly committed. Face-to-face interfaces in identity-based networks enhance organizational commitment. Relational similarity of resource-based networks in terms of nationality promotes organizational commitment, but relational distance of identity-based networks opens the path to be more committed to that organization. These findings show that resource-based networks and identity-based networks have different characteristics and different consequences for commitment in a high-tech company. Finally, I discuss limitations and implications of this research.

Dongtao Qi: "Collective Resistance in Post-Mao Rural China: An Examination of the Classical Model and the Political Process Model"

Although the increasing amount of collective resistance in post-Mao rural China has caught intense attention of many scholars in China studies, almost nobody has applied the typical models in social movement literature to account for its emergence and development. With ten first-hand and five second-hand recent collective resistance cases, this study examines the applicability of the classic model and the political process model in accounting for the emergence of collective resistance in post-Mao rural China. The study shows that the political process model provides a much more complete and sophisticated account than

the classic model does. However, this study also proposes two areas for improvement in the political process model. First, instead of emphasizing the single effect of political opportunity structure and omitting the role of stimulus/grievance in triggering a collective resistance, the study argues for the interaction effect of these two factors; second, in order to avoid structural determinism, the study proposes to incorporate the role of leadership, as an agency factor, into the model to activate the function of pre-existing organization, the structural factor.

Paul Y. Chang: "Differential Impact of Repression on Social Movements: Emergence of Christian Organizations and Liberation Theology in South Korea"

During the height of authoritarianism in South Korea (1972-1979), Christian activists challenged the state along two dimensions. First, protesting Christians formed formal social movement organizations to better garner the resources to sustain their social movement. Second, they waged a discursive battle that challenged the legitimizing rhetoric of the state. By 1979, Christians developed a social movement industry involving a network of formal organizations as well as systematizing their rhetoric of protest in the guise of a Korean liberation theology, "Minjung Theology." Drawing upon archival data and social movement theory, this study traces the origins and evolution of both the Christian social movement industry and Minjung Theology. Findings suggest that the emergence and evolution of mobilizing structures and movement frames were influenced by the state's repressive apparatuses and legitimizing rhetoric, respectively. Likewise, Christian attempts to

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mobilize and challenge the legitimizing rhetoric of the state further contributed to the closing of the political opportunity structure. This study highlights the importance of considering the differential impact of repression on not only public protest or collective action but also on mobilizing structures and movement frames.

Justine Tinkler: "Defining Sexual Harassment: Ambiguity, Perceived Threat, and Knowledge"

Using data from a nationwide study of sexual harassment in the federal workplace, this study investigates how the nature of the law and the dissemination of information about the law affect how people define sexual harassment. I use multinomial logit analysis to analyze the effects of generalized beliefs and sexual harassment policy knowledge, while I apply log-linear models to track changes over time in how workers categorize various forms of unwanted sexual attention at work. The results indicate that the extent to which people view sexual harassment rules as ambiguous and threatening to workplace norms affects how they define sexual harassment. Moreover, knowledge of the workplace policy mediates the effect of these beliefs. In spite of these findings, this study also indicates that over time the proportion of employees who define the law in its broadest terms has increased significantly. The nature of these changes suggests a complexity in the way

people reconcile their knowledge of the law with their personal views about power and social interaction in the workplace.

Kjersten Bunker Whittington: "Patterns of Dissemination in Public and Private Science: The Effects of Gender and Discipline"

Research on sex differences in scientific dissemination rarely includes measures sensitive to the organizational context of scientific work. The premise of this study rests upon the need to assess the joint influences of discipline and employment sector on the research activities of male and female scientists, and to investigate these influences for various forms of scientific dissemination. I use log-linear modeling to analyze the 1990-1995 publishing and patenting behavior of scientists who are working in four disciplines (life sciences, physical sciences, computer and mathematical sciences, and engineering) and three employment sectors (four-year colleges, government, and industry). Empirical evidence indicates that the propensity to publish and patent varies with gender as well as discipline and employment sector. Results suggest that gender differences in dissemination activities cannot be attributed solely to the structural positions and places where women are located, or the level of female representation in the field. In addition, results show that differences among male and female dissemination are significantly different across uni-

versity and industry sectors. Academic scientists experience a greater degree of gender disparity than industry scientists, other things being equal. I discuss these results and their implications for future research.

Sean Everton: "Denominational Death: Organizational Mortality Among Four Protestant Denominational Families, 1889-1989"

Social scientists have long drawn on church-sect theory to explain the rise and fall of Christian denominations. It essentially argues that in order for denominations to succeed they need to maintain an optimum level of strictness between themselves and the wider society. However, while church-sect theory demonstrates remarkable predictive power, it tends to focus on a single explanatory variable – namely, worldliness – while ignoring the possible effects of other variables. In this paper I draw on theories of social movements and organizational demography to explore the effects that other variables have upon denominational mortality. Empirical analysis finds that less-established organizational structures at the time of founding increase the rate of denominational mortality while legitimation processes and theological orthodoxy reduce it. It does not find, however, that either denominational decentralization or competition increases the rate of denominational mortality.



Inspired to Present Your Paper?

If the second-year paper abstracts above have inspired you to think about the work that you're doing, perhaps you'd be interested in presenting some of it at a local (rather than national) sociologists' conference. If so, you're in luck, because there's one coming up: The Pacific Sociological Association will hold its 76th annual meeting in beautiful Portland, Oregon on April 7-10, 2005. Deadline to submit a paper is **March 21**, so there's still time! Check out <http://www.csus.edu/psa/meeting05.html> – fees to join the association are only \$10 for students, and the conference registration cost for students is only \$17.50. What a deal!

TA Website Update

by website Co-editors Songhua Hu & Victor Thompson

We just recently updated our TA website. Thanks to Alicia's contribution, "Teaching Sociology with *The Simpsons*" becomes our newest addition to be featured on the homepage at:

www.stanford.edu/dept/soc/TA.

Good karmas also go to Jonathan and Mary, who pointed out several mistakes in the "Your Ancestry" section. Corrections have been made accordingly. We also have Denis' TA notes for Soc141. His graph-making abilities in Word will impress.

In the meanwhile, we are accepting some new additions. Without any doubt, the next

blockbuster will be the TA notes for Soc123, "Sex and Love in Modern Society." A huge pack of TAs are crafting them week by week, with an eye to the future – when people will Google these very notes with the keywords "sex" and "love". So until then....

In the meanwhile, if you have anything to contribute, please email us: songhua@stanford.edu and vthompso@stanford.edu.

Puzzle #7 Solution

by Jen van Stelle

For a copy of Puzzle #7 see the last page of the Fall Quarter 2004 *Soap Dispenser* issue at <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/soc/ASGS/Newsletter/fall2004.pdf>.

In this puzzle you were given a row of blanks, numbered 1-14. Together, the blanks represented a word that is a key sociological concept. You were asked to figure out what the word was by filling in the numbered blanks using letters that made up the shorter words described in the sentences provided.

The short answers, in order, were CIA, ART, SOFIA, and ATTAIN. The word you would then have made out of the numbered letters was "STRATIFICATION".

Sociology Puzzle #8, the next in the series, is provided on page 13.



New Sociology Department Mascot?

An anonymous submission in the competition for the Sociology Department mascot, Husky the Ferret:

If you have other nominations for Sociology Department mascot, feel free to submit digital photos and a brief description to the editor at jvanstel@stanford.edu.



In next quarter's issue of *The Soap Dispenser*:

- Part 3 in the scintillating "Dissertation Variation" series features Irena Stepanikova, Jen van Stelle, and a grad student yet-to-be-named
- Additional hilarity by our resident cartoonist, Songhua Hu
- Another puzzle by your humble editor
- Articles by Colin Beck, Lisa Haley, and more.

Please contact the editor, Jen van Stelle, at jvanstel@stanford.edu with comments, questions, or to discuss submitting an item yourself!



Sociology Puzzle #8

Each group of words that fits the definitions below has something in common. Figure out what the commonalities are, then plug them into the equation at the bottom to get a sociological concept.

		Commonality?
• Between micro and macro	_____	
• Well-known sociologist at NYU, specializing in distributive justice	_____	

		V
• Strong coffee	_____	
• Female filmmaker who was one answer in Puzzle #7 (Fall Q 2004)	_____	



• Well-known sociologist whose name was the answer to Puzzle #6 (Spr Q 2004)	_____	
• Lacking depth	_____	
• Course by Woody Powell, with "of Knowledge"	_____	

		W
• Fake; not natural	_____	



• Singing without accompaniment	_____	
• The coffee mentioned above, combined with milk	_____	

		X
• Common name for the <i>patella</i> bone	_____	
• Well-known test prep organization	_____	



• Sociologist Pareto's home country	_____	
• Executing the same set of instructions a given number of times or until a specified result is obtained	_____	
• Former Estonian Parliament member and a Scholar in our department	_____	

		Y
• Two ways to pay for something when you're not carrying cash	_____	



• Sociological term for the principle of acting without selfish concern, in the interests of others	_____	
• Emeritus sociologist at Hoover	_____	
• Paul Simon song title (goes with "I can call you Betty")	_____	

		Z
• Former prison in San Francisco Bay	_____	

V + W + X + Y + Z = _____