



2008  
Annual Meeting



Sea Palms Resort,  
St. Simons Island, Georgia  
October 23-25



Georgia  
When the Boardroom Meets the Classroom:  
Students as Consumers  
Sociological  
Association



## **When the Boardroom Meets the Classroom**

**Laurel Holland, University of West Georgia**



When I last met with my GSA friends and colleagues at the 2007 meetings in Athens I found myself involved in several discussions about the changing nature of higher education. The topic of these discussions ranged from lamentation about the days when the notion of academic freedom had real teeth to angst regarding the business-like composition of Georgia's Board of Regents. Ah, a theme was emerging: Is the corporatization of higher education inevitable? It's not a new question but it certainly seems to be more relevant than ever before. In 1918, sociology's own Thorstein Veblen wrote "The Higher Learning in America", a harsh exposé of corporate style posturing among college administrators. Seemingly prophetic in scope, Veblen's assertion might be more relevant than ever before.

In our everyday reality we see the common college student being morphed into a consumer and educators as mere appendages of the assembly line manufacturing process. Is it any wonder that student's intellectual curiosity has been cut down to the more mundane questions of practical significance?---"Is this going to be on the exam?" With an emphasis on standardization, large lecture halls and technologically driven pedagogy, this new consumer driven model is more akin to purchasing the latest techno-gadget at the mall than the high ideals of the Socratic Method that brings many new Ph.D.'s into higher education in the first place. In the quest to mechanize education, knowledge becomes a mere product to be measured in terms of input v. output. In the classroom, abstract ideas are being replaced by capitalistic concepts like the syllabus template with its cookie cutter learning outcomes. But, the cost in the classroom is very real and has consequences ranging from curriculum design, teaching methodology and even classroom discipline.

Where's the humanity in a mechanized educational system? Can we really blame capitalist entrepreneurs for whom educational success is measured in terms of cost-benefit analysis? After all, higher education is a half trillion dollar enterprise. Yes, of course we can. And, we must. After all, the real "product" of a good college education is not a cog in the machine but a well rounded critical thinker. Let's talk about it. Join me at St. Simons Island for the 2008 GSA meetings. I look forward to seeing you there.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sandra S. Stone, Ph.D., Interim Director  
Applied Research Center  
University System of Georgia  
Southern Polytechnic State University  
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Dr. Stone has over 30 years of experience in the fields of social services and education as a direct service provider, administrator, researcher, teacher and consultant. Prior to coming to Southern Polytechnic in July 2008, Dr. Stone served as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning and Programs and later as Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives at the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. Before that, she was employed at the University of West Georgia for 10 ½ years, where she served as a professor in the department of sociology and criminology. In addition, she moved into administration at UWG in 2002, serving first as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and then as the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. Before coming to the University System, Dr. Stone served as the Director of Planning and Research for the GA Department of Juvenile Justice, the Director of Research Atlanta, the coordinator for three large federal grant projects, and as a social worker in a variety of agencies. She has served on numerous local, state and national task forces and advisory boards related to social services and education and as a consultant to a variety of agencies in those fields. Her main areas of academic interest and research are juvenile delinquency, the juvenile justice system, gangs, family violence, women in the criminal justice system, child welfare, and public policy. She has made numerous presentations at a variety of professional meetings on these topics, and she has a number of publications, including a book on the criminal justice system of Georgia and an edited book on gangs.

Dr. Stone's primary areas of responsibility in higher education administration have included first year experience programs, academic program review and oversight, international programs,

assessment, academic policy, strategic planning, serving as a liaison with various community/state/national agencies, establishing collaborative partnerships between academic and student affairs, and working on special university initiatives. Currently, Dr. Stone serves on the National Implementation Committee for the American Democracy Project, the Regional Advisory Council for Educational Testing Service, the Board of Directors for the Georgia Council for Economic Education, and the board of Directors for the Possible Woman Foundation International, which provides academic scholarships to non-traditional women students.

Dr. Stone earned a B.A. degree with highest honors from the University of West Georgia with a double major in Sociology and Psychology in 1976 and an M.A. from the University of West Georgia in Psychology in 1978. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Emory University in 1993. Dr. Stone is currently enrolled in a post-doctoral “Bridge to Business” program in the Freeman School of Business at Tulane University, where she is studying organizational behavior. In addition, she has completed leadership training programs at Harvard and HERS/BrynMawr and is a certified mediator.

## **Georgia Sociological Association 2008**

### **Program**

**Theme: When the Boardroom Meets the Classroom: Students as Consumers**

**Thursday, October 23  
4:00p - Late**

#### **Thursday, October 23**

**4:00-6:00** Registration – ***Lobby***

**4:00-5:00** Journal Editorial Board Meeting – ***Cypress Room A***

**5:00-6:00** Regent's Committee Meeting – ***Cypress Room B***

**7:00-8:30** Executive Committee Dinner Meeting – ***Musgrove Room***

**8:30-Late** President's Reception and Silent Auction– ***Executive Suite***

**Friday, October 24  
8:00a - 9:00a**

#### **Friday, October 24**

**8:00-9:00** Continental Breakfast – ***Lobby***

**8:00-9:00** Book Fair – ***Mackay Room***

**8:00-10:00** Registration – ***Lobby***

## **9:00-10:15 Break-Out Sessions**

### **A1 Roundtables - *Musgrove* Blurring Boundaries**

**Moderator:** Laurel Holland, University of West Georgia

#### **Discussion 1: Blurring the Disciplinary Boundaries: Problems and Solutions in Global Context**

**Participants:** Michael Hodge, Morehouse College  
Cynthia Hewitt, Morehouse College

**Abstract:** The purpose of this roundtable is to provide a forum for the discovery of ways to approach teaching sociology that makes clear the inter-relatedness of knowledge. It will focus on the need to “borrow” from a diversity of disciplines in order to solve some of society’s most enduring social problems.

#### **Discussion 2: The Scholar as Activist: Blurring the Boundaries?**

**Participant:** Laurel Holland, University of West Georgia

**Abstract:** Sociologists have long debated the appropriateness of blending research and scholarly activity with activism. Many academics come from the non-profit sector or organizations that promote issues of social justice. We will discuss our experiences and share our knowledge of these boundaries.

#### **Discussion 3: Blurring the Boundaries between Research and Learning: Perspectives from Undergraduate Research Assistants**

**Presenters:** David Gibson, Kennesaw State University  
Liam Harbry, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Two research assistants discuss their experiences in a research study on methamphetamine use in the suburbs. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) R15 grant mechanism designed for supporting research at academic institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds. The funding agency was the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).



**A2 Panel – *Frederica***

**Navigating through Muddy Water: Sociologists in Administration**

**Moderator:** Ned Rinalducci, Armstrong Atlantic State University

**Participants:** Lana Wachniak, Kennesaw State University  
Sandra Stone, University System of GA/Southern Polytechnic State University  
Kevin Demmitt, Clayton State University

**Abstract:** The panelists for this session are sociologists working as full-time administrators in a multi-disciplinary role. Some of the topics which will be discussed include the best and most difficult aspects of working in administration; the application of sociology to administrative issues; dealing with conflicts of interests between faculty and the administration; issues on the horizon for faculty; issues facing sociology relative to other disciplines; and how sociology departments can grow in the current academic climate.

**A3 Paper Session - *Cypress***

**Diverse Social Environments**

**Moderator:** Donald Gregory, Reinhardt College

**Title: How Big a Bite Will This Take of My Life? The Lack of Consumer Information on Terminal Degrees**

**Presenter:** Robert Lightfoot, Waycross College

**Abstract:** Information concerning completion rates and duration of doctoral programs in the humanities is difficult to obtain. An overview of the long-standing situation introduces the empirical information gained from analysis of a decade-long span in a criminology program at a tier-one research school. Recommendations and nagging questions follow.

**A3 Cont.Title: Just Trying to Keep the Customer Satisfied**

**Presenter:** Chet Ballard, Valdosta State University

**Abstract:** In this presentation the business/education model will be explored as it relates to measuring and understanding customer satisfaction. The question of who the actual customer is will be examined. Specific measures of customer satisfaction (seats taken, number of majors, degrees conferred, employment success, employer satisfaction with product, customer support of product, public recognition of manufacturer/product, etc.) will be discussed. Data-based evaluation of customer satisfaction will be discussed in terms of the challenges and pitfalls of using count data and the obstacles encountered when using qualitative measures or mixed modes designs.

**Title: Empathic Reactions to a Holocaust Video: The Role of Gender, Video Gaming, and Movie Viewing Habits**

**Presenters:** Shannan Bolen, Columbus State University  
Rachel Jones, Columbus State University  
Richard Newtonson, Director of Sociology, Columbus State University

**Abstract:** This study examines the relationship between video gaming and movie viewing habits and empathic reactions to a Holocaust documentary. Eighty-four undergraduate participants were administered measures of empathy, belief in a just world, and of their video gaming and movie viewing habits. After two weeks, participants were shown a video documentary of the Holocaust before measures of empathy and belief in a just world were re-administered. Results are also reported on gender, college undergraduate major, and empathy.

**Title: Community Policing in Two South Georgia Communities: A Partial Evaluation**

**Presenter:** Rudy Prine, Valdosta State University  
Chet Ballard, Valdosta State University

**Abstract:** Neither urban nor rural two communities in South Georgia provide an excellent setting to examine factors associated with community policing principles. Two community surveys yield data on citizen's trust, communication, and perceptions of policing services. Information on frequency and type of criminal victimization is also presented.

**Friday, October 24**  
**9:00a - 10:15a**

**A3 Cont.Title: Imagining God: The Influence of Social Factors on Student Perceptions of an Authoritarian God**

**Presenter:** Alison Amyx, Mercer University

**Abstract:** This research examines the degree to which social factors influence an individual's conception of God as authoritarian, which is defined as a God who is both angry and involved in the world. The factors measured include gender, race/ethnicity, religiosity, parental religiosity, area of academic study, and tenure in college.

**Friday, October 24**  
**10:30a - 11:45a**

**10:30-11:45 Break-Out Sessions**

**B1 Paper Session – Musgrove  
Using Sociological Perspectives**

**Moderator:** Karen Young, Clayton State University

**Title: Technology Devices for College Completion**

**Presenter:** Nicole Diggs, Clayton State University

**Abstract:** Studying, research, and writing papers keep students heavily occupied. Corporations promote marketing strategies to solicit their products to college students through electronic devices to assist in these elements. Companies perpetuate their products in various forms of electronics such as: iPods, computers, palm pilots, and cell phones. In addition, many colleges and universities are mandating laptop requirement to pursue a degree. Ultimately, as technology grows, it has become a phenomenon for students to invest in technology.



**B1 Cont.Title: Students as Credit Consumers: How College Students Get Into Debt Before They Have the Job to Pay for It**

**Presenter:** Nicole R. Goode, Clayton State University

**Abstract:** Many college students before they have secured full-time employment and/or graduated from college will accrue an exorbitant amount of debt. In this research, a critical analysis and assessment of students as credit consumers will be investigated. Specifically, this study will focus on college students and their consumption of credit card and student loan debts. Also, this critical analysis will purpose to uncover the factors that contribute to and/or cause students to acquire a considerable amount of debt through credit cards and student loans. Discussions on student awareness and knowledge, responsibility, money management skills, student consumer and credit education, socioeconomic status, and other possible factors will be extensively examined. Conflict Theory and Symbolic Interactionism sociological perspectives will be applied in order to explain the phenomenon of students as credit consumers and their roles in American society's credit market.

**Title: Factors that Contribute to Traditional Views: An Examination of Gender Roles within the Institution of Marriage**

**Presenter:** Chelsea E. Biggs, Mercer University

**Abstract:** This research describes the evolution of gender roles within the institution of marriage. While most young people today are raised with post-feminist ideals, traditional views about marriage still linger. I will discuss factors such as political affiliation, religiosity, marital status, family organization, gender and race and how these variables influence views about gender roles within marriages.

**Title: Who Really has Access?: An Assessment of Healthcare Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals**

**Presenter:** Tamara Durr, Mercer University

**Abstract:** This study addresses the factors that influence the attainment of proper healthcare by low-income individuals. The population of interest is the group of individuals who meet or fall below the United States of Health and Human Services low-income guidelines. Specifically this project explores the effect of socio-economic variables on the access to adequate medical treatment.

**B2      Panel – *Frederica***

**Survey Research Applications – The American Community Survey and IRS Survey Research**

**Moderator:** Bruce Wade, Spelman College

**Participants:** Lingnam Hung, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Bruce Wade, Spelman College, Director of Spelman College  
Census Information Center

**Abstract:** The session will cover two specific types of surveys that illustrate how sociologists and social service agencies can use survey research for applied and theory-driven research. The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest household survey in the U.S. ACS data includes up-to-date statistics on language use, ethnicity, income and population characteristics (including population estimates) for large to medium sized geographic areas.

**B3      Paper Session – *Cypress***  
**Undergraduate Research**

**Moderator:** Miriam Boeri, Kennesaw State University

**Title: Cross Cultural Differences In Mothers' Expectations And Involvement With Their Children: A Comparison Study Between Japanese Mothers In Japan, Japanese Mothers In The United States And American Mothers In The United States**

**Presenter:** Yuiko Ishida, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** The broad goal of this research is to explore cross cultural differences between U.S. and Japanese mothers involvement in and expectations for their children, specifically educational expectations. The research will compare Japanese mothers in Japan, Japanese mothers in the U.S., and American mothers in U.S. to explore differences and look for patterns related to cultural background. The study uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The quantitative data is collected through a self-administered survey, and the qualitative data is collected through audio-recorded in-depth interview or through email if preferred by the respondent. The sample includes 20 Japanese mothers in Japan, 20 Japanese mothers in the U.S, 20 American mothers in the U.S with children age from 13 to 16. Data collection is ongoing and preliminary results will be discussed.

**B3 Cont.Title: How Do Mexican Immigrants See Their Economic and Social Future in the United States?**

**Presenter:** Gladys Goodson, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** The objective of my research is to identify the thoughts and feelings of Mexican immigrants on their social and economic future in the United States. Immigration in the U.S. is a hot topic among many inhabitants, yet, I have not discovered much research based on what immigrants themselves are thinking, saying or feeling. I will attempt to unearth these views by analyzing data obtained via in-depth interviews of Mexican immigrants in the suburbs of Atlanta. Approximately twenty male and female participants will be interviewed with an IRB-approved interview guide between September 8, 2008 and November 15, 2008. The findings from my research will open doors and uncover ears in contemporary immigrant research.

**Title: Influences U.S.A Immigration on Hispanics' Lives**

**Presenter:** Florina Ene, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Hispanic immigration represents a topic of great interest and debate in today's U.S.A. Although often seen as a political issue we must go beyond and explore the human element by inquiring "what are the influences of immigration on the people who move here?" This study employs in-depth interviews to explore how Hispanics immigrants are affected not only in their economic status but their way of thinking, their education and their identity as Hispanics living in a foreign land.

**Title: Should Students be Allowed to Carry Concealed Weapons?**

**Presenter:** Brian Cremer, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Should students be able to carry concealed weapons on university campuses? This idea arises when students on school campuses across America have been brutally murdered when the institutions that say they will protect them have failed. This study seeks to discover the opinions of the students, faculty, administration, and KSU public safety officers. Results will enable us to shape future solutions to ensuring necessary alternatives to school security.

**12:00-1:30 GSA Awards and Business Lunch – *Main Course***

**Friday, October 24**

**1:45p - 2:45p**

## **1:45-2:45 PLENARY I - *Frederica***

**Sociologist of the Year and Keynote Speaker: Sandra S. Stone**  
**The Business of Higher Education**

**Speaker:** Sandra Stone, University System of GA/Southern Polytechnic State University

**Friday, October 24**

**3:00p - 4:15p**

## **3:00-4:15 Break-Out Sessions**

### **C1 Panel – *Cypress***

**We Will Always Have Paris: Sociology of Photography as a Study Abroad Course**

**Moderator:** David Broad, North Georgia College and State University

**Participants:** Kelly Ford, North Georgia University  
Rebecca Griffin, Columbus State University  
Rosemary Heatherly, Augusta State University  
Victoria Ivey, Georgia Southern University  
Nanette Webster, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Presentation of projects done for Sociology of Photography as a study abroad course in Paris. The students focused on “putting images and words together” and will illustrate how this exemplifies sociological theory and practice.



**Friday, October 24**

**3:00p - 4:15p**

**C2 Paper Session – *Musgrove***

**Culture, Ethnicity, Race and Representation in Sociological Research: KSU's AKD-Sponsored Student Panel**

**Moderator:** Jesse Benjamin, Kennesaw State University

**Title: Inquires of the Ethnic Identities of KSU International Students: The Globalization of Western Popular Music**

**Presenter:** Andy Murphy, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** How are Kennesaw State University's (KSU) International Students developing ethnic identities through traditional and contemporary music? We propose that the most impact on music around the world comes from the Western capitalistic music structure, but some cultures hold fast to traditional music practices. In 2008, we conducted interviews of 9 KSU International Students from various countries. The results confirm that the ethno-musical identities of KSU International Students are heavily influenced by the actions of the West.

**Title: Black Men's Magazines: Reinforcement of Stratification or Further Social Exploitation?**

**Presenter:** Donnie Wright, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** How does the media in print help to reinforce social stratification in the black community? The purpose of this paper is to analyze the overall content of three Black Men's magazines. This content analysis reveals how media reinforces the varying socio-economic statuses of black men.

**C2 Cont. Title: Supersize my Masculine/Feminine Fries: How Print Media is “Serving” Us HyperMasculine and Emphasized Feminine Gender Roles**

**Presenter:** Patricia Holt, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** This article represents an analysis of the gender roles found within magazine advertisements. I examined advertisements in the November 2000 and April 2008 issues of Essence magazine in order to compare the different gender roles displayed. A combined 87 images from the magazines were examined based on 3 categories: women/girls, men/boys, and both male and female, and analyzed based on six dimensions: beauty, sexy/sexualized, fairytale/stereotypical, prestigious/intellectual, tough, and natural. I found that although some images of men and women in unconventional roles were depicted, most advertisements portray both men and women stereotypical gender roles.

**Title: Prevention First: Examining the Use of Preventative Breast Cancer Care**

**Presenter:** Nadia Osman, Mercer University

**Abstract:** This study explores the elements that influence a person to utilize measures that aid in the prevention and early diagnosis of breast cancer, such as mammograms and self-examinations. Specifically, the role such factors as family history, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status play in the use of preventative care will be examined. The knowledge gained from this study will be useful in determining which populations should be targeted for prevention counseling.

**C3 Panel – *Frederica***

**Experiential Learning: Best Practices, Novel Challenges, and Helpful Practices**

**Moderator:** Sarah Allred, Berry College

**Participants:** Miriam Boeri, Kennesaw State University  
Shirley J. Huisman Jezowski, Augusta State University  
Sherry P. Smith, Georgia Perimeter College  
Fletcher Winston, Mercer University

**Abstract:** Panel members share a summary of their experiential courses and activities applied to various sociological topics. Presentations will highlight effective strategies, learning benefits, and unforeseen challenges associated with various approaches to experiential education.

**Friday, October 24**  
**4:30p - 5:30p**

**4:30 – 5:30 PLENARY II**

**Grant Workshop – *Frederica***

**Convener:** Claire E. Sterk, Emory University  
Kirk W. Elifson, Georgia State University and Emory University

**Abstract:** Two successful grantees will lead this workshop as they share insider knowledge of the grant proposal process. The workshop will cover key elements of how to locate a grant that matches your goals for research, grant writing tips, common difficulties in grant submissions, and when you should consider to re-submit your grant proposal if not awarded.

**5:45 – 6:45 Student Reception – *TBA***

**7:00 Dinner – *Hampton Suite***

**Low Country Boil with Karaoke Entertainment**

**Saturday, October 25**  
**8:00a - 8:30a**

**Saturday, October 25**

**8:00-8:30** Continental Breakfast - ***Lobby***

**8:00-10:00** Registration - ***Lobby***

## **8:30-9:45 Break-Out Sessions**

### **D1 Paper Session – *Frederica Environment and Society***

**Moderator:** Laurel Holland, University of West Georgia

**Abstract:** American society has a long history of negotiating the relationship of humans and the natural environment. From the early conservation movement to the 1960s social protests to the current concerns about global warming and our connect to the earth remains a vital social issue. We will discuss a wide range of environmental topics and current research.

#### **Title: The Greenwashing of American Consumption: A Baudrillardian Analysis**

**Presenter:** Mandi Garner, University of West Georgia

**Abstract:** Concern for the environment has permeated our everyday life. From “green” cars to “green” clothing, we are faced with many choices as consumers about products that claim to save the planet. But, who really benefits from our green efforts? Some claim that we are experiencing a “greenwashing”—the practice of a company to present an eco-friendly image in order to sell a product. This work explores greenwashing from a Baudrillardian perspective.

#### **Title: Environmental Consciousness and Praxis: A Delicate Synthesis of Pragmatism and Idealism?**

**Presenter:** Sam Abaidoo, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Since the 1970s, and in response to concerns about deleterious effects of human activity on the physical environment, a new wave of environmentalism has been taking shape. This has been manifested in political/academic discourse, and in collective actions in local, national and international arenas. The emerging environmental behavior represents a delicate synthesis of pragmatism and idealism. Using agriculture as an example it is argued that the scope and persistence of sustainable environmental practice will depend on how well this delicate synthesis is maintained.

**D2 Paper Session - *Musgrove***  
**Sociological Inquiries into Georgian Criminal Justice**

**Moderator:** Anne Borden, Morehouse College

**Title:** **Perceived Selective Prosecution: A Sociological Examination of Georgia's Mandatory Sentencing Law**

**Presenter:** Becky Kohler da Cruz, Armstrong Atlantic State University

**Abstract:** This paper addresses the perception of selective prosecution of poor and minority individuals in the criminal justice system. Courts recognize broad prosecutorial discretion to initiate and conduct criminal prosecutions. This paper will describe the social impact of prosecutorial discretion throughout the criminal court process, how sociological theory attempts to explain this phenomenon, and the tools that can be utilized to address this problem.

**Title:** **Service Learning: The Relative importance of Course Structure, Content, and Readings on Student Learning**

**Presenter:** Sarah Allred, Berry College

**Abstract:** This study concerns the relative importance of the structural elements within an experiential course, and examines the impact of course context, structure, content, and daily readings on the understanding of course topics. Data are derived from surveys with college students (Outside students) and inmates (Inside Students) who learned together as peers in a college level class held in a county jail located in Northwest Georgia. Overall, the elements rated of highest importance reflect the significance of place and dialogic interaction in the service learning experience.



**Saturday, October 25**  
**8:30a - 9:45a**

**D2 Cont.Title: A Meth Myth Mystery: The Unintended Consequences of Labeling A Cooking Method as a Myth**

**Presenters:** Miriam Boeri, Kennesaw State University  
David Gibson, Kennesaw State University  
Liam Harbry, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** In July 2007, we began a study on methamphetamine use in the suburbs. A total of 100 in-depth interviews with former and current methamphetamine users have been collected. In paper we examine stories of cold cook methods of methamphetamine production collected from respondents on the field with contradictory reports from officials who label these cooking methods as myths. Urban legends and myths are prevalent in drug-use environments, and dispelling myths is an important function of some drug research. However, the distinction between myth and fact is not always clear. We do not make any definitive conclusions on the legitimacy of the stories or myths discussed here but instead suggest that labeling drug stories as myths might lead to unintended consequences and legal repercussions.

**D3 Paper Session - *Cypress*  
Research on Education**

**Moderator:** Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

**Title: Higher Education Impacting the Education of Our Youth**

**Presenter:** Sarah B. Dennis, Fort Valley State University

**Abstract:** The paper focuses on the declining educational performance of youths, especially Black youth. It takes a sociological perspective on the factors relevant to abating the problem and higher education can stimulate the resolution of the problem.

**Saturday, October 25**  
**8:30a - 9:45a**

**D3 Cont. Title:Teaching Sociology in Georgia: Experiences and Challenges of International Faculty**

**Presenters:** Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University  
Cristina Gheorghiu-Stephens, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** This paper explores the experiences and challenges of international Sociology faculty in the state of Georgia. Based on in-depth interviews with international faculty from the Georgia Sociological Association, this study fills an important gap in the scholarship of teaching Sociology since no other previous study looked at the challenges and contributions of international faculty teaching Sociology at US universities. This project is funded by the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Team Award from Kennesaw State University.

**Saturday, October 25**  
**10:00a - 11:15a**

**10:00-11:15 PLENARY III – *Frederica***

**Mauksch Teaching Workshop**  
**“My Professor is Cool, but the Students are Jerks:” Fostering a Respectful Environment in the Classroom**  
**Convener:** Michallene McDaniel, Gainesville State College

**Abstract:** In keeping with the theme of this year’s meeting, “When the Classroom Meets the Boardroom: Students as Customers,” and also in response to the recent report of findings from the system-wide survey of students’ impressions of intellectual diversity on campus, our teaching workshop will be a working session on creating an intellectually vibrant, yet respectful environment in our sociology classrooms. All faculty and students are invited to attend this working session. If you teach, please share any techniques or guidelines you use in the classroom to ensure that students treat each other with respect. Feel free to bring any handouts you may wish to share. If you are a student, please join us and share your experiences from the classroom. What have or can faculty members do to encourage respectful treatment from other students? From your perspective, what can we do to help you? Ideally, we will exchange some useful ideas that will be useful to everyone.

## **11:30-12:45 Break-Out Sessions**

### **E1 Paper Session – *Cypress* The Professionalized World**

**Moderator:** Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University

**Title:** **Corporate Responsibility Awareness: A Focus Group with Metro Atlanta Employees**

**Presenter:** Jennetta Beck, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** This research project explored the familiarity of Metro Atlanta employees with the corporate social responsibility programs of their companies. Data resulted from a focus group with 12 employees revealed that while they understood and found the issue to be overall important, many participants had a hard time relating it to their day-to-day work related issues. Higher ranking employees were more familiar with the corporate social responsibility programs and practices when compared with lower ranking employees.

**Title:** **The Entrepreneur as a Deviant**

**Presenters:** George K. Danns, Gainesville State College  
Alex F. DeNoble, Gainesville State College

**Abstract:** While scholars of entrepreneurship acknowledge deviance as a concomitant of entrepreneurial action, there is reluctance to systematically and comprehensively establish the critical nexus between the entrepreneur and deviant behavior. We contend that the issue of deviance is central to an analytic and practical understanding of entrepreneurial behavior. Entrepreneurial deviance while functional for societal development also spawns dysfunctional consequences. Further, failure to grapple with the centrality of this issue limits effective understanding of the entrepreneurial role and functioning in society. Merton's theory of deviant adaptation is rethematized and applied and the endogenous and exogenous factors which induce entrepreneurial deviance are pinpointed.

**Saturday, October 25**  
**11:30a - 12:45p**

**E1 Cont.Title: Saving Ourselves: A Guide to Success in a Professionalized World**

**Presenter:** Melvyn Fein, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** Ours has been a professionalized world. As such, the key to success within it has changed. Nowadays those who move up need to be self-motivated experts. This presentation will explain how that is achieved.

**E2 Panel - Musgrove**

**Pragmatic Idealism at Work: Building a Sociologically-Informed Program for Drug Users within the Criminal Justice System (and with No Funding)**

**Moderator:** Miriam Boeri, Kennesaw State University

**Participants:** Mansa Bilal Mark King, Morehouse College  
Liam Harbry, Kennesaw State University  
Ike Johnson, Kennesaw State University  
Tinisha Slaw, Kennesaw State University

**Abstract:** The Socialization Program began as an idea to integrate the sociological concepts of social capital into the drug court treatment program. Dr. Boeri launched the program in the summer of 2007 in the Dekalb County Drug Court with the help of an unpaid intern and a progressive drug court coordinator. By 2008, the unpaid intern was hired through a non-profit organization for 10 hours a week to continue the program. Much needed help arrived from Morehouse colleagues, who volunteered to host socialization events that not only met the program's goal to increase the social capital of drug court participants but also proved to be appealing to the participants—a missing element of many previous events. In this panel, we hear from the program coordinator, Mr. Harbry, the Morehouse event host, Dr. King, and two Kennesaw State University undergraduates who are conducting research on participants' perception of the program.

**Saturday, October 25**  
**11:30a - 12:45p**

**E3      Panel – *Frederica***  
**Social Change: A Global Perspective**

**Moderator:** Purna C. Mohanty, Paine College

**Abstract:** The panel covers global perspective in the context of social change. Participants will cover areas such as social inequality, gender roles, and social structure in group life, etc. It examines positive and negative effects of globalization.

**Title: A Critical Examination of the Dalit (untouchable) Movement in India**

**Participant:** Phillip Thomas, Paine College

**Abstract:** The word ‘Dalit’ in Sanskrit means ‘broken’ and ‘downtrodden’. The ‘untouchables’ are often described as broken people. Scholars have written about Dalits in different ways. In most Marxist writings the Dalits are viewed as class or occupational categories such as agricultural laborers, factory workers, etc. Those who use a communal analysis of caste, Dalits are the people in Hindu religion on whose castes have a polluting hereditary occupation. Different dimensions of the concept of ‘Dalit’ are discussed.

**Title: Graduation/Dropout Rates in Richmond and Surrounding Georgia Counties**

**Presenter:** Ernestine Cooper, Paine College

**Abstract:** This paper addresses the graduation and dropout rates of high school students in Richmond County and the surrounding Georgia Counties for the years 2001 to 2006. High school attainment has been a nation-wide problem for many years. The media often quotes high school dropout rates as an indication of the success or failure of American schools. However, the rates quoted may differ significantly from time to time and/or publication to publication.

**1:00-2:00      Old/New Executive Committee Lunch Meeting - TBA**

# Acknowledgments

## GSA Officers: 2007-2008

President	Laurel Holland	University of West Georgia
President Elect	Michael Hodge	Morehouse College
Past President	Kevin Demmitt	Clayton State University
Past Past-President	Michelle McCormick	Gordon College
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Parliamentarian	Al McCormick	M2 Research and Consulting

## Program Committee

Program Chair	Miriam Boeri	Kennesaw State University
Program Production Specialist	Liam Harbry	Kennesaw State University

## NOTES

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