

SEMAPHORE

The official newsletter of the Georgia Sociological Association

February 2015

President's Pen – 2/19/15

Happy New Year to the GSA Membership! I hope this issue of the Semaphore finds you healthy and (relatively) warm.

Planning is underway for our Annual Meeting in Fall 2015. The theme celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the first GSA meeting: “50 Years of Building Bridges: GSA’s Legacy & Future of Crossing Divides.” That’s right: 50 years! My hope is to have members of all generations join us to share some of the rich history of our organization. GSA’s history spans five decades of tremendous social change within the U.S. and the world, and these changes have impacted our organization, our research, our teaching, and our lives. I hope to have sessions focusing on how the GSA has provided a bridge of understanding between 1965 and 2015.

I’m envisioning this bridge metaphor more broadly, though. I like the idea of bridging gaps between different groups, different cultures, and different levels of stratification systems. We might have sessions that address ways to bridge the gap between academia and the public (an important, ongoing focus of the GSA and our Journal), between the institutions of education and government, and between the applied and the theoretical. I welcome you to think about presenting research that bridges disciplines, methodologies and theoretical perspectives. I’m serious about this bridge thing!

We will explore our theme of bridges within close proximity of several. Start making plans to spend a few Fall days in Savannah! Conference location and dates will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

Please start thinking about our general theme and sessions you might be interested in organizing. Also, if you are (or know of) a long-term member of GSA, please consider joining us and sharing your stories of conferences past. I can’t wait to see everybody in the Fall!

Michallene



In This Issue

- Teaching Notes
- Announcements
- Student News
- Pictures from the 2014 Annual Meeting

GSA Executive Committee 2014-2015

Election Results from the October, 2014 Annual Meeting

President: Michallene McDaniel, University of North Georgia

Past President: Ned Rinalducci, Armstrong State University

President Elect: Philip Thomas, Paine College

Vice President: Alison Hatch, Armstrong State University

Secretary/Treasurer: Christy Flatt, Gordon State College

Executive Committee Members At Large:

Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Sara Mason, University of North Georgia

Cenate Pruitt, University of North Georgia

Journal of Public and Professional Sociology Editors: Melvyn L. Fein and Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University

Semaphore Newsletter Editor: Kathy Dolan, Georgia Perimeter College

2014 Award Winners

Georgia Sociologist of the Year: Ralph LaRossa, Georgia State University

Meritorious Service Award: Anne L. Borden

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Dear faculty member,

My name is Elena Gheorghiu and I am Ph.D. Candidate in International Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University.

My co-investigator Dr. Lepadatu and I are inviting you to participate in a research study titled *Acculturation Strategies of Immigrant Professionals: The Impact on Work and Private Life Satisfaction of International Faculty in the USA* that supports my doctoral dissertation and which is one of the very few studies exploring work and life satisfaction, as well as perceived experiences of work related conflicts of international faculty in the USA.

Please follow the link below if you are a foreign-born faculty member, spent your first 18 years of life outside the USA, and earned a doctorate degree.

https://kennesaw.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_egj7XIsRoTxG7UV

The completion of the survey does not take more than 10-15 minutes.

Although we do not anticipate that you will receive direct benefits from participating in this study, your contribution is essential for the scientific community to better understand the impact of acculturation processes of immigrant professionals on their work and private lives. Findings of this study may inform future organizational regulations and policies regarding foreign employees.

This study received IRB approval from the IRB office at Kennesaw State University (#15-146 – 11.11.2014)

Please forward this email to as many foreign-born faculty members from your professional network to ensure that faculty from different types of institutions of higher education and across many disciplines and states are included in the study.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Thank you very much for reading this e-mail and considering participating in this study.

Elena Gheorghiu

Ph.D. Candidate, International Conflict Management

Kennesaw State University

Phone: 678-559-5652

egheorgh@kennesaw.edu

Darina Lepadatu, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Sociology

Kennesaw State University

Phone: 770-423-6953

A teaching note by David Broad

University of North Georgia:

The Looking-Glass Selfie

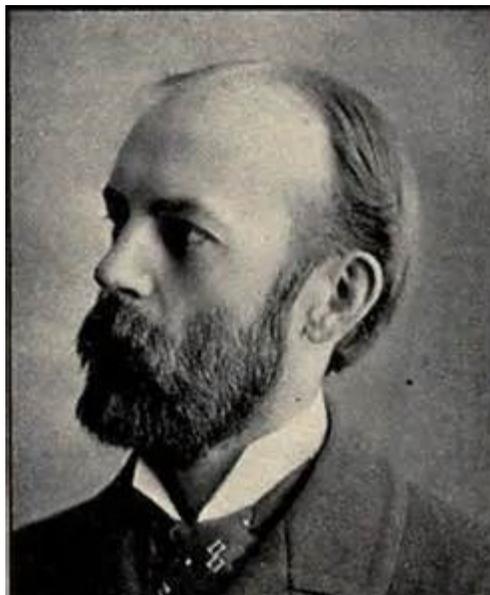
Charles Horton Cooley's theoretical concept, The Looking-Glass Self, is an ingenious metaphor and model. The idea is that the self is shaped by reflected information from the way others perceive us. But the genius of the model resides in the way that the looking-glass, or mirror, really reflects – the image we see in the mirror is polar-reversed. So the Cooley idea is that while the information we receive as reflections from others is accurate in many aspects, it is flawed by the fact that left appears as right and right appears as left. The polar reversal distortion of the mirror image is partly responsible for what many people report – that they “don't take a good picture” meaning that they know they look better than photographs of them. The most frequently accessed information we have about our appearance comes from the mirror and since no-one is perfectly bi-laterally identical, or symmetrical, photographs can look wrong to us.

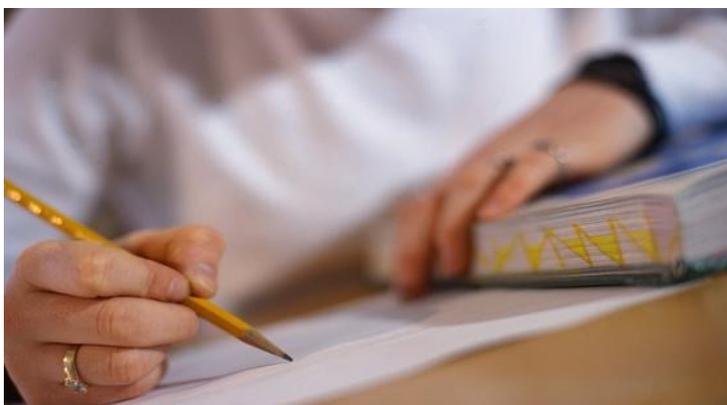
The mirror, however, is rapidly yielding as a source of knowledge of our self's appearance to the selfie. Cooley would, I'm sure, be fascinated by this phenomenon. One little exercise that can illuminate the core insight of The Looking-Glass Self is to compare the mirror image of oneself to the photographic image, and since the photographic image is readily available to everyone with a smart phone, this exercise is at students' fingertips. There are several variations on how to use these two sources of self knowledge. One variation is to set the smart phone on camera function, with the screen-side lens active and look at the photographic image of the self on the screen, next to a mirror image. Which image is more familiar? Which image is more attractive? Which image is the real you?

The variable of self-production may confound the comparison of mirror and selfie images, so another variation on the exercise is for another person to make the photographic image and hand it to the subject for comparison with the mirror image. A third variation is to produce a polar-reversed image by taking a photograph in the mirror and comparing that with the polar-correct photographic image. All of these variations on the exercise produce the opportunity to see Cooley's flaw first-hand.

Photo:

Charles Horton Cooley





Congratulations to our 2014 GSA Student Paper Competition Winners

The graduate student paper competition winner:

Steven R Greer, Clayton State University.

The title is “ The 6th Amendment Right to Counsel for Death Row Cases in Georgia”

The undergraduate student paper competition winner: **Nicole Atkinson, Paine College.**

The title is “Effects of Stress on Nutritional Health”



Jason Plemmons, North Georgia Sociology graduate, at his sociological wedding to Lauren Cheek, October 4th, 2014. The vows were functional, conflict-resolving and symbolic to the max! David Broad officiated, and John O'Sullivan also attended.



Clayton State University is pleased to accept spring and fall applicants for our

Master of Science Degree Program in CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The master degree program in Criminal Justice at Clayton State University emphasizes a comprehensive understanding of crime and criminal justice research, policy planning, and criminal justice administration. It also features curriculum for students who desire more advanced preparation for intended doctoral studies in criminology or criminal justice, and for students interested in pursuing careers as criminal justice research and policy analysts.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jason Davis, Criminal Justice graduate degree coordinator at JasonDavis@clayton.edu or (678) 466-4855 or visit the Office of Graduate Studies webpage at <http://www.clayton.edu/graduate>

Clayton State is a senior unit of the University System of Georgia located in Morrow, GA immediately south of Atlanta.

Special Thanks to Graduate Paper Award Competition Readers:

Dr. Jason Davis, Clayton State University

Ms. Emily Fortner, Jackson State Community College

Dr. Allen Kim, Clayton State University

Dr. Rafik Mohamed, Clayton State University

Dr. Le'Brian Patrick, Clayton State University

Call for Papers

The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology

<http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/>

Special Issue: Georgia (and the New South) On My Mind: Southern Culture in the Peach State and Beyond

Submissions due February 15, 2015

(contact Linda Treiber for deadline extension information ltreiber@kennesaw.edu)

We need no longer say that “The South Shall Rise Again!” It already has. If America is going to experience a renaissance, it is going to start right here. As what has become the most vibrant part of the nation, this is the place where new ideas and energetic innovation have found a home. If we southerners—and that includes a host of “carpetbaggers”—sing the blues, it is only because we want to. Otherwise, there are too many good things happening for us to be sad.

However, we know the south is not perfect. It’s a place with a long history of conflict and cultural clashes. How is the legacy of our past continuing to unfold—for worse as well as better? What still needs to be done? In order to explore these questions, *The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology* is sponsoring a special issue entitled: Georgia (and the New South) On My Mind: Southern Culture in the Peach State and Beyond. As the flagship publication of the Georgia Sociological Association, our goal is to bring greater awareness to the social and intellectual contributions made by our members, colleagues, and neighbors.

What is unique about the South? What is taking place here and now that is both emblematic of this section of the country and nationally or internationally significant? By the same token, what about the history of this region laid the foundation for the current resurgence as well as current problems? Are there stories about Georgia and the south that deserve telling?

We at the JPPS are looking for a wide range of offerings. Everything from scholarly research (both qualitative and quantitative), to book reviews, to personal memoirs will be considered. Articles on teaching, travel, and/or experiential learning are also welcome.

This special issue is intended for publication in spring 2015. So please go on-line and tender your submissions on our journal’s website <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/> by January 15, 2015. Papers will be peer reviewed, but be aware that our ambition is to be both innovative and practical. In short, we take the notion that we serve both the public weal and the sociological profession very seriously. If you have questions, please e-mail the editors, Mel Fein or Linda Treiber.

Melvyn L. Fein, Editor

News From Our Colleagues Around the State

David Broad, University of North Georgia, published a review essay in *The Journal of the West* titled "The Automotive West in Christopher Wells's Car Country." *Journal of the West* Vol 53, No 2, Spring 2014. <http://journalofthewest.abc-clio.com/>

Al McCormick , M² Research and Consulting, published an article, "The Enforcement of Florida's Stand Your Ground Law: Preliminary Findings," in the GSA's on-line *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology*. This article has come to the attention of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. A social scientist connected with the Commission has been in frequent contact with Al with a view toward advancing the work he started. Al wanted to make the GSA membership aware that the Association's journal is being read and can have an impact.

Kathy Dolan has moved from UNG to **Georgia Perimeter College** and is now the Chair of the Department of Cultural and Behavioral Sciences Online. Kathy is also the new Semaphore editor.

The Chancellor announced the upcoming consolidation of **Georgia State University** and **Georgia Perimeter College**.

Dr. José de Arimatéia da Cruz, Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics at **Armstrong State University** and Visiting Distinguished Research Professor at the U.S. War College, Carlisle, PA has published "Iran, Latin American, and U.S. National Security" in *E-International Relations (E-IR)* is the world's leading website for students and scholars of international politics. Available at <http://www.e-ir.info>

News From Our Colleagues Around the State

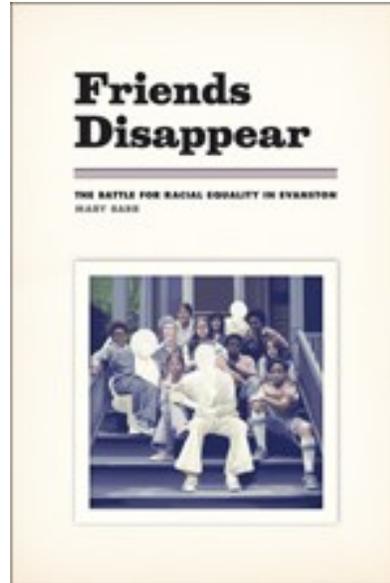
Kennesaw State University

In this photo, Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard won the 2013-2014 Distinguished Professor Award, presented to her by Brandon McCollum -AKD President.



Kennesaw State University AKD inductees from the 2013-14 academic year included:
(from L to R) Sara Chambers, Jasmin Horne, Roxene Saviano, Amber Hamani.

Mary Barr, *Clemson University*, published *Friends Disappear*, *University of Chicago Press*



Mary Barr thinks a lot about the old photograph hanging on her refrigerator door. In it, she and a dozen or so of her friends from the Chicago suburb of Evanston sit on a porch. It's 1974, the summer after they graduated from Nichols Middle School, and what strikes her immediately—aside from the *Soul Train*-era clothes—is the diversity of the group: boys and girls, black and white, in the variety of poses you'd expect from a bunch of friends on the verge of high school. But the photo also speaks to the history of Evanston, to integration, and to the ways that those in the picture experienced and remembered growing up in a place that many at that time considered to be a racial utopia.

In *Friends Disappear* Barr goes back to her old neighborhood and pieces together a history of Evanston with a particular emphasis on its neighborhoods, its schools, and its work life. She finds that there is a detrimental myth of integration surrounding Evanston despite bountiful evidence of actual segregation, both in the archives and from the life stories of her subjects. Curiously, the city's own desegregation plan is partly to blame. The initiative called for the redistribution of students from an all-black elementary school to institutions situated in white neighborhoods. That, however, required busing, and between the tensions it generated and obvious markers of class difference, the racial divide, far from being closed, was widened. *Friends Disappear* highlights how racial divides limited the life chances of blacks while providing opportunities for whites, and offers an insider's perspective on the social practices that doled out benefits and penalties based on race—despite attempts to integrate. (from website)

Photos from the October 2014 GSA Meeting



Ralph LaRossa receiving the Sociologist of the Year Award from President Ned Rinalducci









Next Semaphore Deadline

April 15, 2015

Please send all newsletter items to Kathy.dolan@gpc.edu. We welcome news, opinions, announcements, and photos. Let everyone know what you and your students are up to!

Contact Us

Semaphore
Kathy Dolan, Editor

GPC Online
1205 CL
555 N. Indian Creed Dr.
Clarkston, GA 30021

678-212-7508

Kathy.dolan@gpc.edu

Visit us on the web at
www.georgiasociology.com

Georgia Sociological Association

Please join www.georgiasociology.com and click “join group” in the upper right-hand corner of the page to join our mailing list.

Please take a few moments to go to www.georgiasociology.com and update your information.