

*Section on Marxist Sociology, American Sociological Association*

## **Marxist section election results are in!**

- Chair Elect: Arthur Jipson, University of Dayton
- Secretary-Treasurer: Brett Clark, North Carolina State University
- Council Members: Sandra Comstock, Harvard University; Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

## **Individual Highlights:**

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## **Mike Brown Assumes Chair**

Michael E. Brown, Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Northeastern University and currently Chair-elect will assume the Chair of the Marxist Section at the close of our Business Meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Las Vegas.

Mike taught at Sarah Lawrence College, Queens College, City University of New York, and Northeastern where he was chair and is now a professor. He was a founder and long-time editor of the journal, *Socialism and Democracy*, and has published in *New Political Science*, *Philosophical Forum*, *Sociometry*, *Administrative Science*, *Social Text*, *October*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Transaction/Society*, and other journals and magazines. His books include *Collective Behavior* (with Amy Goldin), *The Production of Society: A Marxian Foundation for Social Theory*, *Recent Studies in the Politics and Culture of U. S. Communism* (edited with Randy Martin, George Snedeker, and Frank Rosengarten), and, most recently, *The Historiography of Communism* (2009). He also co-writes a blog on higher education for the Chronicle of Higher Education. The blog draws on the critical tradition in sociology as that has been influenced by Marxism.

Mike has been an activist, and, like many of his colleagues in the Marxist Section of the ASA, was arrested on a number of occasions. He has been involved in a number of organizational efforts on the left, including being faculty advisor to SDS and other student political groups and helping to found The New University Conference.

## **A Few Words from Mike Brown**

I would like to see the section become more open to some of the different ways people have been drawn to Marxism, especially from different theoretical positions that are most intelligible when understood in regard to Marx's critique of capital. I hope to promote interest in several disciplines that have not been well received among American Marxists as I believe they should be and that are from theoretically radical positions developed in adjacent fields and abroad.

I would like to contribute to expanding our membership by forming links with radical caucuses in other disciplines and by developing an interest in theory within our publications that applies more generally to sociology and would offer greater evidence of the relevance and significance of Marxism to members of other sections of the ASA—for example, cultural studies, the new section on inequality, etc.

As for panels, I hope to organize a panel on recent developments in Marxist theory for the next ASA convention.

Finally, I hope to begin a blog from the chair's office that would look closely at theoretically developments and be available to members and others through a link in our newsletter.



# Vegas Section Papers Range from Tea Party to Feminist Marxists



The Marxist Sociology Section will cover a broad range of topics this August at Caesars Palace. (*Caesars Palace—Who would have thunk??*) Chip Berlet, Art Jipson, Tom Keil, Walda Katz-Fishman and Harriet Fraad take on important topics ranging from Tea Party Politics to the Social Forum. Below is a listing of paper panels and roundtables. Mark your calendars!

**Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**8:30 am-10:30am, Paper Session**

**481. Section on Marxist Sociology Paper Session. The Resurrection of America's Radical Right**

Session Organizers: Thomas J. Keil, Arizona State University West Campus, Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton

Bad "Banksters" or Capitalism's Punch Line? Chip Berlet, Political Research Associates  
The Myth of Tea Party Populism. Jacqueline Keil, Kean University.  
The Rage of the Right: Critical Perspectives On the Tea Party. Lauren Langman, Loyola University-Chicago; Crystal Jackson, Loyola Univeristy of Chicago.

**509. Section on Marxist Sociology Roundtable Session**

**10:30-11:30am, Roundtables:**

Session Organizer: Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton

**Table 1. Bleak Landscapes of American Conservatism**, Table Presider: Thomas J. Keil, Arizona State University West campus.

Apocalyptic Thought, Negative Utopian Desire, and Social Conflict within American Conservatism. Dominic Vincent Wetzel, CUNY Grad Center.

**Table 2. Culture, Theory, and Critique**, Table Presider: Jeffrey A. Halley, The University of Texas San Antonio.

Culture, Theory, and Critique: Revisiting the Classics. Michael E. Brown, Northeastern University; Jeffrey A. Halley, The University of Texas San Antonio. The Great Recession and Deteriorating University Education: An HBCU Experience. Craig T. Dearfield, Howard University; Bryan R. Ellis, Howard University; Jennifer Bronson, Howard University; Ashley Moore, Howard University

**Table 3. Environment, Medicine, and the NeoLiberal State**, Table Presider: Howard Waitzkin, University of New Mexico.

Environmental Fetishism: A Critique of Post-Materialist Environmental Ethic. Matt Dee Cottrell, Utah State University.

Multinational Corporations, the State, and Contemporary Medicine. Rebeca Jasso-Aguilar, University of New Mexico; Howard Waitzkin, University of New Mexico.



# Vegas Section Papers Range from Tea Party to Feminist Marxists

Continued from Page 2

**Table 4. Ideology, Education and University Education**, Table President: Lauren Langman, Loyola University Chicago. Educational Ideology and Utopia in the United States: Historical Considerations. Robert Fiala, University of New Mexico.

The Great Recession and the Future of Marxist Crisis Theory. John O'Connor, Central Connecticut State University. Title: Where is the Revolution?: Addressing the Changing Landscape of Higher Education. Nishaun Battle, Howard University; Brittani Saafir, Howard University; Dasheema P. Jarrett, Howard University; Nicole Branch, Howard University; Michelle Dovil, Howard University.

**Table 5. Labor Struggles and the Contemporary Workplace**, Table President: Carina A. Bandhauer, Western Connecticut State University.

General Strikes: Returning to the Study of Reform and Revolution. Fernando Cortes Chirino, University of California, Irvine.

Theorizing Consent and Resistance in the Workplace. Philip George Lewin, University of Georgia.

**Table 6. Marxism, Politics and Popular Culture**, Table President: Daniel Thompson, University of Michigan Explaining Political Labels to Students. Fred L. Pincus, University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Hoarding and Collecting: Television Portrayals of Hyper-Consumption. Jacqueline A. Carrigan, California State Univ.-Sacramento.

**Table 7. Marxism of Methodology**, Table President: Rachel Romero, Texas A&M University

Interviewing in the Midst of Social Class and Class Conflict. Ann Doris Duffy, Brock University; Norene Pupo, York University; June Shirley Corman, Brock University

Me, Myself, & Marx: How Marx Broke My Heart: A Theoretical Auto-Ethnography. Rachel Romero, Texas A&M University.

**Table 8. Class, Politics, and Community**, Table President: Talmadge Wright, Loyola University, Chicago.

The Firefighter, the Babysitter, and the Sacrificial Lamb: How Identity Shapes Supervisors' Class Alliances. Jonathan Vaughn, The Ohio State University.

Walmart's Urban Strategy and the Politics of Community. Steven Lang, LaGuardia College at CUNY; Lloyd Klein, St. Francis College.

**Table 09. Panel Discussion of Critical Social Media Use**, Table Presidents: Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton Dianne Dentice, Stephen F. Austin State University. Ryan Ashley Caldwell, Soka University of America.

## 11:30 am Meetings

### Section on Marxist Sociology Business Meeting

Caesars Palace Las Vegas

## 12:30 pm

### 539. Section on Marxist Sociology Invited Session. Marxism and Feminism.

Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Session Organizer: Lauren Langman, Loyola University Chicago. Discussant: Heidi Goffried, Wayne State.

Why Eco-socialism Needs an Embodied Materialism. Ariel Salleh, University of Sydney.

Social and Economic Rights Revisited. Valentine M. Moghadam, Purdue University

Discussant: Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University

## 2:30 pm

### 563. Section on Marxist Sociology Invited Session. Social Change, Social Movements, and Marxist Theory.

Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Session Organizer: Lauren Langman, Loyola University Chicago. Discussant: Heidi Goffried, Wayne State.

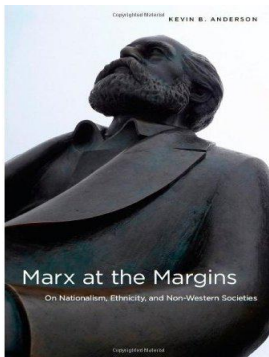
U.S. Bottom-up Struggles and the Movement Toward Socialism. Walda Katz-Fishman, Howard University; Jerome Scott, League of Revolutionaries.

## 2011 Section Awards for Outstanding Scholarship



### The Paul Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award: Kevin Anderson

This year's winner of The Paul Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award is Kevin Anderson for his work *Marx at the Margins: On Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies* (University of Chicago Press, 2010). The award committee, chaired by Tom Keil, and consisting of Keil, Rod Bush, Tom Conroy and Wendi Kane, described the work as: "[A] thoroughly researched and well-crafted presentation and analysis of some of Marx' lesser known writings dealing with imperialism and its consequences. It takes the reader down heretofore largely unappreciated work by Marx and Engels on the role of nationalism, race, ethnicity, and class in a broader dialectic of social change than is commonly thought of when dealing with the content of Marx' theory. Marx' is also shown to have understood how the structure of a social formation, in Russia for example, shaped its imperial policies, especially as directed at Poland and Poland's resistance in the uprising of 1863.



Anderson builds a compelling argument that while Marx and Engels once saw imperialism as a progressive force, over time their views shifted considerably away from this position. The works Anderson draws upon show that Marx and Engels moved away from a strictly linear theory of historical change as they refined their analyses. This work is a must read for scholars wanting a deeper appreciation of the sophistication of Marx' and Engel's approach to the understanding of the nature of capitalist society at the time they were writing and at this moment in history when capitalism is obliterating all forms of production across the globe."

### 2011 Eric Wolf Prize, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: Brian Gareau

Brian Gareau won first place for the best article-length paper based on dissertation research, The Political Ecology Society Paper titled, "Social Capital and the Vertical Integration of power: The Case of the Methyl Bromide Phase-out in the Montreal Portocol."

### Marxist Section's Graduate Student Paper Award: Mathieu Desan

Mathieu Desan, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan and who holds a B.A. from Weslean, has been named the winner of the Marxist Section's Graduate Student Paper Award Competition for his paper, "Bourdieu and Capital: A Marxian Critique." The paper, which dealt with the assessment of Bourdieu's notion of capital, was highly praised by the selection committee chaired by Lloyd Klein. Lloyd, Lauren Langman, Barry Eidlin and Ryan Caldwell served on the committee that reviewed one of the largest number of paper submissions to date. Desan's primary academic interest is in the sociology of knowledge and the role of intellectuals in the movements for social change.



**Congratulations, Scholars!**

## Distinguished Panel of Feminist Scholars and Activists at ASA



Photos (left to right): Heidi Gottfried. Valentine Moghadam. Ariel Salleh. Harriet Fraad.

Harriet Fraad, a practicing psychotherapist in New York and considered a “founding mother” of what was the Women's Liberation Movement in 1968, will be joining the section panel on Marxism and Feminism this August in Las Vegas. Fraad, along with her husband, Marxist economist, Rick Wolf is a founder of *Rethinking Marxism* (RM), a journal of Marxist thought. She writes regularly for *Tikkun* and the *International Journal of Psychohistory*. The Marxism and Feminism panel is organized by Lauren Langman and will be held (in all seriousness) at Caesars Palace on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fraad will join the distinguished group of presenters, including Ariel Salleh the renowned ecofeminist and social ecologist from the University of Sydney, Valentine M. Moghadam, a feminist activist who writes extensively on women in the Middle East, and Purdue University and discussant Heidi Gottfried of Wayne State University, whose scholarship has focused on gender and work.

**Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30 pm**

**539. Section on Marxist Sociology Invited Session. Marxism and Feminism.**

**Caesars Palace**



## Howard Waitzkin Teams Up with Medical Sociology to Host a Co-Sponsored Panel



Former Marxist Sociology Section Chair, Howard Waitzkin, has teamed-up with Hyeyoung Oh and the Medical Sociology Section, which will host a co-sponsored panel dealing with health care policy. The panel will meet Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 AM. The particulars are as follows:

### **342. Section on Medical Sociology Paper Session. From Patient-Physician Interaction to Health Policy: Controversies, Commodification, and Consumerism in Health Care (co-sponsored with the Section on Marxist Sociology)**

Session Organizer: Hyeyoung Oh, University of California-Los Angeles, Presider: Hyeyoung Oh, University of California-Los Angeles.

Advancing the Business Creed? The Framing of Decisions about Public Sector Managed Care. Howard Waitzkin, University of New Mexico; Joel Yager, University of Colorado; Richard Santos, University of New Mexico.

Patient, Parent, Advocate, Investor: The Contours of Markets, Medicine, and Government. David Schleifer, New York University; Aaron L. Panofsky, University of California, Los Angeles.

Cultural Health Capital: A Pilot Test of a New Approach to Understanding Patient-Provider Interactions. Janet K. Shim, University of California-San Francisco; Jamie Suki Chang, University of California-SF; Leslie A. Dubbin, University of California, San Francisco.

Exploring Direct-to-Consumer Genome Scans as a Potential Threat to the Profession of Medicine. Marcie Lambrix, Case Western Reserve University.

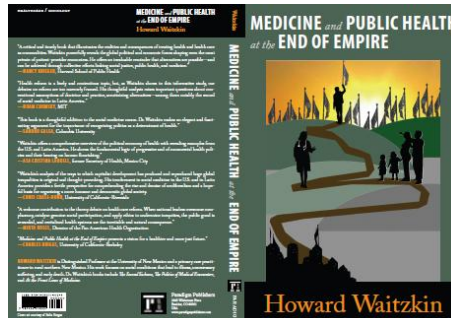
Listening to Lyrica: Contested Diagnoses and Pharmaceutical Validation. Kristin Kay Barker, Oregon State University.

**Monday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:30am  
Caesars Place**

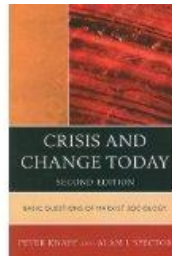
# From The Left

## Marxist Section

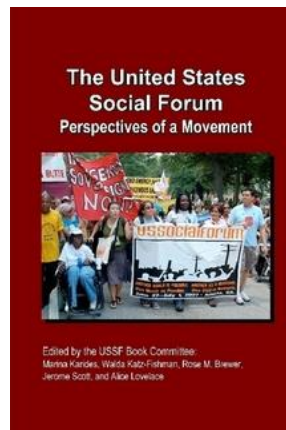
## Marxists in Print



Howard Waitzkin's latest book, *Medicine and Public Health at the End of Empire*, was released by Paradigm Publishers this year. The book looks at the commodification of health care and its consequences. Waitzkin's ability to thoroughly analyze the impact late capitalism has had on the quality of the health care system is only surpassed by his ability to set this all into historic context. Beyond this, he provides alternatives that can supplant the modern problem-ridden system.



Alan Spector's and Peter Knapp's most recent book publication *Crisis and Change Today: Basic Questions of Marxist Sociology* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011), is an important introduction to Marxist social theory. The book is a revised edition of their earlier work of the same title (which won this section's Distinguished Scholarship Award), but it is updated and organized around new and important material related to better understanding social change. Betell Ollman calls it: "A scholarly and insightful overview of Marxist work in sociology."



*The United States Social Forum: Perspectives of a Movement* edited by Walda Katz-Fishman, Marina Karides, Rose Brewer, Jerome Scott & Alice Lovelace (2010: Changemaker Publications/ <http://stores.lulu.com/changemaker> )

Ariel Salleh 2010 'How the Ecological Footprint is Sex-Gendered: Implications for an eco-socialist theory and praxis' in Q. Huan (ed.), *Eco-Socialism as Politics*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Ariel Salleh 2011 'Climate Strategy: Making the Choice between Ecological Modernisation or Living Well', *Journal of Australian Political Economy*, No. 66, 124-149

Ariel Salleh 2010 'A sociological reflection on the complexities of climate change research', *International Journal of Water*, Vol. 5, No. 4, 285-297.

Ariel Salleh 2010 'A sociological reflection on the complexities of climate change research', *International Journal of Water*, Vol. 5, No. 4, 285-297.

Ariel Salleh 2010 'El Movimiento Ecofeminista y la Economía Solidaria', *Veredas*, No. 21.

Ariel Salleh 2010 'Embodied Materialism in Action', *Polygraph: special issue on Ecology and Ideology*, No. 22, 183-199: <[www.duke.edu/web/polygraph/cfp.html](http://www.duke.edu/web/polygraph/cfp.html)>

Ariel Salleh 2010 'From Metabolic Rift to Metabolic Value: Reflections on Environmental Sociology and the Alternative Globalization Movement', *Organization & Environment*, Vol. 23, No. 2, 205-219.

Ariel Salleh 2010 'Climate Change - and the Other Footprint', *Journal of Environmental Thought and Education*, Vol. 4, 218-224 (Japanese trans.)

Ariel Salleh 2010 'From Eco-Sufficiency to Global Justice', *Marxism and Reality*, No. 5, 174-180. (Mandarin trans.)

Stephen Steinberg, "The Role of Race and Racism in the Devolution of the Left," *LOGOS* (Vol 10: 2). Special issue: Undoing a Century of Reform: The Great Reversal in American Politics: <http://logosjournal.com/>

Tamar Diana Wilson 2010. "The Culture of Mexican Migration." *Critique of Anthropology*. 30(4): 399-420.

The book series, "Critical Approaches in the Health Social Sciences", edited by Ray Elling for baywood publishing co. (<http://baywood.com>) offers works which take a class-conflict perspective to understand health and health care issues. One of the recent books in the series, edited by Karen Breda is a unique examination of nursing labor in seven western hemisphere countries, "Nursing and Globalization in the Americas." Another recent book, edited by Peter Schnall, et al, "Unhealthy Work: Causes, Consequences, Cures" was named Labor Book of the Year for 2010. If Marxist Section members have comments or questions, Ray Elling will be glad to answer e-mails: [r-elling58@hotmail.com](mailto:r-elling58@hotmail.com)