



From The Left

Newsletter of the Marxist Sociology Section, ASA

<http://marxistsociology.org/>

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Volume 31, No. 1

Section of Marxist Sociology

American Sociological Association

Welcome! By Art Jipson (continued on page 17)

Hello Fellow Marxist Sociology Section Members,

I am very excited about the state of our section! You are reading a long-overdue edition of the section newsletter at a time of growing energy in our section. We now have a process for creating a newsletter, a section controlled webpage, listserv lists, a twitter account, and a Facebook group. Yes, I know that as critical scholars we find much to critique in so-called “social media,” but yet the opportunity to connect, broaden the discussion among each other, and organize against a nearly unprecedented neo-liberal capitalist wave is inspiring. Please see the essay in this newsletter about all of our communication efforts!

I hope like me you are looking forward to a great set of conferences, sessions, activities, and organizing in New York City. I think the Marxist Sociology Section sessions demonstrate the breadth of our section’s ideas, research, and activism. You will read in this newsletter more information about these sessions. Due to the high interest in research and activism in Marxist and Intersectionality—we have an exciting research session that demonstrates the vitality of Marxism, Marxist Analysis, and Critical Theory to the all too often separated forms of personal struggle and identity in a capitalist system that has at its very essence the removal of true autonomy in favor of consumption and diversion from the need for revolutionary change. Thanks are due to Ryan Ashley Caldwell who co-organized this session with me. Of course, in addition to this session, there are many relevant papers, discussions, and presentations sponsored by our section – including an exciting Author(s) meet Critics session organized by

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Why Relaunch the Newsletter? By David Fields (continued on page 5)

Over the years, the intellectual agendas of critical sociologists have taken a decidedly pluralist turn. Leading thinkers have begun to move beyond established alternative paradigms opening up new lines of analysis, manifesting a turn to a more cross-fertilization of ideas, which seemingly suggests that the once powerful embracement of Marxism by the infamous Radical Caucus has waned. The relaunching of the newsletter of the Section on Marxist Sociology of the American Sociological Association is a testament to the fact that this supposed decline in radical scholarship is certainly not the case. On the contrary, the praxis of the Sociology Liberation Movement carries on as



Looking Back and Thinking About the Future: Reflections of the Incoming Chair By Richard Hogan (continued on page 4)

The Marxist Sociology Section was organized in 1975 in the spirit of the New Left. When we commemorated our 30th anniversary in 2005 we printed t-shirts that marked our history from the “Fat-Cat Sociology Speech of 1968.”

“The professional eyes of the sociologist are on the down people, and the professional palm of the sociologist is stretched toward the up people ... he is an Uncle Tom not only for this government and ruling class but for any government or ruling class” (Nicolaus 1969: 155)

This same New Left spirit guided the Sociology Liberation Movement (SLM), which became the Radical Caucus in 1969. Between 1969 and 1975, the Radical Caucus and the *Insurgent Sociologist* provided a Marxist voice in United States sociology, but both seemed in need of institutional support as the end of the Vietnam War and the resignation of Richard Millhouse Nixon marked the nadir of a wave of political protest that had bolstered the New Left. There were (and still are) debates about the relative merits of being inside or outside of the ASA institutional structure and being explicitly Marxist, as opposed to radical or critical or even progressive. These were the days of the unhappy marriage of Marxism and feminism and of sectarian, philosophical and practical divisions between flavors of Marxist and radical sociology. There were also arguments about the disciplinary boundaries that plagued social science and divided social science from history. Some of us who were graduate students in the Seventies had mixed feelings about joining ASA rather than Social Science History or even the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

There were (and are) also arguments about sectionalism within ASA and questions about whether the Political Economy of World Systems and the Marxist Section should not join forces in efforts to consolidate our bases of academic and social power. Some have suggested that we should change our name to be more inclusive. *Critical Sociology* (the new name of our flagship journal) suggests the possibility of incorporating critical (as opposed to radical or dialectical or historical) sociology as a concession to declining interest in Marxism, since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989.

The consensus appears to be with us, however, as it was even among the pioneers of the SLM, who experienced the heady days of graduate students raising the consciousness of their professors with more praxis than theory, thereby learning through doing what social psychologists have since come to appreciate: that it is easier to change behaviors and then wait for attitudes to change.

“Despite the problems, I think that the Marxist Section has saved radical sociology. The radical caucus was dying anyway. The sessions of the ASA program enable us to give papers and hold political discussions. We debate and sponsor resolutions for the ASA business meeting. Our evening parties keep us in touch with each other. And some of our universities pay our ways to the ASA because we are on the program” (Brown 1988: 45)

So what lessons can we learn from our past struggles as we prepare to celebrate our fortieth anniversary? First, we should remember the importance of actions that speak louder than words. This is a challenge for academics. We live and die by the published word, but we need to roll up our sleeves and do some work. Since being elected chair I have learned that a large part of my job is not so different from university administration. I need to wake up early, shower and shave, and put on a suit and tie so that I can speak truth to power. This always helps me to get the attention of my friends. When Aldon Morris and Bill Gamson see me in a suit they recognize the importance of the occasion and are more likely to listen. I’m not sure that either of them bought a t-shirt or joined the section in 2005, but just their presence at our table helped us to draw a crowd, which is the whole point of having a table and hawking t-shirts.

Marxists doing retail at ASA? So this is Marxist Sociology? Well, it probably did help our cause. We need to increase our numbers, and we all need to reach out to our friends. I need to twist some arms. Maybe even my white wine liberal colleagues might play a part in supporting our efforts. Do we want to recruit non-Marxists? Do we want to sell t-shirts or book bags or both? What about baseball caps—to appeal to our working class or golfing (leisure class) colleagues? We should think about that, along with other plans for celebrating our upcoming birthday, which we should start planning now. For those who don’t do retail there are papers and books to read and write and lots of more mundane bureaucratic work to do. Praxis is not limited to the violent overthrow of the government, as Marx himself recognized, as much as he loved the precocious Parisian proletariat.

Praxis sometimes means pushing paper—as I am now doing, instead of watching the quarter-finals of Wimbledon. We also need to continue to support and encourage our graduate student and faculty writing efforts—with prizes and with more mundane support: reading and even buying their books. We also need to think about our non-sociological targets—union organizers and utopian dreamers who are not part of our constituency but who might benefit from our efforts on their behalf. In Brown’s (1988) history of the SLM, her discussion of grad students trashing hotel rooms and learning that maids were, potentially, working class conscience constituents reminds us again of the importance of praxis.

The second lesson that I take from this brief excursus on Marxist Sociology in the United States is the challenge of

Book Review:***The Endless Crisis: How Monopoly-Finance Capital Produces Stagnation and Upheaval from the USA to China.* Book by John Bellamy Foster and Robert W. McChesney****Review by David Fields and Daniel Auerbach**

While not covering the entirety of Marxism today, *Monthly Review*, since its inception, has been carrying on some of the best works of Marxism today. The foundations for this type of analysis was set out by the economists Paul Baran, Paul Sweezy, and Harry Magdoff. Truly insightful analytic and theoretical works like *Monopoly Capital* and Magdoff's work on Imperialism (along with Harry Braverman's work on *Labor and Monopoly Capital*) help bring Marx's political-economic insights into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Karl Marx, having written in the nineteenth century wrote about a particular phase of capitalism that was predicated less on oligopolies than today, although it was moving in that direction. In the best tradition of a historical-materialist approach—which seeks to understand the world as dynamic, rather than static—these authors realized that the organization of capitalism had changed. While the general driving force, the structural imperatives of increased expansion and accumulation, of capitalism remains the way it goes about doing so is different. Competition, as we commonly think of it, has ended with the rise of monopoly capitalism—a system in which competition is between only a handful of large firms. This, as they point out, is not the result of greedy individuals, but, rather, part of a larger systemic feature of capitalism. What sets these author's apart is not just their keen insight but their ability and desire to engage with and incorporate non-Marxian political economy into their analysis (a feature of Marx's work that has been overlooked).

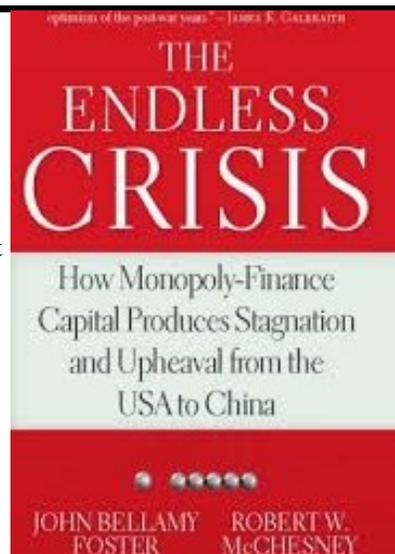
John Bellamy Foster and Robert W. McChesney continue this strong tradition of analytically sharp Marxian political economy. In this, they argue that instead of growth being the fundamental feature of capitalist economies, crises of accumulation are. Systemic crisis, then, sets the table for explaining the rise of certain features of our economy. Thus, there is a contradiction within the capitalist system: capitalism is predicated on growth, yet, it is a system that tends towards stagnation. New phases of capitalism are attempts to bring the system out of crisis. Foster and McChesney argue, and very convincingly, that the rise of "Finance Capital" is due precisely to the crisis of accumulation that is endemic to capitalism.

Within their analysis of economic data Foster and McChesney highlight how over-accumulation (a fairly regular occurrence of capitalism) has ensued an era of underconsumption. This is exemplified by low profit rates and chronic excess capacity (waste). To overcome these structural issues capitalists have issued in a transformation towards financialisation. Doing so has greatly expanded and put increased pressure on non-financial corporations (NFCs) to generate an increase in consumption. Corporations are becoming more beholden to financial institutions altering their survival strategies. With an inability to absorb effectively economic surplus—stemming from a high level of effective demand, specifically with respect to the promotion of rising wages along with productivity—NFCs are coerced to paying a larger share of their internal funds to financial institutions. Furthermore, these financial institutions—which are increasingly concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people—become some of the most powerful actors. Increasing concentration of control within financial corporations lends credence to Marx's (1894: 544-45) argument that the age of monopoly finance capital is one in which

The credit system, which as its focus in the so-called national banks and the big money lenders and usurers surrounding them, constitutes enormous centralization, and gives this class of parasites the fabulous power, not only to periodically despoil industrial capitalists, but also to interfere in actual production in a most dangerous manner—and this gang knows nothing about production and has nothing to do with it.

Concentrating control within the realm of financial actors redirects production farther away from meeting social needs and towards the realization of exchange-value. Additionally financial markets are, by their very nature, unstable creating a demand for more short-term survivalist strategies to maximize shareholder values. Therefore, financialisation is prone to, and may even accelerate, the general crises of capitalism (e.g. over-accumulation) through its destabilizing features. We see this, as they argue, with the bursting of the dot-com bubble and the housing market and what has become to be known as the "Great Recession."

So, what does this book leave us with? The most important thing is that it provides us with a framework through which to analyze contemporary crises. Their argument is that reforming parts of the capitalist system will not end these crises. Therefore, shifting towards financialization is not a solution to the problem but rather an outgrowth of it. As such, thinking structurally and about systemic change is a more realistic solution to resolving the contradictions that stem from the capitalist mode of production.



Looking Back (Continued from page 2)

creating opportunities by exploiting divisions among elites and attempting to recruit powerful allies. Let us consider, for example, my suggestion that we invite chairs (past, present, and future) to contribute something to this newsletter. That is an attempt to unite our leaders in the cause of collective action in pursuit of our shared interests. This might be considered a move toward oligarchy or an attempt to preempt grassroots opposition, but members are also encouraged to join the discussion.

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But what about exploiting division among elites and recruiting powerful allies?

One of my old friends (a mentor, in fact) is Bill Gamson, whom I would never accuse of Marxism, but he has offered many of us valuable advice, notably, suggesting to Tom Hayden that he finish his dissertation while awaiting trial in Chicago. Maybe he and his friends—former ASA presidents who think that Marxists can be good sociologists, could help us, even if they are reluctant to join us. Others past presidents, like Erik Olin Wright and Michael Burawoy are already members and might be ready to help us even more directly. Their differences, methodological and philosophical, have provided a healthy dialectic of critical and structural approaches—two dialectics in search of a synthesis?

Of course there are other differences among the powerful that we tend to downplay in the interest of liberal inclusionary politics. Am I the only one who noticed that Aldon Morris and Paula England represent clashing methods and theories (to some extent) but (more obviously) different foci: race and gender? Does the battle of this black man and this white woman suggest an opportunity for us to revisit our position on race, class, and gender, and its place in Marxist theory and praxis? Aldon and I are friends and colleagues, from his days in the Michigan Mafia, but Paula England's work on gender is more important in guiding my research on income inequality (where my Wright and Tilly sensibilities predominate). Heidi Gottfried, among others (notably my wife and our daughter), has helped me to deal with issues of gender and class, while Aldon (among other black colleagues) has been equally helpful in my thinking about race and class. I'm looking forward to reading his book on DuBois, since DuBois and Foner guide my revisionist history of Reconstruction and my efforts to understand the theory and praxis of Radical Republicanism, after the Civil War in North America.

Back in 2005, when I was hawking t-shirts for our 30th anniversary, I made a deal with Charles U. Smith. He joined us (and received his free t-shirt), and I joined the Race and Ethnic Minorities section. This year I will need to contact him and ask if he has kept up his membership, assuring him that I have been a REMS member in good standing since 2005—even though I disagree with most people on the boundaries of race and the meaning of ethnicity. My impression is that I will wind up joining lots of sections this year if we decide to pursue this path toward increasing our membership.

Nevertheless, I come to NY without an agenda. I just have two ideas—celebrating our past with practical efforts to revitalize and recruit constituents, while thinking about prospects for exploiting our powerful friends, including not only Marxist sociologists with ASA credentials but even some non-Marxist friends who are colleagues and potential supporters. We might even think about how old white men like me and friends/colleagues who are neither Marxists nor ASA members (e.g., Andy Abbott) might fit into the picture in a world where race and gender interests are impossible to ignore. Even people like me realize that what worked in my analysis of the Colorado frontier in 1990 will not pass muster in my study of Georgia Reconstruction today. Like my old friends, Bob Perrucci and Harry Targ, who had their consciousness raised by the actions of their students in 1968, I am hoping to follow my section members toward a more promising future.

See you in New York.

Rich Hogan, chair elect, 3 July 2013, West Lafayette, IN

References:

Brown, Carol A. 1988. "The Early Years of the Sociology Liberation Movement" *Critical Sociology* 15(2):37-45.
Nicolaus, Martin. 1969. "Remarks at ASA Convention." *The American Sociologist* 4(2):154-156.

Marx on The Struggle for Liberation

If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burden can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our own happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.

-Karl Marx (1837), in a letter to his father

Why Relaunch the Newsletter? (Continued from page 1)

unquestionably substantive in the assessment and articulation of pertinent contemporary and historical social, political, economic, and environmental problems.

Hence, the ambition of the newsletter is to accentuate the perseverance of Marxist sociological enquiry, especially since it is quite clear that in today's day in age the oppressive forces of capitalism perpetually act as battering rams that subject humanity to a "dis-embedded" social world, in which collective action problems ensue persistent socioeconomic inequity. We wish to make palpable how the insights of Marxism widely make apparent how the global socioeconomic system does not automatically generate efficient situations whereby unique organizations of production, exchange, and distribution guarantee the attainment of maximum social welfare.

The idea that humans are simple instrumentally rationalists, who supposedly oscillate like a homogenous globule of Hobbesian brutes, is conclusively a fiction. The radical political economy of Karl Marx is ripe to concretely expose the underlying complex fractures embedded in capitalism, which limit the capability of humans to safeguard social assets, social claims, and social ties requisite for sustaining an institutional nucleus of society for human survival. It is our goal to embrace first-rate scholarship that evinces capitalism's impingement upon the accrument and management of resources vital for catholic cogitation, and realization, of conscious desires for humans to reach their full potential.

The relaunching of the newsletter is thus an attempt to make clear how the Marxist Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association offers not only the effective communicative space, but matchless intellectual tools, capacities, and resources that enable radical social scientists to formulate the methodological lenses that critically challenge the nature of current world dynamics. The general inclination is to pave that tortuous royal road to an emancipated sociological imagination.

2013 Election Results

Congratulations are in order for:

- Chair-elect: Anita Waters, Denison University (will chair 2015 meeting)
- Council Member: Heather Gautney, Fordham University (three year term)
- Council Member Lloyd Klein, York College, City University of New York (three year term)

Good job everyone and welcome to our new members of council! We thank the members of the council who will be stepping down after the 2013 annual meeting in New York!

Marx on the Role of Critical Thinkers

But, if constructing the future and settling everything for all times are not our affair, it is all the more clear what we have to accomplish at present: I am referring to the ruthless criticism of all that exists, ruthless both in the sense of not being afraid of the results it arrives at and in the sense of being just as little afraid of conflict with the powers that be.

-Karl Marx (1843) in a letter from the *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*

Disabilities and Marxism: A Short Essay

By Ray Elling

Disability is a many faceted aspect of the human condition, ranging from loss of one or more senses, to mental, physical, speech, and other challenges. Mobility issues requiring a wheelchair or walker or other assistive devices keep many people out of common facilities such as post offices or hardware stores. In general, disabilities prevent full social participation. Although exact figures are lacking, estimates range from 15 to 25 percent of the U.S. population experiencing one or more disabilities.

The question I want to raise and hope to draw comment upon is, “How is disability understood and treated under different political-economic systems?”

The basis for the Marxist critique of capitalism is *the labor theory of value*. All material objects or substances which have value in society, be it bread on the family table, iron ore on its way to a smelter or a book of poetry ready for order from Amazon, require human labor to produce. But capitalists control the means of production and pay workers only enough for them to get by and sometimes not even that. The surplus is alienated from workers in the form of profits which enrich capitalists individually and as a class. Workers can increase their share through organization and struggle.

To prevent or weaken such struggles ethnic groups are played off against one another (racism), the genders are encouraged to put each other down (sexism, patriarchy, homophobia), and unions are banned or undercut. The power of the State in the form of armed forces and police may be used in these struggles at times of crisis, but the everyday weapon in the hands of the capitalists are the media and other instruments of culture creation, control and transmission – what Gramsci termed “the cultural hegemony.”

A long history of struggle has brought working people the right to organize (though this is very weak in the United States compared with Sweden and many other countries). Women have achieved the right to vote, but still are paid less for equal work. Slavery was abolished and civil rights, including access to public places such as a lunch counter and the ballot box have been largely assured. Recently the Supreme Court allowed that gay couples can marry. The struggles go on.

What is the place of disability in this picture? Those who have seen the documentary, [Lives Worth Living](#), know what a struggle it took to get the ADA Law passed. A crucial event was the assembly of 100 or more people in their wheelchairs at the steps of the U.S. Capitol. When Congress-people, by-standers and the media saw them get (or tumble) out of their wheelchairs and start trying to crawl up the Capitol steps. The ADA Law passed some 23 years ago. The struggle for the disabled to achieve equal, dignified access and inclusion in society’s affairs may be considered the latest in a long line of struggles for human rights.

Well, what about disability under Marxism? Despite the Marxist ideal, “From each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs,” there have been some very sad chapters in the history of “socialist” struggle for working-class advancement and eventual control of State Power and the means of production. In Italy, Gramsci himself was frail of body and might have been considered disabled. In any case, he fought some other Italian Socialists writing on “the Southern Question,” notably Lombroso, who took a social Darwinist view and saw the poverty of the South of Italy as linked to biological inadequacy.

The question of disability in Marxist theory and praxis seems largely undeveloped. In short, some serious thinking and action is called for here to fully include all persons in the project of human betterment.

Publications

Books

From Precaution to Profit: Contemporary Challenges to Environmental Protection in the Montreal Protocol

Brian J. Gareau

Yale University Press (2013)

www.yalepress.yale.edu

The Montreal Protocol has been cited as the most successful global environmental agreement, responsible for phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances. But, says Brian Gareau in this provocative and engaging book, the Montreal Protocol has failed—largely because of neoliberal ideals involving economic protection-

ism but also due to the protection of the legitimacy of certain forms of scientific knowledge. Gareau traces the rise of a new form of disagreement among global powers, members of the scientific community, civil society, and agro-industry groups, leaving them relatively ineffective in their efforts to push

for environmental protection.

**From
Precaution
to Profit**

Contemporary Challenges to
Environmental Protection in the
Montreal Protocol



BRIAN J. GAREAU

Continental Crucible: Big Business, Workers and Unions in the Transformation of North America

Eduar Velasco Arregui and Richard Roman

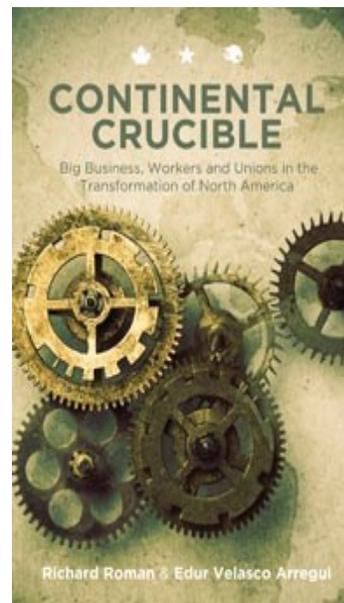
Fernwood Publishing (2013)

www.fernwoodpublishing.ca

The crucible of North American neo-liberal transformation is heating up, but its outcome is far from clear. *Continental Crucible* examines the clash between the corporate offensive and the forces of resistance from both a pan-continental and a class

struggle perspective. This book also illustrates the ways in which the capitalist classes in Canada, Mexico and the United States used free trade agreements to consolidate their agendas and organize themselves continentally.

The failure of traditional labor responses to stop the continental offensive being waged by big business has led workers and unions to explore new strategies of struggle and organization, pointing to



the beginnings of a continental labor movement across North America. The battle for the future of North America has begun.

Publications (Continued)**Articles**

Austin, Kelly and Brett Clark. 2012. "Tearing Down Mountains: Using Spatial and Metabolic Analysis to Investigate the Socio-Ecological Contradictions of Coal Extraction in Appalachia." *Critical Sociology* 38(3): 437-457.

Bair, Jennifer Bair and Phillip A. Hough, 2012. "The Legacies of Partial Possession: From Agrarian Struggle to Neoliberal Restructuring in Mexico and Colombia," *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 53:5-6, pp. 345-366.

Clark, Brett, Andrew K. Jorgenson, and Daniel Auerbach. 2012. "Up in Smoke: The Human Ecology and Political Economy of Coal Consumption." *Organization & Environment* 25(4): 452-469.

Fields, David and Matias Vernengo (2012), "Hegemonic Currencies during the Crisis: The Dollar versus the Euro in a Cartalist Perspective." *Review of International Political Economy* DOI:10.1080/09692290.2012.698997.

Fields, David and Matia Vernengo (2013), "Dollarization." *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by George Ritzer.

Friedman, Samuel R, Milagros Sandoval, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Diana Rossi, Marya Gwadz, Kirk Dombrowski, Pavlo Smyrnov, Tetyana Vasylyeva, Enrique R. Pouget, David C. Perlman. 2013. "Theory, Measurement and Hard Times: Some issues for HIV/AIDS research. *AIDS & Behavior*, 17;6:1915-1925.

Friedman, Sam. Alternatives to capitalism: A Review of Peter Hudis, *Marx's Concept of the Alternative to Capitalism. Against the Current* 166 (In press).

Friedman, Sam. What is the "working class"? *Against the Current*, 163 (March/April 2013), pp. 36, 40. <http://www.solidarity-us.org/node/3813>.

Friedman, Sam. *A Turnpike Utopia: Poems to resist environmental destruction for profit and war*. Central Jersey Coalition against Endless War. 2013.

Publications (Continued)**Articles**

Hough, Phillip A., 2012. "A Race to the Bottom?: Globalization, Labor Repression, and Development by Dispossession in Latin America's Banana Industry," *Global Labour Journal*, Vol. 3:2, pp. 237-264.

Longo, Stefano B. and Brett Clark. 2012. "The Commodification of Bluefin Tuna: The Historical Transformation of The Mediterranean Fishery." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 12(2-3): 204-226.

Smucker, Jonathan Matthew. 2013. "Occupy: A Name Fixed to a Flashpoint." *The Sociological Quarterly* 54(2):219-225.

Waters, Anita. 2013. "Racial Formation and Anti-Somali Ideologies in Central Ohio." *Bildhaan: A Journal of Somali Studies* 12 (Winter 2013): 53-86.

Waters, Anita and Luci Fernandes. 2013. "Representing the Revolution: Public History and the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba." *Canadian Journal for Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 37:125-154.

Wilson, Tamar Diana. 2012 . "Primitive Accumulation and the Labor Subsidies to Capitalism." *Review of Radical Political Economics*. 44(2): 201-212.

Grants

Rebekah Burroway and **Michael Schwartz**, State University of New York at Stony Brook, \$7,000 for *Business Unity and the Collective Action of Large U.S. Corporations Faced with Protests, 2000-2010*. (June 2012). Drawing on insights from social movement research, class theory, unity theory, organizational sociology, and economics, this research explores how large corporations in the U.S. respond to social protest directed against them. Although social movement and class theory have developed rich understandings of collective action, current research typically treats corporations as isolated actors responding individually to protest opposition. The project uses multi-level models, dyadic network analysis, innovative automated text analysis software, and a variety of archival data sources.

**American Sociological Association
Marxist Section Meeting
Times and Locations
August 10th-11th, 2013**

Conference Program:

Although we are finalizing locations with ASA and others for the section activities. We wanted to get this information out to all of you.

The Marxist Sociology Section Reception is at 6:30-8:00pm Saturday, August 10th, location TBD

The Marxist Sociology Council Meeting is at 7:00-8:00am Sunday, August 11th, location TBD

Sunday, August 11th Business Meeting

The Marxist Sociology Business Meeting is at 3:30-4:10 p.m. Sunday, August 11th location TBD

Sunday August 11th Invited Session:

10:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

201. Author Meets Critics: "The Making of Global Capitalism" (Verso 2012) by Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin

Session Organizer: Rhonda F. Levine, Colgate University

Authors: Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin, York University

Critics: Fred Block, University of California-Davis; Frances Fox Piven, City University of New York; Vivek Chibber, New York University.

Sunday, August 11th Paper Session

12:30-2:10 p.m.

241. Marxist Analysis of Intersectionalities, Margins and Challenges to the Status Quo: Class, Gender, Identity, Race and Sexualities

Session Organizers: Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton; Ryan Ashley Caldwell, Soka University of America

Presider: Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton

Presentations:

- "Internationality, Class, and Marxism: Beyond Class Analysis" Yu Guo, University of Maryland-College Park

- "Marx and the Prostitutes: How His Work has been Misinterpreted by the Sex-as-Work Movement" Maryann Seals, University of South Carolina

- "The Gender and Ethnic Consequences of Trade Liberalization in Mexico's Commercial Agricultural Industry" Candice Shaw, McGill University

ASA Conference (*Continued*)

- "Toward a Happier Marriage Between Marxism and Feminism: Intersectionality and Dialectical Methodology" Shane M. Wilson, University of Kansas

- "Marxism X Gender X Property X Queer" Zuleyka Shahin, Soka University of America

Sunday August 11th Roundtable Sessions

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Session Organizers: Ann M. Strahm, California State University-Stanislaus

Wendi Belinda Kane, University of Central Florida

Section on Marxist Sociology Roundtable Session

Table 01. Movements

Table President: Wendi Belinda Kane, University of Central Florida

- "Same Problems, Different Answers: Occupy Wall Street, the Tea Party, Social Media, and Ideological Translations" Levin E. Welch, University of Nevada-Reno

- "Business Unity and Anti-Corporate Social Movement Protests in the U.S. in 2010" Tarun David Banerjee, State University of New York-Stony Brook

- "Twenty Years of Boredom: Veganism and the Cultural Logic of Late Liberalism" Peter Bratsis, City University of New York-Borough of Manhattan Community College

- "The U.S. Environmental Movement 1890-2000: Environmental Crisis Events as Predictors of Organizational Founding and Discourse Divisions" Wendi Belinda Kane, University of Central Florida

Table 02. Religion

Table President: Jean-Pierre Reed, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

- "Marxism and Religion" Jean-Pierre Reed, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

- "Marxism, Spirituality, and Climate Change: The Intersection of Radical Theory and the New Cosmology?" Michael J. Sukhov, California Institute for Integral Studies

- "The Catholic Worker Movement as Real Utopia: Lived Catholicism as a Platform for Challenging Capitalist Hegemony" Christopher Robert Carroll, Northwestern University

- "The idea of the social in Marx" Michael E. Brown, Northeastern University

Table 03. Critical Theory

Table President: Kevin B. Anderson, University of California-Santa Barbara

- "(De)Colonization and Conscientização: The Groundwork for a Critical Pedagogy of Consciousness" Anthony Justin Barnum, Howard University

- "A Critique of Gramsci's War of Maneuver/War of Position" Daniel Egan, University of Massachusetts-Lowell

"Bourdieu in Question: Critiques from French Sociology of Art" Jeffrey A. Halley, University of Texas-San Antonio

ASA Conference (*Continued*)

Table 04. Marxian Pedagogy

Table President: Jennifer A Strangfeld, California State University-Stanislaus

-“Critical Sociology: Great for General Education Goals, But Not Great for Your Evaluations” Paul Prew, Minnesota State University-Mankato

-“Rethinking Student Plagiarism as a Byproduct of Oppression” Jennifer A Strangfeld, California State University-Stanislaus

-“The Business of Education: A Critical Examination of Education in the United States” Roxanne Gerbrandt, Austin Peay State University

Table 05. Marxian Critiques of Economic Sociology

Table President: Andrew Gunnoe, Auburn University

-“Critique and Reconstruction of the Sociological Charter in an Age of Crisis” R. Jamil Jonna, University of Oregon

-“Financialization and Shareholder Value: Class Dialectics in the Restructuring of the US Forest Products Industry” Andrew Gunnoe, Auburn University

-“Why Financialization has not Depressed US Productive Investment” Shannon Williams, University of Tennessee; Andrew Kliman, Pace University, Department of Economics,

Table 06. Race/Ethnicity

Table President: Donald B. Wallace, Drexel University

-“Racialization and Cultural Difference in the Marxist and Socialist State: The case of Bulgaria (1930s-1970s)” Miglena S. Todorova, University of Toronto

-“Racism & Capitalism – Crisis & Resistance” Alan Jay Spector, Purdue University Calumet

-“Representing Cuba in the 112th U.S. Congress” Anita M. Waters, Denison University

-“The Racial Disparity in the US State/Federal Prison System: Past, Present, and Future” Donald B. Wallace, Drexel University

Table 07. Health and Marxism

Table President: Ray Elling, University of Connecticut

-“Adapting Paulo Freire’s Pedagogy for Health Literacy and Patient Navigation Interventions” Craig T. Dearfield, Howard University; Anthony Justin Barnum, Howard University; Robin H. Pugh-Yi, Akeso Consulting

-“Disabilities and Marxism; where are we?” Ray Elling, University of Connecticut

Table 08. Politics

Table President: Lloyd Klein, St. Francis College

ASA Conference (Continued)

-“Terrorism as a Communicative Act” Douglas V. Porpora, Drexel University; Tyson Mitman, Drexel University; Ashley Farkas, Drexel University

-“The Politics of Waterfront Redevelopment in New York City in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy” Steven Lang, City University of New York-LaGuardia Community College

-“Watch on the Homeland: The War on Terrorism and Surveillance of American Citizens” Lloyd Klein, St. Francis College

Table 09. Labor

Table President: Immanuel Ness, City University of New York-Brooklyn College

-“Capital Punishments: Towards a (Dead) Labor Theory of Violence” Jon MacKay Gobeil, Pennsylvania State University

-“Capitalist Attack on Labor and Worker Militancy: A Marxist Analysis” Immanuel Ness, City University of New York Brooklyn College

-“Outsourcing and the Exploitation of Labor” Craig D. Lair, Gettysburg College

-“Warehouses and Distribution Centers: The Hidden Link in the Farm to Table Commodity Chain” Jason Y. Struna, University of California-Riverside

Table 10. Crisis

Table President: Roslyn Wallach Bologh, City University of New York-Staten Island College

-“Marx’s Theory of the Crisis and Contemporary Neoliberal and Neo-Fordist Proposals” Alessandro Bonanno, Sam Houston State University

-“Overproduction, Underconsumption or Overaccumulation?: Marxist theory of Crisis” Roslyn Wallach Bologh, City University of New York-Staten Island College

-“Revolution and Sociology: Marxist Sociology in Shanghai University in China, 1922-1927” Wei Luo, Yale University

Table 11. Marxist Sociology Present and Future

Table President: Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton

-“Coercive Forces as Vehicles for Social Integration during Times of Economic Insecurity” Vince Montes, San Jose State University

-“From Sandlot to Boardroom: Baseball as Play to Baseball as Capitalist Enterprise” Joseph G. A. Trumino, St. John's University; Eric Lichten, Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus

-“Mixing Pop and Politics: Marxist Sociology Section in the Twenty-First Century” Arthur J. Jipson, University of Dayton

Table 12. Cities

Table President: Frederick Schiff, University of Houston

ASA Conference (Continued)

-“Corporate Upper Class, Downtown Pro-Growth Coalitions and Ideological Demobilization – Capital Accumulation in Mega-Cities” Frederick Schiff, University of Houston

-“Marxism and the City” Roger A. Salerno, Pace University

-“The Power of Neoliberalism: A case study of the Link REIT in Hong Kong” Sophia So, University of Hong Kong

Table 13. Marx and the Market

Table Presider: Daniel Bin, University of Brasilia

-“Macroeconomic Policies and Economic Democracy in Brazil under the Real” Daniel Bin, University of Brasilia

-“Sociological Market Leninism” Timothy Madigan, Mansfield University

“The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism: Daniel Bell's Public Household as a Resolve to Globalization” Nathaniel Thomas Chriest, University of Alaska Anchorage

Table 14. Marxism and the Classroom

Table Presider: Ann M. Strahm, California State University-Stanislaus

-“A Brief History of Emerging Student Movement” Ryan W Thomson, NC State University

-“Education for Liberation - Fighting Bourgeois Ideology in Higher Education” Ann M. Strahm, California State University-Stanislaus

-“Survival of the 'unfit' – Experiences of classism and others forms of oppression in U.S. Education” Rocio Garcia, University of California-Los Angeles

Table 15. Inequalities

Table Presider: Carina A. Bandhauer, Western Connecticut State University

-“Oppression in Capitalist Society: Intersecting Lines or Intertwining Branches” Alan Jay Spector, Purdue University Calumet

-“Reconnecting New Forms of Inequality to their Roots” Natalie Patricia Byfield, St. John's University

-“Theorizing Transnational Class Relations: A Case Study on Global Capitalism and the Caribbean” Jeb Sprague, University of California Santa Barbara

Marx on Radical Theory

The Weapon of criticism cannot, of course, replace criticism of the weapon, material force must be overthrown by material force; but theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses. Theory is capable of gripping the masses as soon as it demonstrates ad hominem, and it demonstrates ad hominem as soon as it becomes radical. To be radical is to grasp the root of the matter. But, for man, the root is man himself.

-Karl Marx (1843) in the Introduction to *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*

Additional Conferences

Pre-ASA Mini-Conference Psychodynamics and the Social

Co-Organized by Lynn Chancer and Lauren Langman

The emergence of social sciences and perhaps psychology can be seen as various attempts at self-reflection as an essential moment of modernity. These sciences attempted to look beyond the more overt aspects of the social or personal and reveal what is not only often invisible, but there are various ways that invisibility is maintained. This was especially true in the work of Karl Marx, Max Weber and Sigmund Freud. However different there approaches might be, each in his own way attempted to reveal what was often hidden and often irrational as well.

Sociology and psychoanalysis have had a very long and often conflicted relationship with each other perhaps this began when Freud himself wrote about group psychology, religion, and of course civilization in which his focus was on unconscious dynamics in the way desires are repressed and defended. It might be noted that these strands of contemporary theory were brought together by Eric Fromm, who had been trained as a sociologist before becoming psychoanalyst. His work, had a strong influence on the Frankfurt School, its studies of authoritarianism, mass psychology and mass media. For many scholars, psychoanalytic theory has informed the critique of domination by noting how hegemonic ideologies are not only insinuated within the individual, but so too are his/her desires colonized and consciousness deformed. In the past 70 years since Fromm wrote *Escape from Freedom*, or perhaps the 50 years since Marcuse penned *Eros and Civilization*, a small but dedicated group of scholars have attempted various integration of the social and psychological – notwithstanding the fact that psychoanalysis has often been seen as “outside” the acceptable limits of sociology. Yet scholars as diverse as Giddens or Hochschild have drawn upon psychoanalytic theories to inform their sociological analyses.

In this spirit, Lynne Chancer and Lauren Langman have organized a number of many conferences that have preceded the American sociological Association as well as International Sociological Association meetings. We are very happy to announce that once again we will have symposium on psychoanalysis and society preceding the ASA meeting, August 9, Hilton Hotel East room suite on the fourth floor. Our plenary speaker will be Neil McLaughlin a well-known sociologist who has written extensively on Eric Fromm. We will have sessions devoted to authoritarianism, and given the current situation United States, how can we offer some explanations for the violence and mass shootings? What are the relationships between social and psycho analyses? We will also be concerned with sociologists who become psychoanalyst. We cordially invite you to join us. There is no charge for registration, but given the size of the room we will need to limit the attendance.

So if you care to join us, please email either Lynne_lchancer@hunter.edu (<mailto:lchancer@hunter.edu>), or Lauren_llang944@aol.com (<mailto:Llang944@aol.com>).

Additional Conferences

2013 AHS Annual Meeting Racism-Capitalism/Crisis-Resistance

This conference will be held in October 9-13, 2013 at the Key Bridge Marriot in Arlington, Virginia, a five minute walk from Georgetown in Washington, DC.

Call for Papers, Presentations, and Sessions

In the USA, the wealth gap ratio between black and white families was eight to one just a few years ago. In 2012, it approaches nineteen to one. Anti-Latino immigrant bigotry and discrimination is increasing and Muslims have been targeted for hate crimes. The economic crisis of the past few years has generated much more interest in understanding how the political-economic processes of capitalism – not just “bad ideas” or “bad people” but the political-economic processes of capitalism reward and reproduce exploitative, oppressive behaviors and institutions. Racism is often mistakenly considered only as a set of “bad ideas,” this characterization trivializes what is a complex system of processes where particular types of exploitative, oppressive behaviors are rewarded and reproduced. Theoretically, one can have capitalism without racism and racism without capitalism, but here on Earth, the two are now fundamentally inseparable. Racist exploitation and oppression (in its many forms, including imperialism) cannot be fully eliminated as long as the profit system rewards them. Capitalist exploitation and oppression cannot be fully eliminated as long as the extra profits made from racist super-exploitation continue to flow and the divisions among oppressed people keep our struggles and our selves separated. A major goal of this conference is to help overcome these divisions and build genuine solidarity.

The symbiosis – more than just intersection – of racism and capitalism, and the ways that the contradictions of racist-capitalism/capitalist racism lead to crisis and resistance are topics that we need to collectively explore in deeper and broader ways. Washington, D.C. was chosen as the venue because it is, and has been, one of the major places where politically and geographically these contradictions have emerged. Its location makes it especially accessible by land transport to tens of thousands of faculty and hundreds of thousands of students and activists, including from the South and its many HBCU's. The cost of the hotel is reasonable, the location is accessible to highways, airports, the DC Metro subway, and the city itself. Some limited subsidized housing for grad students is available.

*This is a great opportunity to meet and network/develop relationships with sociologists and others who combine humanistic, social justice oriented theory with activism and to gain experience at presenting at a professional conference. For more information, check the conference website: <http://www.ccsu.edu> *

As is always the policy of AHS, papers and sessions on topics other than the core theme are welcome.

*Proposals for Sessions or presentations and any questions should be submitted to the Program Chair, **David Embrick** - dembric@luc.edu*

Section Awards

2013 Marxist Sociology Section Awards Marxist Sociology Lifetime Achievement Award

Dorothy E. Smith

Paul Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award

Charles Post: *The American Road To Capitalism: Studies in Class-Structure, Economic Development and Political Conflict, 1620-1877.*

Albert Szymanski-T.R. Young/*Critical Sociology* Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award

Alexander M. Stoner: "Sociobiophysicality and the Necessity of Critical Theory: Moving Beyond Prevailing Conceptions of Environmental Sociology in the USA."

C.S. Elliott: "Actors or Puppets? Computer Control in a Product Distribution Facility."

Welcome! (continued from page 1)

Rhonda Levine that promises to be very exciting and most relevant for the setting of New York. I wish to encourage you to check out the entire list of papers and presentations at the Roundtable. Appreciation should be extended to Ann Strahm and Wendi Kane for terrific work on these roundtables!

Please plan on participating in section activities and join us at the reception and business meeting (which immediately follows the roundtables) as we have much to discuss – future organizing, bylaw changes, the creation and continuation of important committees, and continual efforts to bring Marxist thought and action to the ASA.

This upcoming annual meeting is also my last conference as an officer of the Marxist Sociology Section. It has been an honor to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for three years and then as Chair for this year, and that is because I value our interests in doing more than simply documenting the inequalities created and exacerbated by capital, but in fighting them in our universities and college as well as in our communities. We do more than merely name our concerns, we act upon them, whether that takes the form of carrying on vital professional discourses, passing on insight to students, or engaging in activism and community service. I hope you will join with me in welcoming our new council members – Lloyd Klein and Heather Gautney – who join with the continuing members of council as we thank those departing the council.

Finally, if you have information, announcements, essays, pictures, etc that you would like to see in the next section of this newsletter, please send those to our current editor. And thank you for all of you help and contributions to our section!

Best always, -Art