



Western Social Science Association NEWS

Newsletter of the Western Social Science Association

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FALL 2004

Looking Ahead to Albuquerque

By Lisa Nelson

Cal. State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona
Immediate Past President

Hello WSSA members and friends. Summer is returning to fall, which means it is time to start gearing up for the 2005 WSSA Conference, which will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April.

Albuquerque is the all-time favorite of our organization, and we always look forward to returning there. The city has a lot to offer in terms of sight-seeing and dining experiences. The Hyatt Regency, where our conference will take place, is located in the downtown area, which offers visitors a whole host of experiences; the University of New Mexico is just up the hill, and its neighborhood has a wide variety of cultural, food and entertainment opportunities. The Historic Old Town Albuquerque is an easy taxi ride away from the hotel (make sure not to miss the Rattlesnake Museum), as are the Botanic Garden and the Aquarium. If you take the



Albuquerque's Historic Old Town. (Photo courtesy of the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Sandia Peak Tramway on the east side of the city, you will be greeted by spectacular views and a climate change. If you can, also plan on staying an extra night either before or after the conference so that you can rent a car and take a short trip to Santa

Fe, Taos, Carlsbad Caverns, Los Alamos or Bandelier National Monument. There also is lots of beautiful scenery along the Canyon of the Rio Grande if you take the blue highway (Route 14) rather than the interstate! The tiny and charming artists' colony and antique haven of Madrid, which is an old mining town, is definitely worth a visit.

You can also try your luck at one of the many nearby tribal casinos (for locations and directions, please visit the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau's website at www.abqcvb.org). For more information on what Albuquerque, Santa Fe and their surrounding destinations have to offer, please visit the New Mexico Department of Tourism's website at www.newmexico.org.

I hope to see you there in Albuquerque for what surely will be another fun and educational WSSA conference!

In the next issue of WSSA News: More specifics on what is worth checking out in Albuquerque.

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WSSA Announces Search Underway for New Editors

By Diane Calloway-Graham
Utah State University
Immediate Past President

The Western Social Science Association announces the formation of a search committee, to recommend the selection of a new Editor and Book Review Editor for *The Social Science Journal (SSJ)*. The WSSA is seeking qualified individuals with institutional support to edit the journal beginning January 1, 2006 for a three-year term.

Nominations and self-nomina-

tions are encouraged. Interviews will be held at the WSSA Annual Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Hyatt Regency Downtown from April 13-16, 2005.

David Freeman, Editor of *The Social Science Journal*, and Robert Watson, Book Review Editor, will be retiring after their current three-year terms expire. The new editor and book review editor positions will start January 1, 2006 and serve a three-year term. The official call for proposals

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What Is It that Makes a Social Scientist?

By Lisa Nelson

Cal. State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona
President

Dear WSSA members and friends,

I'd like to pose a question to you: What is it that makes you a social scientist? Is it a role, a label, an activity, a world view? Something else? The WSSA is an interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary association, but it's important every once in awhile to look at what we have in common. In a discussion at the fall Executive Council meeting, for example, we found a variety of responses which I will share in a future letter. But I'd like to hear from you.

Another question: What do social scientists have to offer the world at this point in history, when so many systems seem to be breaking down, conflict and other problems are widespread, and yet at the same time we can perceive and communicate new ideas on a never-before-achieved global scale?

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



Most of us work in higher education. The WSSA does not have a section on education, but it is clear that the system, K-12 all the way through doctoral programs, is experiencing pressures that will yield massive transformations. How are these transformations affecting the questions we ask in our research? How do they affect our ability to conduct research?

Sometimes media coverage of social science meetings sounds like "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" rather than a serious announcement of new findings. Many of us have at one time or

another come across work that proves no topic is too small or obscure for a research study. By training, we have been encouraged to carve new niches rather than to examine the body of stone or wood (or soap? melting ice?) from which we are carving. This is what Kuhn called normal science. How does the instability of our times affect the need and ability to conduct normal science--or to shift our paradigm?

Please send me your responses. Place "social scientist" in the subject line, and send to lnelson@csupomona.edu.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity this year as WSSA president to think more deeply about our profession and our many roles in higher education, government, business and non-profits, and society in general. We have so many opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of our students, our organizations, and communities. Occasionally we also have the chance to make a difference in a wider arena, and always we can help our students and readers consider wider issues beyond immediate experience.

I hope you will engage your colleagues in some discussion of the above questions. I'd like to hear from you.

WSSA NEWS

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THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes *The Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and *WSSA News*, the Association's newsletter, three times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, NAU Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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Fred R. Harris to Deliver Plenary Address

The WSSA is very pleased to announce that Fred R. Harris will be the plenary speaker for its 47th annual conference, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from April 13-16, 2005. In addition to his current position as Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico, Harris has a long and distinguished career of public service. Professor Harris graduated from the University of Oklahoma's College of Law in 1954 with numerous awards for his academic performance. After practicing law and serving in the Oklahoma state legislature from 1956 to 1964, Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1964 and served as National Democratic Party Chair in 1969-1970.

Professor Harris is the author or editor of 19 books, including two works of fiction. A small sampling of his non-fiction books includes: *Alarms and Hopes* (1968), *Deadlock or Decision: The U.S. Senate and the Rise of National Politics* (1993), and *In Defense of Congress* (1995). His works of fiction include *Coyote Revenge* (1999), which was the Winner of the 2000 Nero Wolfe award, and *Easy Pickins* (2000). Professor Harris is a very dynamic speaker and has won numerous teaching awards. He is fluent in Spanish. The title of his plenary address will be: "The Baby Bust: Who Will do the Work? Who Will Pay the Taxes?" More information about Professor Harris can be found at his website: www.unm.edu/~polsci/faculty_listing/Harris.htm.



Fred R. Harris poses with his 2000 Nero Wolfe Award.
-- Jim Peach

WSSA Odds & Ends

Hou Replaces Starbuck on WSSA's Executive Council

It is unfortunate, but due to issues at that rose at his home institution, Gene Starbuck was forced to resign as a member of the WSSA Executive Council. Jack Hou, the next runner-up in the vote results from the election for the 2004-2005 Executive Council, accepted the position and he was able to attend the Fall Planning Meeting of the WSSA Executive Council recently in Albuquerque.

I know that I speak for the Council and the membership in saying that we were really looking forward to Gene's term and that we are all saddened that he could not join us. I also speak for the Council in saying that Jack brings many wonderful qualities to the Council and has already made some very positive contributions.

-- Larry Gould

The WSSA Goes Online with Credit Card Processing

For the convenience of our WSSA members and conference attendees, we are now offering online credit card processing for membership renewal, conference fees, and new membership processing. The links to the credit card processing can be found in two places on the WSSA website, specifically the Membership Services Section and the WSSA Conference Info Section.

This should cut down on the volume of mail that goes back and forth between the WSSA Business Office and WSSA members and it should eliminate processing errors, while at the same time providing members with immediate notification of conference payments and membership renewals. Please tell us if you encounter any problems.

-- Larry Gould



The WSSA Launches Search for New Editors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

began at the Business Meeting of the Western Social Science Association in Salt Lake City at the April Conference.

The Western Social Science Association is looking not only for editors with a qualified background but for an institution that is willing to provide the necessary support so that *The Social Science Journal* can continue on with the high standards set by Dr. Freeman and Dr. Watson. Institutional support is a very important part of the editorship and we encourage those interested to discuss this with appropriate administrators.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another person to serve in either of these positions for the WSSA, you are encouraged to contact the chair of the committee, Diane Calloway-Graham, Utah State University, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology, via e-mail at diancall@hass.usu.edu or phone at 435-797-2389. Members of the sub-committee are: WSSA past-president Nick Peroff; WSSA Executive Council member Rich Greene; WSSA past-president Orn Bodvaarson, former WSSA Executive Council member Lou Weschler; current editor of *The Social Science Journal* David Freeman (Ex-Officio); and current book review editor of *The Social Science Journal* Robert Watson (Ex-Officio).

WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

WSSA's 47th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

APRIL 13-16, 2005

The Western Social Science Association invites proposals for papers to be presented at its 47th Annual Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from April 13th to 16th, 2005. Please submit paper proposals and abstracts to the most appropriate section coordinator(s) listed below by December 1st, 2004.

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PLEASE NOTE: Acceptable formats include papers, panels and roundtables. The DEADLINE for all proposals and abstracts is December 1, 2004. Please include the following in your proposal: (1) Title of Presentation, (2) full name, affiliation, address, telephone number, fax numbers and e-mail addresses of each author (3) Abstract not exceeding 200 words. Scholars willing to serve as moderators or discussants should indicate their interest by December 1, 2004. All participants are required to pre-register for the conference by March 1, 2005. For more information, contact: GENERAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Jim Peach, Department of Economics, New Mexico State University, P. O. Box 30001, MSC 3CQ, Las Cruces, NM 88003, Phone: 505-646-3113, E-mail: jpeach@nmsu.edu. Additional information is available on the WSSA webpage: <http://wssa.asu.edu/>

CALL FOR PAPERS!

CALL FOR PAPERS!

Looking Back on Salt Lake City '04

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNERS RECOGNIZED AT SALT LAKE CITY CONFERENCE

On Friday, April 23rd, at the President's Luncheon, WSSA Vice-President Sandra Davis announced the two winners of the 2004 WSSA Student Paper Competition. Heather Clark of Utah State University received the graduate award for her paper entitled "Ties that Bind or Confine? Effects of Community and Relationships on Work-Family Spillover for Men and Women."

Vicki J. Bendau of Arizona State University won the undergraduate award for her paper "Scottsdale School District: Perspectives on School Preservation Policy."

Each winner formally presented her paper on the Student Paper Competition panel and received a check for \$500, an engraved plaque, a free one-year subscription to *The Social Science Journal*, and free conference registration.

Davis praised the quality of the submission and congratulated the winners for rising to the top of the excellent entries. She thanks all who had helped publicized the competition and acknowledged the assistance of a committee made up of the WSSA vice-presidential candidates Doreen Barrie of the University of Calgary and Phadrea Ponds of the U.S. Geological Service.

GRADUATE IMPRESSIONS OF SALT LAKE CITY

As a graduate student in political science and one who is fairly new to scholarly conferences, I found this year's conference in Salt Lake City to be an extraordinary experience. I first became familiar with the Western Social Science Association Conference through Dr. Robert P. Watson of Florida Atlantic University. He encouraged me to present a paper at last year's conference in Las Vegas in order to understand the workings of a national conference, build my resume, network with individuals in my field of study, and participate in career development. I was thoroughly impressed with the dedicated attendees and their congeniality towards newcomers. In addition the book exhibit and the workshops covering a wide array of topics were extremely helpful.

I was a bit apprehensive about presenting a paper at a conference since it would be my first time. This feeling quickly passed due to the receptivity of the audience, their thoughtful attention, and willingness to offer constructive criticism. I

left the conference with more confidence in my abilities and some wonderful guidelines to follow for my next presentation. I left Las Vegas looking forward to the following year's conference in Salt Lake City.

During the summer of 2003 I was approached by the board of directors of the WSSA to participate in a program to market the upcoming conference to graduate students in order to increase their participation and representation. Through the leadership and dedication of Dr. Sandra Davis and Ellen Maccarrone we contacted graduate programs in the Midwest, Southwest, and West to increase the visibility of the upcoming conference and inform students of the benefits of attending.

My attendance at the 2004 WSSA Conference was more enjoyable than even my first year. I revisited with acquaintances that I met the year before and cultivated new relationships as well. The graduate student social was a great event to

meet fellow students and become acquainted with all the individuals instrumental in the organization of the conference and its activities. I had a wonderful experience at the conference attending workshops, presentations, and socials. I strongly urge my fellow graduate students to attend and participate in the 2005 conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico where they can enjoy all that the WSSA has to offer.

-- Richard Yon



From left to right: Sandra Davis, undergraduate winner Vicki Bendau, Doreen Barrie and graduate winner Heather Clark at the student paper competition award ceremony in Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE CITY WRAP-UP

While there were the usual minor complaints and issues, it was generally agreed that Salt Lake

City and the Sheraton City Centre provided a wonderful setting for the conference. The conference facility provided great breakout rooms in a setting that did not require attendees to walk long distances to get from one session to another. Many attendees mentioned how misinformed their perception of Salt Lake City was and that they are really looking forward to a return visit.

As was the case in Las Vegas, we put the coffee breakouts in the same location as the book display. This created a great place for folks to meet and socialize. We also kept the President's Reception on Saturday night as a closeout to the conference. We had the highest proportional attendance at the reception as compared to any conference in the last four years.

All in all Salt Lake City received high praise from those who attended.

-- Larry A. Gould

The WSSA Student Paper Competition

The WSSA holds a Student Paper Competition every year and I would appreciate it if you would encourage your students to submit their original research papers for the competition. It is open to undergraduate as well as graduate students. The prize in each category is a cash award of \$500, free conference registration at the 2005 conference in Albuquerque, a one-year free WSSA membership (which includes *The Social Science Journal*). In addition, winners will have the opportunity to present their papers at the Albuquerque conference. The deadline for receipt of papers is February 1st, 2005.

The criteria on which the papers will be judged are:

- a) advancement of knowledge;
- b) appropriateness for a broad social science audience;
- c) quality and implementation of research design;
- d) definition and significance of topic;
- e) analysis of findings and discussion of their implications;
- f) clarity of writing.

Papers should be no more than 25 pages long (which

includes bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting material). The cover page and abstract do not count as part of the 25-page limit. The page limit is strictly enforced: papers longer than 25 pages will not be read. All pages should be

double spaced, in 12 point font, preferably Arial. We do not accept theses or dissertations previously presented or published. Authors may wish to consult *The Social Science Journal's* style guide for formatting information.

As the name suggests, the WSSA encompasses a wide range of disciplines in the social sciences. It would be helpful to consult the WSSA website at <http://wssa.asu.edu/> to see listings of the sections for 2005. Papers should indicate undergraduate or graduate status, institutional affiliation,

address, phone number and e-mail address. Papers may be e-mailed in Word or rich text format to dpbarrie@ucalgary.ca. Alternatively, three copies may be mailed to Dr. Doreen Barrie, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary, 2500 University Dr. N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4.

-- Doreen Barrie



WSSA Members listen to the winners of the student competition present their papers in Salt Lake.

Choosing WSSA's Future Leadership

I am writing to ask for your help in setting the future course of the Western Social Science Association. One of the ways that our future is determined is by the selection of new leadership for the association. Those who serve as Section Chairs are often taking the first step toward leadership in the WSSA; many Executive Council Members first offered their time and talents by acting as coordinators for their disciplinary sections. Others have consistently attended the annual conferences, maintained their memberships, and promoted the association to colleagues and students. These are all good ways to serve and support the WSSA. While not all members aspire to serve as an elected officer of the WSSA, many find it a rewarding and natural progression of service to the WSSA. A immediate Past-President of WSSA, I serve as chair of a Nominating Committee for next year's election of council members and officers. I am in the process of forming the committee, and we will present our slate of candidates to the council for approval during our September, 2004, council meeting. Elections will be held during the Fall, 2004.

As a member of the WSSA, each of you has the opportunity to offer direct nominations for council seats. According to WSSA's Constitution:

The Committee shall submit to the Fall meeting of the Executive Council one or more nominees for each office to be filled. Members may offer additional nominations by

petition signed by five (5) members sent to the Executive Director, prior to the Fall meeting, postmarked no later than August 1. Upon ratification by majority vote of the Executive Council the Council shall send the list of nominees (including those by petition) to the membership. The Executive Director shall mail the completed ballots to the membership (Article II, section 4).

If you, as a member, wish to nominate another member for a council seat, this is the way to do it. You are free to contact me to suggest a potential nominee so that the committee can contact that person directly to assess their interest in serving on council. Council membership requires commitment to attend council meetings during the three year term of office (one in September and two-Wednesday and Saturday-during the spring conference) and a willingness to support the mission and goals of the WSSA by serving on a committee or providing other assistance. We attempt to achieve academic and geographic diversity and to balance the needs of affiliate groups with the broader needs of the association.

You can contact me at Utah State University, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology, Logan, Utah 84322-0730, by phone at 435-797-2389, or via e-mail at dianecall@hass.usu.edu. Thank you for your support and participation in the Western Social Science Association.

-- Diane Calloway-Graham, Immediate Past-President





WSSA CALL FOR STUDENT PAPERS *WIN FOR WRITING*

**BOTH UNDERGRADUATE &
GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE**

You can win **\$500**, a free one-year subscription to *The Social Science Journal*, free conference registration at the April 2005 WSSA conference in Albuquerque, and the opportunity to present your paper at the WSSA 2005 Conference.

HOW TO WIN

If your paper on a social science topic is judged to be the best of the submissions for your class level, you win. Undergraduate and graduate papers are evaluated separately thus there is a winner for each level.

Papers are judged based on a) advancement of knowledge, b) appropriateness for a broad social science audience, c) quality and implementation of research design, d) definition and significance of topic, e) analysis of findings and discussion of their implications and f) clarity and cogency of writing.

Paper Requirements

- **Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (which include bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting materials).** Abstracts and cover sheets do not count as part of the 25-page maximum.
- **Papers longer than the 25-page maximum will not be read (strictly enforced).**
- All pages must be double-spaced and in 12 pt. Arial font.
- Papers may not be theses or dissertations previously presented or published.
- Authors may wish to consult *The Social Science Journal's* style guide for formatting information.
- **Papers must be received on or before February 1, 2005.** Please clearly indicate undergraduate or graduate status, institutional affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address. Send an e-mail copy (Word or Rich Text formats) or three hard copies to:

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