

CriticalMassBulletin

Newsletter of the Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, American Sociological Association

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Spring 2007

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**Please send all your ideas,
feedback, and submissions
to: cmeditor@msu.edu**

Chair's Message

The Chair's column every year is the place where, traditionally, the chair works to drum up enthusiasm for the section's events at the up-coming ASA. This year, I've got it pretty easy—we have a lot going on with many places for and forms of participation. There are, for example, two section-sponsored paper sessions at the ASA, this year organized by Gilda Zwerman and Sharon Erickson Nepstad. The details of those sessions are listed at the end of the newsletter and they display a great array of topics, theoretical and methodological approaches, and established scholars and new faces. The roundtables, organized by Michael Young, are not yet announced, but they promise both interesting informal presentations and the opportunity for more extended give-and-take and discussion. Of course, we will have the opportunity for informal gathering at the annual section reception—this year co-sponsored with the sections on International Migration and Labor and Labor Movements. With the recent blossoming of a social movement-based politics of immigration, and the long-standing interest by social movement scholars in labor, these co-sponsorships seem particularly timely.

But this year ASA is especially exciting for those of us interested in social movements, collective action, and social change for two additional reasons. First, there is the pre-ASA workshop sponsored by the CBSM section at Hofstra University; second, there is the happy coincidence that one of the major themes of the workshop and the CBSM "chair's session" aligns nicely with ASA President's Frances Fox Piven's ASA meeting theme. A bit more on each of these.

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Deadline for the Fall 2007 Issue of

Critical Mass Bulletin: October 15

Send submissions to cmeditor@msu.edu

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Chair's Message—Continued

The CBSM section has sponsored four or five pre-ASA workshops in the past, usually resulting in an edited collection that goes on to be a staple in the subdiscipline's literature. This year, the analytic focus is on strategy and decision-making. Once firmly in the realm of theorists from rational choice or game theoretic perspectives, more recent developments in our field have expanded our understandings of strategy enormously. Sociological subfields from economic sociology, to cultural sociology, to social psychology have shown that *assumptions* about what strategic action looks like, even if they result in fairly strong models of behavior, do not substitute for well developed ideas and observations about *what strategies are*, and *what people do when they strategize*.

The workshop will have a variety of types of sessions to explore these issues. There will be "plenary sessions" with formal papers given by some of the most recognizable scholars in our area. The plenaries will be devoted to core issues in the study of strategy. Second, there will be "paper panels" that will follow the more established conference model in which three or four scholars present article-length papers organized around a common question or topic. These panels are collectively structured around four basic themes that parallel the plenary session topics. Finally, there will be "thematic sessions," which are organized around short discussion statements (rather than papers) submitted by section members and are intended to promote equal participation and open-ended discussion. The thematic sessions in particular emphasize graduate student participation, and often feature sessions that bring together activists with researchers who study their movements. This is a very exciting prospect. Drawing on NYC's sizable resources, we have thematic sessions linking section members with global justice, peace, and immigrant rights activists. By connecting scholars with activists in discussing strategy, we hope to better serve segments of society traditionally under-served by the discipline. At the same time, dialogues with activists promise to enrich intellectual debates and research about social movement strategies.

It is in this last forum that our section workshop aligns so well with the ASA meetings theme. Professor Piven's theme is, "Is Another World Possible? Sociological Perspective on Contemporary Politics," and the meeting will include plenaries with noted advocates, activists, and politicians as well as scholars. There will be settings in which those involved in advocacy and activism can interact informally with sociologists, all with a theme of imagining and strategizing about social change.

Given the important activist-scholar component of the CBSM workshop and the ASA meeting, Greg Maney (as chair of the workshop committee) and I decided to use the

section's "chair's panel" this year to pull these things together. We have titled the chair's panel session "Another World IS Possible: Activists and Scholars Discuss Paths to Social Change." The session will be a panel of four activists and scholars, chaired by Char Ryan, discussing strategies and practices for bringing about social change. Each of the panelists will have attended the pre-meeting workshop, and they have been asked to circulate among various thematic and paper sessions. Drawing upon these observations, the panelists will highlight the benefits of forging strong, supportive ties between public sociologists and community organizations. Topics to be addressed include: the contributions of engaged scholarship to social movements; opportunities presented by global or 'world' cultural norms, identities, symbols, and strategies; the role of hip hop culture in social change; and ways to develop and disseminate inclusive, persuasive language that redefines immigration policy issues. In sum, it should be a great week in NYC for CBSM members. There will be everything from traditional scholarship to discussions of practical tactics. It should be a type of public sociology at its very best.

I should add a note about the whole workshop planning process. The workshop committee, chaired by Greg Maney, in coordination with the CBSM section council, has put in a great deal of work in formulating the workshop plan and its financing. However, we have not been able to rely on as much financial support from the ASA as has often been true in the past. The ASA's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline did provide some money, but not what we had hoped for. We have responded in several ways—trimming budgets and seeking more institutional support among them. The section Executive Council has pledged some of the section's funds to help make the workshop a success.

Along with this, we are going to give those attending the workshop the opportunity to show their personal support. To this end, there will be a two-tiered registration fee for faculty. Those who can afford it, or who have university support for conference registration fees, can register at the higher fee. We will also have a place on the registration form for a donation to the section, designated to help cover workshop costs (these donations should be tax deductible). Thus, we are pursuing strategies to help ensure the success of the workshop, and yet keep the costs to individuals at an affordable. My thanks to Greg and the workshop committee for their hard work on this.

So, come to New York! The section workshop, and the ASA meetings themselves, will have sustenance for your intellectual, social, and political selves.

Rhys H. Williams, CBSM Section Chair

Book Review

Meyer, David S. 2006. *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America*. Oxford University Press. 224 pp. \$25.00 paper. ISBN 0-19-517353-8.

D.W. Maßmann
Michigan State University

In *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America*, David S. Meyer examines the dynamics of those American social movements that explicitly confront a government institution. Through analysis of a variety of interesting examples, Meyer dissects the most important factors enabling some of America's most essential and well-known social movements. Distinctly pointing out key ideas, Meyer writes in a cogent and accessible style, easily holding a reader's focus throughout the book. What is more, he does an exceptionally strong job of characterizing existing scholarship on a wide range of movement phenomena. Meyer succeeds in achieving his goal of uncovering the mysteries behind American social movements in a fashion that will benefit not only active scholars, but also a wider audience of students and activist-minded citizens.

To highlight the importance of political context, Meyer begins his book with an in-depth study of the American government. His initial case of the Boston Tea Party serves multiple purposes. Not only does it reel in the attention of the unenthusiastic readers who are often found in collegiate classrooms, but it also lays the firm foundation necessary for the remainder of the book. Indeed, Meyer consistently refers back to this section while discussing the characteristics of American social movements. Meyer then debunks some of the commonly held myths about social movements. Particularly interesting is his critique of the myth that the great American novel and the strong-willed, downtrodden zealot have had a large role in creating change. Meyer shows that beloved novels, such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *The Jungle*, were released after social movements were already underway. Also, activists are likely to be well-educated and relatively affluent individuals permanently involved in some form of activism. They are not, as commonly believed, poor souls who muster the strength to take a stance against some wrong while undergoing great oppression. Moreover, zealots are more likely to scare people away than to recruit supporters for their cause. Meyer argues that these myths are not only factually wrong, but that the belief in the power of such writings and zealous individuals is actually harmful to future movements. They distract attention away from political organizing, which he argues is vital for a successful social movement.

After discussing how organizations form, Meyer investigates how they are perceived by the public. Key to a positive perception is a quality relationship with the media. Thus, he gives great attention to the important role played by the media in the progression and acceptance of movements. Meyer (91) states, "to a large degree, social movement activists are dependent upon the mass media to project their ideas and actions to a broader audience." This is a difficult truth for many activists, who are fully aware that media are not necessarily out to promote important issues. Rather, the media seek to generate an audience of their own to further their business interests. Meyer claims that this paradox is specific to America, which is one of few developed nations where the government does not control all media outlets. With so much importance placed on the media's portrayal of a movement, most activists choose to use conventional tactics with a proven track record. That is, few activists are willing to be as bold and creative in their methods as were earlier American activists for fear of negative media attention. By implementing increasingly conventional behaviors, organizations have effectively narrowed and normalized merely a few tactics from the wide range of possibilities.

Occasionally, media outlets negatively affect movements, even when media members are sympathetic to the cause. For example, consistent oversaturation of daily newspapers and weekly magazines with aggressive activists can convince readers that a given movement is just one more among a never-ending string of movements aimed at overcoming "life and death" issues. With the appearance that activism and protests are ubiquitous, the average citizen may lose the incentive to become active. Furthermore, when movements consistently spark countermovements with the sole purpose of preventing the movement's agenda, a seemingly endless tug-of-war takes place. In such a situation, which Meyer argues is rampant in the United States, only incremental improvements can be made. As a result, neither the movement nor the countermovement is likely to be pleased. Again, this can cause a sense of disillusionment in society, further creating an apathetic populace.

Several aspects of *The Politics of Protest* make it especially worthy of the short time required for a detailed reading. Meyer clearly states that he hopes to reach a large audience—consisting of more than his fellow academics. Thus, he helpfully explains the importance of political context in an accessible and straightforward fashion. This also benefits those students enrolling in social movements courses. As universities demand more interdisciplinary coursework, students are increasingly venturing outside their primary fields of knowledge. Hence, it would not be unreasonable to assume that this book is just as likely to be read by engineering and chemistry majors as it is

sociology or political science majors. Aware that this uncommon background may exist for his audience, Meyer does a fine job in creating a starting point from which all can successfully proceed.

Another noticeable strength is Meyer's ability to maintain political neutrality while discussing partisan movements, such as the anti-abortion movement. Careful to use movements along the full length of the political spectrum, he is able to engage conservatives as well as progressives. Meyer effectively avoids presenting one movement in a more favorable light than another. This is a laudable achievement, as many of the political movements he analyzes are known for their distinctly polarizing characteristics.

Meyer's book explicitly focuses on only those social movements directed toward the American government; yet, he does acknowledge the significance of other meaningful movements that confront religious and corporate institutions, among others, within the United States and abroad. Given the limited sample of social movements addressed in this book, instructors of social movements courses at all levels will benefit by intentionally seeking out additional readings focusing on the types of movements not explicitly addressed by Meyer. This is especially valuable given the significant rise in the United States and abroad of movements oriented to international political and economic institutions.

The Politics of Protest is sure to be a meaningful read for all who undertake it. Pedagogically, university instructors teaching upper-level undergraduate courses in the social sciences will be most likely to utilize this text. Smaller classes with ambitious students who are more motivated to engage in intellectual discourse are ideal for this text. Such environments will best foster meaningful discussion and lively debates over the important and controversial issues presented therein. In addition, graduate level sociology and political science courses could certainly benefit from the academic and personal challenges put forth by Meyer.

Professors choosing to use *The Politics of Protest* in the undergraduate classroom should have no trouble getting their students excited about the movements discussed. Short summaries and italicized words throughout the book will assure that students identify the most important ideas and statements. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the book, educators would do well to supplement this text with other readings about movements not covered and gather multimedia clips about the protests presented by Meyer. For example, footage of the violent anti-globalization protests in Seattle and other cities could really bring this book's narrative to life. This will certainly be true for visual learners, who may otherwise struggle through the picture-free text. Indeed, a

little work on behalf of instructors could go far in accentuating an already excellent text. Undoubtedly, by utilizing the latest work from David S. Meyer, professors can do their part in creating a society whose citizens are more aware of and more involved in the essential issues affecting our nation.

Book review

Brown, Phil, and Stephen Zavestoski, eds. 2005. *Social Movements in Health*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 195 pp. \$39.95 paper. ISBN 1-4051-2449-0.

Lori Baralt
Michigan State University

In *Social Movements in Health*, Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski successfully merge social movement theory and issues of health and illness by providing a theoretical framework of health social movements and a diverse range of chapters exploring various health social movements. The authors argue that "many medical sociologists have studied such movements without reference to social movement theory and literature, while social movement specialists rarely take up issues of health" (1). Therefore, this book plays a crucial role in integrating these two important areas of scholarship by opening up a dialogue between medical sociologists and social movement scholars.

Brown and Zavestoski begin by providing an introduction to social movements in health. They define health social movements (HSMs) as "collective challenges to medical policy, public health policy and politics, belief systems, research and practice which include an array of formal and informal organizations, supporters, networks of cooperation and media" (1). Furthermore, they present a general typology of HSMs including *health access movements*, which "seek equitable access to health care and improved provision of health care services," *embodied health movements*, which "address disease, disability or illness experience by challenging science of etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention," and *constituency-based movements*, which "address health inequality and health inequity based on race, ethnicity gender, class and/or sexuality differences" (7).

According to Brown and Zavestoski, the scientization of decision-making and the rise of medical authority account for the emergence of HSMs. As industry exerts exceedingly more and more control over debates regarding the "costs, benefits and potential risks of new technologies and industrial production by deploying scientific experts who work to ensure that battles over

policy-making remain scientific, ‘objective’ and effectively separated from the social milieu in which they unfold,” HSMs have developed to challenge this by calling for increased public participation in decision-making processes (3). With regard to the ever-increasing rise of medical authority, HSMs have developed a paradoxical relationship with agents of medical science; on the one hand, HSMs often depend on the medical expertise and authority while on the other hand, they challenge its social, cultural and economic dominance (4).

This book is an excellent contribution to social movement scholarship. The introductory chapter by Brown and Zavestoski gives an engaging overview of HSMs that provides the reader with a framework with which to better understand the following chapters. As Brown and Zavestoski state in their introduction, scholarship merging strengths from medical sociology and social movement studies have been lacking, and this book contributes to filling that gap.

Following the introduction, the book consists of eight substantive chapters that explore various issues within HSMs. The authors of the various chapters examine such social movement phenomena as organizations, framing, resource mobilization, success and outcomes to better understand particular HSMs. The chapters provide varied examples of HSMs, providing the readers with a broad range of examples of health social movements from the alternative medicine movement to the Alzheimer’s disease movement to feminist health movements dealing with abortion to the breast cancer movement.

Chapters by David Hess and Melinda Goldner explore the role of HSMs in the broader cultural trend of the democratization of science. Judith Allsop, Kathryn Jones, and Rob Baggott provide a thorough overview of the historical development of HSMs and raise the question of whether or not there exists a broader “health consumer movement” that encompasses multiple more specific HSMs. Chris Ganchoff utilizes social movement theory and insights from science and technology studies to better understand the implications of the ever-increasing trend of biomedicalization. Carole Joffe, Tracy Weitz, and Clare Stacey explore the often tense and sometimes collaborative relationships between abortion activists and physicians.

Renée Beard examines Alzheimer’s Disease as an example of a disease that due to its characteristics does not allow the people affected by the disease to be spokespeople of the movement. Finally, the last two chapters focus on the breast cancer movement. Emily Kolker focuses on the cultural resources that the breast cancer movement draws on in its framing of breast cancer as a disease that raises issues of “gender equity” and “family erosion.” Maren Klawiter examines the experience of breast cancer prior to and after the breast

cancer movement, arguing that this movement altered the “regime of breast cancer” so that “collective identities, emotional vocabularies, popular images, public policies, institutional practices, social scripts and authoritative discourses give women with breast cancer today a fundamentally changed experience from 20-30 years ago” (12).

Given that social movement scholarship can often be self-referential and somewhat detached from other important theoretical fields, this book offers a significant contribution by merging social movement concepts with medical sociology as well as with science and technology studies. The chapters provide social movement scholars with an opportunity to broaden their understanding of social movement phenomena as they relate to issues of health, medicine, science, technology, and broader trends of the biomedicalization of social problems.

While this book has substantial strengths, like all books it is not without a few weaknesses. The HSM cases are varied; yet, they nevertheless all come from the US and UK. They are pertinent cases for demonstrating HSM concepts, but it would be useful to understand how these concepts apply to HSMs in other countries as well. Also, while the introductory chapter mentions HSMs that are focused on health inequality and inequity based on race, ethnicity, gender, class and/or sexuality, empirical examples are lacking in the chapters. Kolker’s chapter on the breast cancer movement does address the issue of gender equity with regard to the movement’s framing of breast cancer; however, issues of health inequalities are not, for the most part, represented in the chapters. Finally, although Brown and Zavestoski draw connections among the chapters in their introduction, the chapters themselves often fail to speak to each other, giving the book a lack of continuity.

Having said that, *Social Movements in Health* is an invaluable contribution to the study of health social movements specifically and to the study of social movements more generally. Social movement scholars, medical sociologists, science and technology scholars, as well as scholars with a general interest in social problems will all benefit from this book. The introductory chapter on its own may be appropriate for an advanced undergraduate course on social movements or the sociology of health and illness, but in general the book is more suited for graduate students and active scholars. It is theoretically and methodologically sophisticated and offers a great deal of insight into health social movements as important phenomena that need to be addressed more thoroughly by both social movement scholars and medical sociologists.

Recent Publications

Jansen, Robert S. 2007. "Resurrection and Appropriation: Reputational Trajectories, Memory Work, and the Political Use of Historical Figures." *American Journal of Sociology* 112(4):953-1007.

Awards and Honors

Dr. Benita Roth, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Binghamton University, has been awarded the 2006-2007 Heller Bernard Fellowship for her project, "Anti-AIDS Activism in Los Angeles from the 1980s to the 2000s: From Streets to Suits."

In The News

Dr. Paul Almeida, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Texas A&M University, was interviewed by KPCC Public Radio in Los Angeles on February 9, 2007 about the history of protest music in El Salvador.

Job Announcements

Lamar University. The Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice invites applications for a non-tenure track position of the Visiting Assistant Professor starting fall 2007. The position may become a tenure track one depending on the future budgeting. The area of specialization is open, but preference will be given to applicants who specialize in one or more of the following: gerontology, sociology of sport, sociology of religion, educational sociology, social theory, or social movement/change. He or she must be able to teach courses in at least two of above areas of specialization. Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to excellent teaching and scholarship. Additional responsibilities include student advising and service to the campus and the community. Candidates must hold a PhD in Sociology at the time of appointment; ABD may be considered. Salary offers will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The search continues until the position is filled. Send letter of interest, including a statement of teaching philosophy, or completed faculty application form (which is available from our website: www.lamar.edu), Curriculum Vitae, and three letters of

recommendation to: Dr. Li-chen Ma, Chair; Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice; C/o Human Resources; PO Box 11127; Lamar University; Beaumont, TX 77710. Lamar University, a member of The Texas State University System, is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Montana State University. The successful candidate will teach 3 courses per semester, including Sociological Inquiry (an introductory course), Sociology of Gender (or other social inequalities course) and Social Movements (or other social change course). Required qualifications include a Ph.D. or ABD in Sociology or closely related field and evidence of successful classroom teaching. Preferred qualifications include the ability to teach Sociology of Gender and research and/or teaching experience in social inequality, social movements, or social change. Screening of applications will begin on April 21, 2007 and continue until a candidate is selected. To apply, submit: (1) a letter of application that addresses the required and preferred qualifications; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) sample syllabi; (4) student teaching evaluations for at most three courses; and (5) contact information including email and telephone for three professional references. Electronic applications will be accepted, but must be followed with a signed letter of application/cover letter mailed to the address listed below. Submit materials to: Dr. Sue Monahan, Chair, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Montana State University, P O Box 172380, Bozeman, MT 59717-2380.

Randolph-Macon College. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a one-year visiting position in Sociology beginning fall 2007 with the possibility to become tenure-track. The department is seeking a generalist with a strong foundation in quantitative research methods. Specialization is open but applicants with experience in social stratification, African-American studies, social movements, or social justice will be given preference. Primary duties will include teaching courses in sociological research methods, race and ethnicity, foundations of sociology, upper division courses in structure and inequality, as well as courses related to the candidate's other academic interests. The successful applicant should demonstrate evidence of excellence in teaching, a commitment to teaching undergraduate students, collegiality, and an ability to supervise student research. Ph.D. is preferred but ABD will be considered. Randolph-Macon is a co-educational, liberal arts, residential college situated 12 miles north of Richmond, Virginia. Applicants should send: a letter of application describing teaching philosophy and research interests, curriculum vitae, three references, description of teaching experience including syllabi, and a summary of student

evaluations (if available) to: Dr. Denise Bissler, Acting Chair, Sociology Search, Randolph-Macon College, PO Box 5005, Ashland, VA 23005-5505. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applications are especially encouraged from minorities and women. EOE.

Calls for Papers/Submissions

Sociology Compass

The editors for the new online sociology journal, *Sociology Compass* by Blackwell Publishing Ltd., are looking for people who are interested in contributing articles on collective behavior and social movements. *Sociology Compass* is run by a team of Section Editors under the auspices of Editor-in-Chief Professor Joel Best and guided by an international Editorial Board. There are several sections, each one of which is edited by at least one leading scholar in the field. Dr. Paul Bagguley at the University of Leeds is the Section Editor for collective behavior and social movements scholarship. Dr. Bagguley is looking for contributions of around 5000 words, on the topics in the field of collective behavior and social movements broadly conceived.

Sociology Compass will be launched in 2008. You can see more about the Compass journals on www.blackwell-compass.com. *Sociology Compass* will publish original survey articles, which summarize the state of the field for non-specialists. They can discuss recent research of debates in a field, provide a comparative look across boundaries/disciplines, or offer a fresh perspective on a controversial topic. New articles will be published each month to keep readers updated on developments. The benefits of writing for *Sociology Compass* will include:

- Fast publication, typically 8-10 weeks from acceptance of final, peer-reviewed version
- A citable peer-reviewed article, with a permanent URL
- A wide, international audience through a global medium
- A free PDF off-print of your article
- Free individual access to the site

A Special Issue of *Qualitative Sociology* on “Political Violence”

A special issue of *Qualitative Sociology* will focus on the trajectories that lead political actors—on both sides of the state-dissident equation—to violence. The questions we are interested in exploring include but are not restricted to the following:

- * How do we understand the “turn” to violence within specific cycles of protest and within specific cycles of repression?
- * What are the motivations and logics of social movement actors who deploy violent means to oppose the state, to compete with factions within their own movement or to neutralize counter-movements?
- * What are the motivations and logics of state actors who elect to work in segments of the military, criminal justice system and national security organization that engage in severe repression and torture?
- * How are the protagonists of political violence recruited and socialized in their respective organizations?
- * What have been the experiences of those who have renounced violence as a political strategy?
- * What can be learned from the adjudication of legal cases involving political crime and violence?

We encourage the submission of papers based on qualitative research that situates protagonists of violence within their specific historical and cultural context.

Guest Editors: Gilda Zwerman, SUNY - Old Westbury, and Patricia Steinhoff, University of Hawaii

Endnote Commentary: Donatella della Porta, European University Institute in Firenze Italy

Deadline: May 15, 2007

Send Papers To:

Lauren Joseph
Qualitative Sociology
Department of Sociology
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794

Manuscript Submission Guidelines Available at
<www.springeronline.com>

Sixteenth International Conference of the Council for European Studies

We are pleased to announce that the Sixteenth International Conference of the Council for European Studies will be held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago from March 5-8, 2008. Please visit our website at www.councilforeuropeanstudies.org/conf/conf.html for more information about the event, including our Call for Papers submission form. Best wishes for the academic year from CES!

Social Movements and the Development of Health Institutions Conference

A conference on social movements and the development of health institutions will be held at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI from October 5-7, 2007. The conference seeks to encourage the interchange of ideas and promote collaboration between those who study health systems and the social and political aspects of disease entities and disabilities, and scholars who study social movements and political sociology.

The purpose is not only to enrich research in each of these fields, but also to lay a foundation for establishing a new sub-field at the intersection of public health and sociology, emphasizing the study of the political and social processes involved in large-scale transformations of health policy, the professions and professional segments that pursue transformation in hospitals and other health organizations, and the movements that develop around specific diseases and disabilities aiming to improve research and the delivery of services for that disease entity.

The conference is being organized by Mayer Zald, Jane Banaszak-Holl, and Sandra Levitsky. For more information, please contact Connie Rockman by phone at (734) 936-1217 or by email at connier@umich.edu.

CBSM Section Activities at 2007 ASA Conference

(Refereed Roundtables To Be Announced)

Movement Choices, Dynamics, and Consequences

Organizer and Presider: Gilda N. Zwerman, SUNY College at Old Westbury

Acting in Concerts of Action: Challenges and Opportunities in the Campaigns Against Female Executions, 1895-1915

Annulla Linders, University of Cincinnati

Confronting a Movement's Menace: Linking Recognition and Redistribution Within the Latin American Indigenous Rights Movements

Jennifer Costanza, Brown University

Movement Cultures as Social Structures: Agency Through Tactical and Strategic Choices in the Animal Rights Movement in France and the United States

Elizabeth Cherry, University of Georgia

Social Movement in the Therapeutic State: The Movement Against Child Sexual Abuse

Nancy Whittier, Smith College

Culture, Social Movements, and Political Authority

Organizer: Sharon Erickson Nepstad, University of Southern Maine

Discussant: Robert Benford, University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale

Reclaiming Democracy: Oppositional Knowledge and the U.S. Peace Movement

Patrick Coy, Kent State University

Gregory Maney, Hofstra University

Lynne Woehrle, Mount Mary University

Victim Stories

Francesca Polletta, University of California-Irvine

Method and Agency Matter: Interactions between 'Experts' and 'Non-Experts' in the Production of Counter-Hegemonic Knowledge

Ana Margarida Esteves, Brown University

Memory Movements in the Public Forum: Collective Memory and the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Project

Rajesh Ghoshal, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

The Need to Know: Explaining Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos of Warsaw, Vilna, and Lodz

Rachel Einwohner, Purdue University

Another World IS Possible: Activists and Scholars Discuss Paths to Social Change

Organizers: Rhys H. Williams, University of Cincinnati

Gregory M. Maney, Hofstra University

Session Description: The "Chair's Session" of the Section on Collective Behavior/Social Movements will be a panel of activists and scholars discussing strategies and practices for bringing about social change. Drawing upon insights from the CB/SM workshop conference that immediately precedes the ASA, the panel will highlight the benefits of forging strong, supportive ties between public sociologists and community organizations. Topics to be addressed include the contributions of engaged scholarship to social movements; opportunities presented by global or 'world' cultural norms, identities, symbols, and strategies; the role of hip hop culture in shaping social changing; and ways to develop and disseminate inclusive, persuasive language that redefines immigration policy issues.

Discussant: Charlotte Ryan, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Panelists/Presenters:

Richard Healey, Co-Director of the Grassroots Policy Project

Robert Kleidman, Cleveland State University

Nadia Marin Molina, Executive Director of the Workplace Project

D. Mark Wilson, Pacific School of Religion