

Labor and Labor Movements Section

Business meeting, 8/16

Minutes by Ellen Reese (Secretary/Treasurer)

I. Recognition of service

A. Kate Bronfenbrenner (Chair) thanked everyone for great sessions and the terrific job of the program committee.

B. Carolina Bank-Munoz (Chair-Elect) thanked Kate Bronfenbrenner for her term as chair of the section; she thanked Jennifer Chun for completing her term on the council; she thanked Barry Eidler for his two years of service as the graduate student representative. She welcomed Ian Robinson to the council and thanked Michael Schwarz for three years of service for the section and for serving as past section chair. Chris Tilly was also welcomed as chair-elect in 2011.

II. Plans for 2011 ASA meeting

Carolina Bank-Munoz reported that at the 2011 ASA meeting, there will be 2 thematic sessions, one focusing on the Haymarket Affair and the other called, "Bread & Roses," which will provide a historical perspective on the labor movement. We can propose 2-3 sessions, depending on our membership size. If we are able to increase our membership back up to 400 members, we can organize three of our own session, plus 1 co-sponsored session (with Race, Class & Gender) and the two thematic sessions. We will have to do some work to get our membership size back up, but we are good organizers, so it is possible. Dorian Warren proposed a regional spotlight session on workers from Walmart, Republic Windows and other areas of community-labor conflict in the Chicago area, and the proposal was rejected on the grounds that we had already had two thematic sessions approved and it was too similar to one of our thematic sessions (although the focus of that session seemed to be national rather than local and focusing on different issues).

Kate Bronfenbrenner suggested using the proposed regional spotlight session that was rejected as one of our section sessions and/or we request reconsideration of the council's decision to reject the session.

The following suggestions for session themes were generated from audience members:

1. the public sector crisis
2. transnational labor and work.
3. A session highlighting Jeffrey Hermensen's work on contract negotiations with 2 major suppliers of garments for college campuses and the work of USAS.
4. The 'new normal' in terms of employment insecurity and how employment insecurity is shaped by race, class, and gender inequality.

If you have other suggestions for session ideas, send them to Carolina Bank-Munoz (cbmunoz@brooklyn.cuny.edu) within the next few weeks.

III. Committee reports

A. Carolina Bank Munoz reported that in addition to our award committees, the section council decided to create two more committees for the Labor and Labor Movement section. Their first new committee would focus on revamping our public face through a facebook page and improving our website. The second committee would be a mentoring committee who would organize a ‘mentoring lunch’ during the 2011 ASA meeting. This model comes from the Latino/Latina section and its worked well in terms of building mentoring relationships in that section. Dan Clawson reported that in the past, section members invited advanced graduate students (anyone who knew what your dissertation was about) to dinner and that worked well. Kate Bronfenbrenner said that we should pair up senior faculty with graduate student and/or junior faculty; faculty taking junior scholars to lunch would help to build mentoring relationships within our section. The mentoring committee can decide how it wants to facilitate mentoring within the section. Sign-up sheets were passed around for these two new committees. If you are interested in serving on these committees, please contact Carolina Bank-Munoz (cbmunoz@brooklyn.cuny.edu).

B. Treasurer’s report: Ellen Reese (Secretary/treasurer) reported that the current budget for the section is \$4,660.81. We discussed using this money to organize a mini-conference in 2012, when our section has its sessions on the first day of ASA. That year, Chris Tilly will be chair of the section, and Eric Olin Wright will be president of the ASA and the theme for ASA 2012 will be “utopias,” a good theme **for our section**.

IV. Report on 2010 International Sociological Association meeting.

There were 14 sessions focusing on labor issues. South Asian and Asian labor scholars participated. Themes highlighted issues of precarious labor, migrant workers, and revitalizing the labor movement. A midterm meeting might happen. There was one last year in Barcelona that was successful. There is a Labor Movements Section within ISA (Research Committee 44). Jennifer Chung was elected president of RC 44. Rachel Sherman is serving as an at-large member and other members of our section are active in it, so our section is well represented in RC 44. The ISA World Congress meets every four years. Dan Clawson passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in learning more about the ISA and keeping informed about it.

V. Section Awards

(1) 2010 Distinguished Scholarly Monograph Award

Co-winners:

Jeffrey Haydu

Citizen Employers: Business Communities and Labor in Cincinnati and San Francisco, 1870–1916

Jeffrey Sallaz

The Labor of Luck: Casino Capitalism in the United States and South Africa

(2) 2010 Distinguished Scholarly Article Award

Co-winners:

Larry Isaac

“Movements, Aesthetics, and Markets in Literary Change: Making the American Labor Problem Novel.” *American Sociological Review* 74: 938-965.

Joshua Page

“Manufacturing Affinity: The Fortification and Expression of Ties between Prison Officers and Crime Victims.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 37(6): 745-777.

(3) 2010 Distinguished Graduate Student Article Award

Jennifer Seminatore

"The Consequences of Collective Action: The Blue-Green Coalition and the Emergence of a Polanyian Social Movement"

Honorable Mention

Manjusha Nair

"Narrative of Agency"

VI. Announcements

- A. Steve McKay announced that UCSC will be hosting 2 conferences (for more information, contact Steve McKay at smckay@ucsc.edu):
1. Sat, 2/26, Labor Rights and the City with David Harvey as the keynote speaker; this conference will focus on urban movements that involve unions, including those demanding housing and employment rights
 2. Sat, 5/7: One day conference on food systems, which includes discussions of food processing and food service workers
- B. Ellen Reese announced that the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section is hosting a 2-day workshop immediately before the 2011 ASA called, "Making Connections: Movements and Research in a Global Context." Labor movement scholars are encouraged to submit papers and proposals for sessions. For more details and the call for papers, see: <http://www.unc.edu/~ncaren/cbsm2011/>