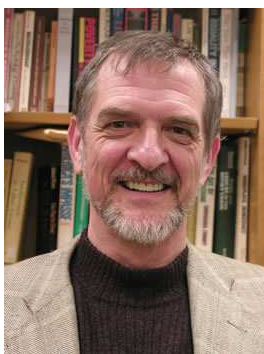


ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Now that the uncertainty of the location of this year's meeting has been resolved, we are looking forward to ASA's first-ever meeting in Las Vegas! As SALC colleagues exchange ideas, share new discoveries and expand the breadth and depth of

our collegiality, **"what happens in Vegas" will not "stay in Vegas"** when it comes to SALC activities -- certainly, it should not! Session organizers are busy planning our section activities. Each session will have a line-up of papers that will challenge us to exercise our sociological imaginations with ideas to inform research, scholarship and teaching.

All three of our invited sessions received many quality submissions, making the selection of a handful of papers for presentation a challenging task for all of the organizers. The volume of your work has resulted in an abundance of outstanding papers that will be presented at the SALC roundtables, which Teresa Cooney and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson are organizing. As a reminder, our other sessions are *Bringing the Body Back In: Biology and the Life Course* (Deborah Carr, organizer), *Age, Life Course and Sociological Imagination in Global Perspective* (Feinian Chen and Gunild Hagestad, co-organizers), *Age and Sociological Imagination: Individual and Micro-level Dynamics* (Dale Dannefer and Michael Shanahan, co-organizers), and *Age and Sociological Imagination: Structural and Demographic Dynamics* (David Warner, organizer).

As many of you are aware, SALC sessions will necessarily spill over onto a second day this year, since ASA awards us an extra session for being on the last day of the conference. Thus, the days for section activities will be Monday and Tuesday, August 22 and 23, with most of our sessions including the business meeting occurring on Tuesday. At least one session will occur on Monday, and the mentoring dinner will occur Monday night. As you may have noticed, the ASA Housing Service is now open.

On another important SALC topic, the section will elect new officers this Spring. Thanks to the nominating committee (Peter Uhlenberg [chair], Glen Elder, Valerie King, and John Williamson) for providing us with an outstanding slate of candidates, which is included in this edition of the *Newsletter*. Be sure to vote!

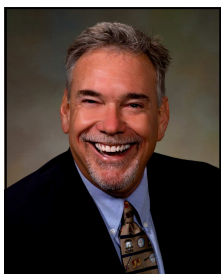
Inside this issue:

2011 Candidates	2
Grad Student Award	2
Report on Elder Abuse	3
Teaching Exercise	3
Conferences	3
Publication Information	4
Focus on Research	5

Section on Aging and the Life Course Roster of Nominees Final Slate for 2011 Election

Members of the Nominations Committee have selected a list of candidates for the 2011 election. Thanks goes to Peter Uhlenberg [chair], Glen Elder, Valerie King, and John Williamson for securing a strong list of candidates.

CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR ELECT



Mark Hayward
University of Texas at Austin



Merril Silverstein
University of Southern California

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL



Pamela Herd
University of Wisconsin
at Madison



Jim Raymo
University of Wisconsin
at Madison

CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT MEMBER TO COUNCIL



Jason Houle
Pennsylvania State University



Michael McFarland
University of Texas at Austin



Mike Shanahan
University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill



Jan Mutchler
University of Massa-
chusetts at Boston

The last day to join ASA in order to be eligible to vote in the elections is **March 31**. Ballots will be mailed on April 25 and voting will occur throughout the month of May. ASA Officers will contact individual sections with election results between June 7 and 15.

2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Daniel Carlson

Outstanding Graduate Student Publication Awards honor graduate student members of SALC who have written recent, exemplary scholarly contributions to the field of aging and the life course. Among the excellent entries, the Publications Committee selected Daniel Carlson, from Ohio State University, for his paper "Explaining the Curvilinear Relationship between Age at First Birth & Depression among Women." The paper was published in *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 72, Pages 494-503.

Using data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979, Carlson's study focuses on: 1) the relationship between deviations from expected age at first birth and women's actual age at first birth, and 2) the effect deviations from expected age at first birth have on mental health. Results indicate that deviating from their expected age at first birth results in higher levels of depressive symptoms for women in midlife who transition into parenthood both earlier and later than expected. These deviations from expected birth timing account for the upward trend in depressive symptoms at older ages of first birth, but explain only a small amount of the higher levels of depressive symptoms at younger ages.

In August 2010, Carlson received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University after completing his dissertation under the direction of Dr. Kristi Williams. He is now a Schwirian post-doctoral teaching fellow at The Ohio State University.



AGING IN THE NEWS

Government Report Finds Elder Abuse on the Rise

by Sherisse Pham, excerpted from *New York Times*, March 3, 2011

A rising number of elder abuse cases threatens to overwhelm inadequately staffed adult protective service agencies in many states, according to a report released on Wednesday by the federal Government Accountability Office.

At a hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, Kay Brown testified that state agencies were seeing increasingly complex cases involving multiple types of abuse. Yet funding for state-level adult protective services agencies — which Ms. Brown described as the “boots on the ground in the fight against elder abuse” — is not keeping pace.

In the report’s survey, 25 of 39 responding states reported that total funding for adult protective services over the past five years decreased or remained the same. As a result, staffing and training have suffered at state agencies handling elder abuse cases, she said.

At the hearing, the actor Mickey Rooney testified that he had experienced elder abuse. Mr. Rooney, 90, said that money had been stolen from him and that he had not been allowed to make important decisions. When he complained, he was told that he didn’t know what he was talking about.

In many states it is not even clear what constitutes elder abuse. Officials at the federal Administration on Aging said establishing a nationwide data collection system was difficult because there is no common state level definition of elder abuse.

The report recommends that the secretary of health and human services develop a national resource center for elder abuse information for protective services agencies in the states.



“I felt trapped, scared, used and frustrated,” Mr. Rooney said. Yet he was also afraid to tell anyone.

Teaching Exercise

In order for students to become familiar with oral histories and life course perspectives, have them read the brief article by Phyllis Moen, (2001) “Constructing a Life Course” *Marriage and Family Review* 30:97-109. Then assign students to conduct life reviews with one another and someone over the age of 65. Provide an interview framework for students to use in constructing the oral history. Sample questions grouped by topic are posted at <http://www.legacyproject.org/guides/lifeintquestions.html>. Have students summarize the two narratives and analyze differences in life histories according to the interviewees’ age range.



Conference News

Cincinnati, Ohio, will host the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education on March 17-20. The 37th AGHE Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference have selected the theme: “Living the Old Age We Imagine: Higher Education in an Aging Society.”

From April 26-30, 2011, the American Society on Aging is hosting its annual conference in San Francisco, California. Sessions will highlight new empirical findings in aging that emphasize research to practice.

The American Aging Association will host its conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 3-6, 2011. “Mechanisms of Aging: Emerging Concepts” is the conference theme.

The American Sociological Association's 106th Annual Meeting will be held August 20-23, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The full ASA program schedule will be available April 30. The SALC section day is Tuesday, August 23.

The Gerontological Society of America is holding its 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. The conference theme is “Lifestyle--> Lifespan.”

Maastricht University, The Netherlands will host the 7th International Symposium on Cultural Gerontology on October 6-9, 2011. Papers may be submitted on the theme “Theorizing Age: Challenging the Disciplines.”

News from the Chair, continued

One note on membership: We've received queries from several colleagues to the effect – "Why aren't there any Listserv message and announcements?" Of course, Listserv Announcements have been sent out, and the questions have come from those who have not renewed. Under ASA's membership calendar, memberships expire on December 31, and ASA and SALC mailings go only to members. There is no grace period.

Thus, if you're receiving this issue of the *Newsletter*, thank you for renewing your membership, and please remind your colleagues and students who haven't yet renewed to do so. Renewing early has the advantage of ensuring access to all ASA journals, SALC information and other benefits throughout the entire year. Again, thanks to our Membership Committee, Cheryl Elman and Robin Shura, for their efforts and to all of you who have renewed and are encouraging others to do so!

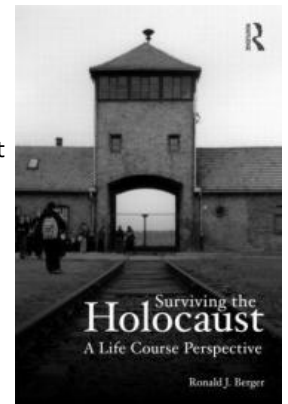
Finally, feel free to contact your chair or other section officers with concerns or suggestions that would be helpful to you or for improving SALC. Best wishes for a productive Spring!

Dale Dannefer, 2010-2011 Section Chair
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Recent Books

The *SAGE Handbook of Social Gerontology* (2010) provides a comprehensive overview of the trends and issues influencing the lives of older people across the globe. Edited by Dale Dannefer and Chris Phillipson, the volume includes chapters written by many SALC section members. Topics include social relationships, policy issues, disciplinary overviews, individual change in later life, and comparative perspectives.

Ronald J. Berger has written *Surviving the Holocaust: A Life Course Perspective* (2010). Berger illuminates the phenomenon of Holocaust survival through the lens of sociological analysis without losing touch of the emotional dimension of the subject. He applies concepts from life course theories to interpret the trajectories of survivors' lives.



ASA's Rose Monograph Series

The ASA Rose Monograph series is soliciting manuscripts for potential publication. The Rose Series is recognized as one of the premier publishing outlets available for scholarly books. Only a few select Rose volumes are added to the series each year. They are evaluated through a meticulous review process and are chosen for their quality, sophistication, and policy relevance. Increasingly recognized for their scholarly excellence, ability to challenge prevailing paradigms and offer fresh views on enduring controversies, almost 2/3 of the Rose volumes published over the past decade have won major awards. Recent prize winners include:

Market Friendly or Family Friendly? The State and Gender Inequality in Old Age (2007)
by Madonna Harrington Meyer and Pamela Herd.

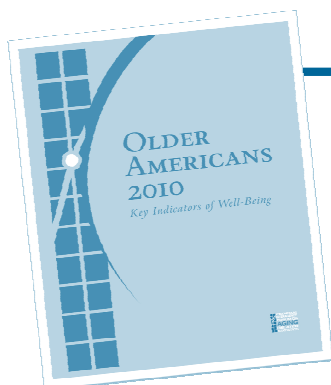
Passing the Torch: Does Higher Education for the Disadvantaged Pay Off Across the Generations? (2007)
by Paul Attewell and David Lavin

Changing Rhythms of the American Family (2006)
by Suzanne M. Bianchi, John Robinson, and Melissa Milkie

Rose books receive the most thorough editing available in academic book publishing. Authors are signed to contracts (with payment of an advance) on the basis of a book proposal reviewed by editors. A mid-course review (scheduled once drafts of the core of the book are complete) includes a one day conference including a seminar in which the draft is presented to a qualified professional audience. The final draft is sent to two eminent scholars in the field who are compensated for a detailed, lengthy and timely review. The finished manuscript is meticulously edited by professional copy-editors. In addition to the national and international marketing that Russell Sage undertakes, many titles are also the subject of special "Author Meets Critics" sessions at American Sociological Association annual meetings.

For submission guidelines, as well as a list of the titles under contract, please contact Naomi Rosenthal, Rose Editor, or Diana Baldermann, Rose Series Fellow, at diana.baldermann@gmail.com.

We're on the web!
<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionaginglifecourse/index.htm>

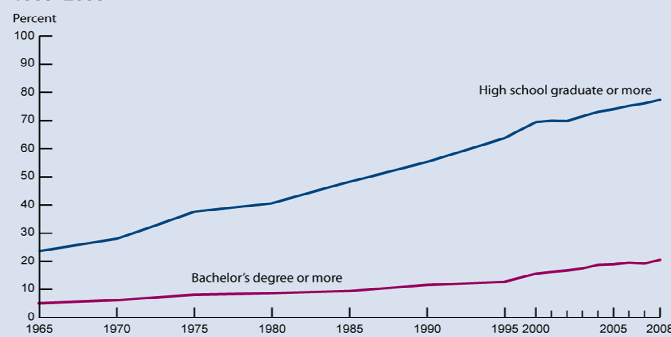


Spotlight on Aging Research

Today's older Americans enjoy longer lives & better health than previous generations. These and other trends are reported in *Older Americans 2010: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, a unique, comprehensive look at aging in the United States from the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. The Forum—a consortium of 15 agencies with responsibilities for federal data collection, research, and programs serving older Americans—assembles these data and makes them available to a wide constituency including other agencies, policy makers, researchers, and the public.

Older Americans 2010, the fifth report prepared by the Forum since 2000, provides an updated, accessible compendium of indicators, drawn from the most reliable official statistics about the well-being of Americans age 65 and older. The indicators are categorized into five broad areas—population, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors, and health care. The 155 page report contains data on 37 key indicators. For example, this chart shows the growing education levels among older Americans.

Educational attainment of the population age 65 and over, selected years 1965–2008



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