

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair

Happy New Year!

We've got an exciting year ahead in the ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course (SALC).

The deadline for submitting papers for the 2012 meeting in Denver is almost here: **3 p.m. EST on January 11**. Please visit the ASA website to submit to our open sessions and roundtables. They are:

Reclaiming the Sociology of Age: From Institutions to Identities
Organizer: Toni Calasanti

Children, Youth, and the Future of Aging
Co-sponsored with the Section on Children and Youth
Organizers: Gunhild Hagestad and Monika Kirkpatrick Johnson

Media and Aging Audiences/Fans/Users: New Areas of Inquiry
Co-sponsored with the Section on Sociology of Culture
Organizers: Lee Harrington and Richard Settersten

SALC Roundtables
Organizers: Pamela Herd and Michael Shanahan

In addition, we are planning two other invited sessions. More on the program in the next newsletter!

It's also time to begin planning your nominations for the SALC awards: the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Publication Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award. Nominations are due by **March 1**. See pages 5 and 6 for how to nominate someone for an award. One of the greatest things about a professional community is the opportunity to honor our colleagues in this way.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the membership drive in September and to those who joined our section. We passed the threshold of 600 members! This, in turn, ensured a vibrant program for the annual meeting. Please remember to renew your membership in the new year.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Dale Dannefer for his leadership last year, and to each and every member of our council and committees for their hard work all year long. You'll read about their accomplishments in the pages of this newsletter. I also want to express my gratitude to David Warner, our listserv manager, and Jenifer Hamil-Luker, our newsletter editor, for keeping us all connected throughout the year. What a team!

All best wishes for 2012,

—Rick Settersten

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Section on Aging and the Life Course Business Meeting Tuesday, August 23, 2011 12:30 — 2:10 Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

Call to Order: Dale Dannefer, Case Western Reserve

Secretary's Minutes from 2010 Annual Meeting Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

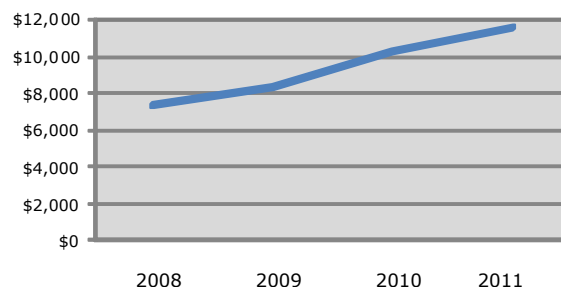
Last year's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

As of June 30, we had a balance of \$11,536. The fourth quarter statement will include approximately \$600 in additional membership dues and \$5200 in donations, ticket sales from mentoring dinner, and raffle tickets. Estimated expenses for the meeting (approximately \$8148) will be covered by section funds. The report was approved.

SALC Account Balance as of June 30, 2008-2011



Program Committee Report

Dale Dannefer, Case Western Reserve

The SALC program included 3 open submission sessions ("Age and Sociological Imagination: Individual and Micro-level Dynamics", "Age and Sociological Imagination: Structural and Demographic Processes", and "Age, Life Course and Sociological Imagination in Global Context"), one invited session ("Bringing the Body Back In: Biology and the Life Course"), one roundtable session (8 roundtables), and the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Reception (held in conjunction with our Business Meeting). SALC activities included the annual council meeting and a mentoring dinner held outside the hotel, at a nearby restaurant.

Book Raffle Committee Report

Pam Herd, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Twelve books, 2 student memberships, and 1 Kindle were raffled. All raffle items were donated by SALC members. In the past there were problems when students won memberships but were not members of ASA. Therefore, this year the student memberships will cover the cost of student cost of ASA and SALC membership. Tickets were \$5 each and \$575 was raised. Prizes were raffled during the business meeting, which worked well even though attendance at the business meeting was relatively low this year due to it being on the last day of the ASA meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring

Madonna Harrington Meyer, Syracuse University

Our 6th annual mentoring dinner was held on Monday August 22, 2011 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Grand Lux Café Palazzo. There was a short program: "*Building and Maintaining Mentoring Relationships*" featuring Professors Pam Herd and Judith Treas, who made opening comments and then took questions from SALC members. Seventy-two people attended. Approximately half of the tickets were sold to faculty (and spouses/partners) and half to students. Tickets were \$15 for students and \$35 for faculty/spouses. Pledged donations received from individuals and 28 organizations were \$2250 and ticket sales yielded \$2035, for a total revenue of \$4285. The dinner cost \$4482. The balance will be paid from the SALC treasury. In previous years we have carried forward a small (<\$1000) net gain to the treasury from this event. This event is becoming an annual tradition and council is supportive of continuing it even if it is not revenue generating. Over the years it has been self-sustaining, with the proceeds usually offsetting the costs.



Section Business During 2011 Annual Meeting

Membership Committee Report

Cheryl Elman, University of Akron

Given the state of the economy and the challenges that organizations (including other ASA sections) are generally reported to face, we are pleased that the membership count over the last two years has remained stable at 575 at the time of the ASA meeting. Membership has exceeded 600 by the September deadline to safeguard SALC's current allocation of three sessions. Members are asked to encourage colleagues and graduate students to join the section.

Communications Report

Newsletter Editor: Jenifer Hamil-Luker, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Section Web Manager, Dale Dannefer, Case Western Reserve University
Listserv Editor, David Warner, Case Western Reserve University

During the 2010-11 year, the listserv editorship transferred from Linda Wray (Penn State) to David Warner (Case Western Reserve). Regular listserv announcements continued to be distributed to all SALC members (with current ASA dues) twice monthly. Each announcement contained both (1) official Section business and (2) other announcements of interest submitted by members, including: jobs, conferences, journal invitation, new books by section members, and miscellaneous items appropriate for distribution (as determined by the Section Chair). The Section's electronic newsletter was distributed by the listserv as well. Periodic special announcements—largely related to the ASA annual meeting—were also distributed via the listserv. All listserv announcements included a header with the link to the SALC website, which transitioned from hosting by Penn State's Population Research Institute to ASA in January. Inquiries from members sent to the listserv editor were forwarded to the appropriate member of the Section leadership, as needed.

Research Groups and Roundtables Report:

Chairs: Teresa Cooney, University of Missouri
Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson, Washington State University

At this year's conference the section had 8 roundtables with 37 papers. No research group tables were requested.

Ad Hoc Committee on Publications:

Chair: Peter Uhlenberg

Council voted unanimously in April 2011 to enter into a partnership with Springer Science and Business Media to produce a book series on "The Sociology of Aging and Life Course." Teresa Krauss, from Springer, met with council to discuss the plan for moving forward. The next step in the process is to identify a series editor, who will enter into a contract with Springer to produce the series.



Focus on Research: Fears of Old Age among Baby Boomers

Yan, T., Silverstein, M., and Wilber, K. H. (2011). "Does Race/Ethnicity Affect Aging Anxiety in American Baby Boomers?" *Research on Aging* 33:361-78.

Researchers from UCLA examined baby boomers' fears of aging. Using data from the 2004 Images of Aging Survey, they found that baby boomers who were Hispanic, less educated, poor, and less healthy were more anxious about growing old than their counterparts. Middle-aged adults who had infrequent contact with older persons and less knowledge about aging had more aging anxiety. To reduce aging anxiety, the authors recommend public interventions that promote accurate perceptions about aging and increase opportunities for interacting with older adults.

Presentation of ASA Section Awards 2011

Outstanding Publication Award

Chair: Ken Ferraro, Purdue University

This marks the 5th year for the outstanding publication award. The criteria considered for the award included originality, theoretical and methodological rigor, and importance. This year's recipients are Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson and Stefanie Mollborn for their 2009 article **"Growing Up Faster, Feeling Older: Hardship in Childhood and Adolescence,"** *Social Psychology Quarterly* **72:39-60**. According to the abstract:

Kirkpatrick Johnson and Mollborn examine whether hardship while growing up shapes subjective age identity, as well as three types of experiences through which it may occur. Drawing on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, they find that hardship in several domains during childhood and adolescence is associated with feeling relatively older and self-identifying as an adult in the late teens and 20s. Specifically, young people who as adolescents felt unsafe in their neighborhoods or schools, witnessed or were victims of violence, had fewer economic resources in the household, and lived in certain family structures, reported older subjective ages (by one or both measures). They find no evidence that hardship's association with subjective age is mediated by work responsibilities in adolescence or by anticipating a very curtailed life span, but entering adult roles earlier mediates or partially mediates many of these relationships.



Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson
Washington State University



Stefanie Mollborn
University of Colorado

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Chair: Debra Umberson, University of Texas at Austin

This year's recipients are Markus H. Schafer and Lindsay A. Rinaldos' paper entitled **"Childhood Conditions, Educational Attainment, and Adult Health: Who Benefits the Most from College?"**

According to Schafer and Rinaldo's abstract, college-educated adults are healthier than other people in the United States, but selection bias complicates our understanding of how education influences health. Their article focuses on the possibility that the health benefits of college may vary according to childhood (mis)fortune and people's propensity to attain a college degree in the first place. Several perspectives from life course sociology offer competing hypotheses as to whether the most or the least advantaged see the greatest return of a college education. Schafer and Rinaldo use a national survey of middle-age American adults to assess risk of two cardiovascular health problems and mortality. Results from propensity score and hierarchical regression analysis indicate that the protective effect of college attainment is indeed heterogeneous. Further, the greatest returns are among those least likely to experience this life course transition. Explanations for this selection effect are offered, along with several directions for future research on the health benefits of completing college.



Markus H. Schafer
University of Toronto



Lindsay Rinaldo
Purdue University

Congratulations to New SALC Officers!

Election Winners

Mark Hayward, University of Texas at Austin, Chair-elect

Michael Shanahan, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, Council

Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Council

Michael McFarland, University of Texas—Austin, Student Member



Mark Hayward
SALC Chair-elect

Jon Hendricks Receives 2011 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award



"I am humbled and flattered to receive this honor named for Dr. Riley as she was a leading exponent of social influences in the process of aging. To have been recognized in this way by all three of my professional organizations is beyond my wildest dreams."

Jon Hendricks
Oregon State University

The committee selected Jon Hendricks as the winner of the MWR Distinguished Scholar Award for 2011. This award recognizes a scholar in the field of aging and life course who has shown "exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course." He will present a distinguished lecture at the 2012 annual meeting.

For more than three decades, Hendricks has been at the forefront of research on the sociology of aging. In 1977, Hendricks authored the successful book "Aging in Mass Society: Myths and Realities." In the mid-1990s, Hendricks introduced the idea of "chaos theory" to social gerontology by proposing that aging is not a linear function but an increasingly dynamic one that results in unpredictable change.

Hendricks is the editor of over three dozen books, as well as almost 150 articles, chapters, & other periodicals in gerontology. He is the series editor for the *Society and Aging series*, co-editor-in-chief of *Hallym International Journal of Aging* and serves on the editorial boards of four other journals.

Hendricks has served as chair for both the Sociology of Aging & the Life Course section of the American Sociological Association and the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America. He is a past-president and fellow for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

He has received the Distinguished Career Contribution Award as well as the Kalish Innovative Publication Award from the Gerontological Society of America, and the 2004 Tibbitts Award from the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education. In 2008 he was named the top-researcher in the Gerontological Society of America and honored with its Robert Kleemeier Award.

Hendricks served as Professor and Chair of Sociology and Associate Provost at Oregon State University. Hendricks was also the founding dean of the Oregon State University Honors College, which he led from 1995. He currently is dean emeritus of University Honors College.

Quote taken from "Life@OSU" Wednesday, September 28, 2011

SALC Seeks Nominations for 2012 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award honors a scholar in the field of aging and life course who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations will be carried over for one year.

Materials should be sent by **March 1, 2012** to:

Professor Mark Hayward
Chair, SALC Matilda White Riley Award Committee
Population Research Center
1800 Main Building, G1800
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
Email: mhayward@prc.utexas.edu

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The 2012 Call for Papers is available on [ASA's website](http://www.asanet.org). Deadline for all submissions is January 11, 2012 at 3 p.m. EST. The program schedule will be announced late April 2012. Aging and Life Course Section day will be **Friday, August 17.**

Appreciation to Outgoing Officers

Thanks to outgoing chair Dale Dannefer for an outstanding job running the section and putting together a great 2011 meeting in Las Vegas. Thanks also to outgoing council members Dennis Hogan, Ross Macmillan, and Amelia Karraker for their service.

We're on the web!

[http://www2.](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionaginglifecourse/index.htm)

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SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

Outstanding Publication Award

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee.

Eligible publications include original research reports, theoretical or methodological developments, and policy-related contributions. The outstanding publication can be an article, book, or chapter published within the past three years. The committee will consider nominations and self-nominations. The award will rotate between a book and an article (or chapter) at least once every three years.

Eligible nominations are limited to publications appearing from 2009-2011. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a SALC member. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations. Nominations of publications for the 2012 award should be sent by **March 1, 2012** to:

Professor Eva Kahana

Chair, SALC Outstanding Publication Award
Department of Sociology
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue MTHM226
Cleveland, OH 44106-7124
Email: eva.kahana@case.edu

Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors the outstanding paper written by a graduate student/s member(s) of the SALC, as determined by the Graduate Student Paper Award committee. The award consists of \$250 presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the annual ASA meeting.

Papers authored or coauthored solely by students are eligible; faculty co-authorship is not allowed. Eligible student authors include master's students and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program or who have graduated no earlier than December 2011.

Unpublished, under review, accepted, or published papers are eligible. If published, the paper should have appeared within the past two calendar years (e.g., a paper nominated in 2012 may have been published anytime during 2011 or 2012). The nominated paper should be journal-length (35 pages maximum) and in the format used by the American Sociological Review. Only one award will be given.

All nominations are due by **March 1, 2012**. Self-nominations are encouraged. To be nominated send a hard copy and an electronic version of the paper to :

Professor Teresa Cooney

Chair, SALC Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
Department of Human Development & Family Studies
314 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211-7700
E-mail: cooneyt@missouri.edu

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