Greetings from Kent State! I want to start off by thanking everyone who agreed to serve on committees this year. The section could not go on without your help. Special thanks to Jon Overton for putting together this issue of the newsletter.

We have a lot of exciting things to report. Most importantly, I want to draw your attention to the call for award nominations. You’ll find award overviews on page two and full details on the “Awards” page of our website. I also want to draw your attention to our plans for the ASA meetings. As highlighted on page two, we have two sessions in the works. The regular session is “open,” so if you have a paper that may be relevant, you can submit it for consideration by logging in to the ASA member portal and clicking on “2018 Submissions.”

I, for one, am excited for the meetings. Last year I had the pleasure of attending Colter Mitchell’s session on “Sociological Perspectives on Biological and Evolutionary Research.”

SEE CHAIR, 3

Note from the newsletter editor

Hi everyone, I’m the new newsletter editor for the Evolution, Biology, and Society section. Please send any announcements or information you’d like to share with the section my way (joverto1@kent.edu).

These can include opportunities or resources you think section members would find useful. Announcements about upcoming conferences, newly available secondary data, research projects, biosociological laboratories, or new course syllabi are all welcome.

We also want to know more about you. Feel free to notify us of your recent achievements like new publications you think section members would find interesting, grants or awards you received, or career accomplishments (like receiving tenure or other promotions). Perhaps you have recently become editor of a journal or a gatekeeper at another academic institution.

For instance, section member Joseph Whitmeyer recently became a program officer at the National Science Foundation. SEE NEWSLETTER, 4

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Announcements

Fall/Winter 2017

Section Sessions at ASA 2018
Philadelphia

Incorporating Genetic Information into Sociological Research

Using Biosocial Measurement Strategies for Understanding Social Experience in a Racialized Society

Invited Session
Presenters TBA

Organizer
Rosemary Hopcroft, UNC, Charlotte

Regular Session
Use ASA submission portal

Organizers
Jacob Cheadle & Bridget Goosby, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE: March 5, 2018

Best Book Award

Eligibility: Any section member with a book published 2015-17 that was not submitted for prior year’s award.

Directions: Email all nominations to the committee chair. The publisher or author should mail book copies to each committee member.

Committee Chair: Anne Eisenberg, SUNY Geneseo, eisenber@geneseo.edu

Best Paper Award for Student Members

Eligibility: Accepted and/or published papers, 2015-17. Student(s) must be the first author. All authors must be EBS members upon submission. Award will be shared among student authors.

Directions: Email all nominations with the paper attached to the committee members.

Committee Chair: Jacob Cheadle, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, j.e.cheadle@gmail.com

*See section awards web page for committee members’ contact information.

World history data now freely available from Seshat

By Daniel Hoyer
Project Manager, Seshat: Global History Databank

The Seshat: Global History Databank brings together the most current and comprehensive body of knowledge about human history in one place. Our unique databank systematically collects what is known about the social and political organization of human societies and how civilizations have evolved over time. This massive collection of historical information allows us and others to rigorously test different hypotheses about the rise and fall of large-scale societies across the globe and human history.

Working with a large international and interdisciplinary team, our database offers an innovative means to study the past through well-established scientific techniques. Recently, Seshat published its first set of historical data, available freely and openly here: http://dacura.scss.tcd.ie/seshat/. All of Seshat’s data will be released as open source data as it is properly cleaned and vetted by domain experts; stay tuned!

Members of the Seshat team, led by Director Dr. Thomas Currie, have also co-authored an article utilizing Seshat data on the evolution of social complexity, “Quantitative Analysis Uncovers a Single Dimension of Complexity that Structures Global Variation in Human Social Organization.” All data used for this study will become open-access on the project website when the paper is accepted for publication.

In addition, Drs. Daniel Hoyer and Daniel Mullins have released a preprint version of the article they co-led; “A Systematic Assessment of the Axial Age Thesis for the Emergence of Moralizing Religious Thought.” The research for the paper was funded in part by a grant from the Templeton Foundation. The paper examines moralizing ideologies and universal egalitarian ethics within the temporal and spatial bounds of the Axial Age thesis.

Other projects in the works include a large edited volume on the Axial Age thesis and a global comparative history of human sacrifice. The December edition of Cliodynamics: The Journal of Quantitative History and Cultural Evolution will be a special issue celebrating the 25th anniversary of Jack Goldstone’s Revolutions and Rebellions in the Early Modern World. The issue will celebrate the impact of the book and of Professor Goldstone’s work on cliodynamic research. We are also accepting submissions for our June issue.

Seshat
New biosociology course now available

**Embodiment: Culture and Human Anatomy**

An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the interplay of biological and social forces on the human body.

This course was developed by Dr. J. Eller (Sociologist, Middle Tennessee State University) and A.R. Eller (ABD Biological Anthropologist/ Evolutionist, University of Oregon. A.R. Eller is currently a Visiting Researcher at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History).

Embodiment, here, is the perspective that physiological and sociocultural forces work in tandem to produce dynamic results in the human body, which proximally affect the phenotype and ultimately affect the genome of our species.

As a matter of perspective, we will be taking a feminist pedagogical stance in this course, because feminist theory best highlights the intersectional dimensions (gender, race, class, etc.) of the biological and social body in an evolutionary context. This course will include discussions of the experiences women and men have with their bodies, and the pathways of similarities and differences between and among them.

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**CHAIR**

Continued from front

The presentations by Bridget Goosby, Cate Taylor, and Jacob Cheadle were among the best I’ve seen at the ASA meetings. I vividly remember feeling like a wide-eyed student again—

energized by the ideas and committed to doing whatever I could to “get the word out” about the pioneering work we’re doing.

Indeed, we all know that the biggest challenge we face is finding a place for our section at the table of sociology.

Since 2008 membership in our section has linearly declined. The good news is that our numbers have started to climb for the first time since 2012. But there is work to be done. Last spring the ASA Council approved a policy requiring that the Committee on Sections submit a list of sections to be considered for probationary status. This includes any section with 150 or fewer members or less than 200 members in three of the last five years.

So, we need to get to at least 200 members. We are doing everything we can on our end, but we need your help! ASA gift memberships will not count toward the 200 members we need, so I am hoping that each of you will commit to persuading at least one colleague or student to join the section.

Regular dues are $10, and student memberships are only $5.

Membership will be the main topic at our business meeting this coming summer. Please attend and share your ideas. I look forward to seeing you there. We’ll check in one more time with another newsletter before then. Happy holidays and here’s to a good and productive 2018!

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**Editors seeking proposals for evolution and social science books**

**Evolutionary Analysis in the Social Sciences** is a new book series published by Routledge focusing on the important theoretical and empirical issues currently facing evolutionary sociology. Routledge has a long-term commitment to developing this series and is willing to publish multiple titles per year.

Co-edited by Jonathan H. Turner and Kevin McCaffree, this series seeks authors interested in exploring the theoretical and empirical dimensions of, and interfaces between, socio-cultural and biological evolution.

The objective of this book series is to provide an avenue for scholars to publish important work at the intersection of evolutionary and sociological analysis.

Current titles in the series address interdisciplinary theory construction (The New Evolutionary Sociology: New and Revitalized Theoretical Approaches) as well as the bio-cultural evolution of religious institutions (The Emergence and Evolution of Religion By Means of Natural Selection).

Going forward, the series editors are seeking manuscript proposals from scholars across sub-disciplines of sociology. Manuscripts may focus on the evolution of institutions across large spans of history, on the evolutionary biology of human beings as well as how this biology constrains socialization and behavior, or on the biological dimensions of more specific topics, such as inequality, international relations, crime or gender.

Please contact either editor with ideas for a monograph or longer book.

You can reach Kevin McCaffree at either kmccaffree@ucr.edu or kmccaffree@ipfw.edu

Jonathan Turner is at jonathan.turner@ucr.edu or jturner@soc.ucsb.edu
Awards

Poli-sci book prize goes to Ang

Yuen Yuen Ang (University of Michigan, Associate Professor of Political Science) won the Peter Katzenstein Book Prize in “international relations, comparative politics or political economy” for her book, How China Escaped the Poverty Trap, published by Cornell University Press in 2016. The prize committee describes the book as follows:

In How China Escaped the Poverty Trap, Yuen Yuen Ang offers a revisionist theoretical framework that grapples with complexities of institutional adaptation alongside detailed analyses of sub-national variation in development outcomes.

In contrast to conventional wisdom that good governance is a requisite for ameliorating poverty, she points out how weak institutions can, at times, allow for innovations in the development of markets. Thus Ang’s project contributes to multiple debates, including but not limited to move to non-linear complex processes. How China Escaped the Poverty Trap goes far beyond saying “context matters” to show how non-linear processes are simultaneously place-specific in their manifestations (e.g. China) yet general (to a wide range of contexts).

“In addition, Ang’s research offers an exemplar of how to move beyond methodological nationalism through attention to sub-national variation. Beyond area specialists, anyone concerned with institutions, development, or the role of China in the world, should read this elegant-ly written book.”

Awards

Congratulations to Joseph Whitmeyer! Now program officer at the National Science Foundation

Congratulations to Brea Perry (Indiana University), winner of the Evolution, Biology & Society Section’s 2017 Best Journal Article Award. Her paper is titled “Gendering Genetics: Biological Contingencies in the Protective Effects of Social Integration for Men and Women.” Perry used the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism to examine how marriage and perceived social integration protect individuals from nicotine addiction. Men, but not women who were genetically vulnerable to environmental stressors benefitted from social integration and marriage.

Kalkhoff and Pollock to study stress and teamwork

Will Kalkhoff and Josh Pollock received a grant for their project “Team Perception & Performance Under Threat” from the Army Research Office, funded at $360,000 from 2017–2020. The study uses neurophysiological and other biosocial equipment in a laboratory experiment to examine the effect of stressful conditions on (1) status processes and team coordination, (2) team members’ willingness to listen to inexperienced authorities, and (3) how an auditory device (patented by Stanford Gregory and Will Kalkhoff) designed to improve group coordination fares under threatening conditions. This research will be conducted in the Electro-physiological Neuroscience Laboratory of Kent (ENLoK) at Kent State University.

NEWLSETTER

Continued from front

Past newsletters have also included the occasional short essay by a section member. These and any other contributions you think would interest section members are appreciated. Feel free to drop me a line if you have ideas or suggestions for the newsletter.

Just from the contributions many of you sent in, this is clearly a talented group of scholars. I’m excited to be involved with this section. Wish you all a good holiday season!
New Publications by EBS Members

Articles & Chapters


Articles & Chapters continued...


Books


Op-eds


Poston, Dudley, and Rogelio Sáenz. 2017. “U.S. whites will soon be the minority in number, but not power.” The Baltimore Sun. Nov. 3.
