LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to all members of the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity section! I am enjoying my role as the section chairperson, and very much appreciate the capable leadership of our past chair, David Melamed, and all that he has done to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities to me, and his ongoing work in chairing the nominations committee for the coming year. I also want to thank our incoming chair, Bin Xu, for organizing an exciting panel for our 2023 program, our section council for their energetic leadership, and all the members who are serving on our Publications Committee, Nominating Committee, and award committees. (You can find the information about our award committees and the calls for section awards in this newsletter and also on ASA Connect.) It takes a big team to keep our section vital, and we are fortunate to have many people willing to do the crucial service work that makes our section thrive.

Ours is an active and forward-looking section, and there are several new initiatives under way. Along with our council, I've been working to bring our bylaws in line with our current practices and to foster greater participation in our section's activities and, potentially, to increase membership. Regarding bylaws, when you receive your ballot from ASA you will see a proposal to change the name of our Publications Committee to the Communications Committee, reflecting the work that this dedicated team has done on our newsletter and website, and now on ASA Connect.

PENNY EDGELL, PHD
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Website: https://www.asa-amss.org/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AMSS123
Twitter: https://twitter.com/AMSS
Podcast: https://anchor.fm/amss

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED: PENNY EDGELL

Inspired by discussions with the section's council members, there will also be a proposal on your ballot to increase the dues of regular section members (NOT student members) by $2 – from $10 to $12. If this initiative passes, the money raised will go directly toward providing financial support for the winner(s) of the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award to help defray the costs of travel to the annual meeting in August. I hope that our membership will vote for this increase, knowing that this small per-person contribution could make a big difference to the graduate student award winner(s). It would also send a signal to our other graduate student members that we value their participation in the section.

On a similar note, I have put out a call for volunteers to organize a mentoring program to match faculty in our section with graduate student members. This mentor-mentee match is something that many ASA sections do, and the idea is to start simply, with the mentor being responsible for reaching out to the mentee to set up an in-person meeting at the 2023 Annual Meeting to talk about research and professional development. It is not too late to step up and offer to help organize this for the next year; if you are interested in helping out, please email me at edgell@umn.edu. Another way that our section can reach and include new people is to make sure that our annual program sessions and events are of interest not only to current section members but to potential newcomers whose research is related to our core interests in altruism and morality and solidarity. We have an exciting plan for a timely invited panel at the 2023 Annual Meeting, organized by Bin Xu, on the theme of "Morality and Global Civil Societies." And our open-submission session will be organized by Cory Abramson, showcasing research on the theme of "Interrogating Solidarity, Justice, and Inequality." Taken together, these two sessions invite work that takes on a global perspective, engages with critical theories, and forefronts questions of justice and inequality.

Finally, I want to address any confusion that may linger as a result of our transition to the use of the ASA Connect platform for section communications. The idea behind ASA Connect is that it can foster more peer-to-peer and bottom-up communication in the section, making it easier for section members to contact one another, start discussions on common areas of interest, and interact with section leadership. What the platform is less able to facilitate is the kind of communication that the former listservs fostered – e.g. an efficient way for section leadership to send announcements to all members in a format that is flexible, allows for hotlinks and formatting, etc. I have been using the "email all members" function ASA connect to send announcements (which addresses each email by mail-merging in each member's individual name). This is workable but not ideal. I've been in consultation with ASA leadership and they are, they tell me, working on this with the vendor and hope to increase the platform's functionality in the near future. In the meantime – keep watching for emails from me with announcements that affect all members, keep checking ASA Connect for new announcements – and use the new platform's interactive features to participate in discussions with other members. Our website also remains a great way to find current section information, including announcements and newsletters, and to access special features like podcasts with section members. And remember to email Scott Hamilton (Scott.Hamilton@unt.edu) if you have any items of interest for the newsletter, any features to suggest for the website, or if you want to volunteer to serve on our Publications (soon to be Communications) Committee.

Looking ahead, I am excited to see where the section goes next – the new leaders we will welcome next year, the research that we will highlight with our section awards and our sessions at the annual meeting, the discussions we will have together (in-person and virtual) and the opportunities to support our graduate students and expand our membership. If you have any ideas to share about new initiatives, or want to become more involved, reach out – I'll be happy to hear from you.

NEW SECTION OFFICERS

CHAIR- ELECT (3-YEAR TERM BEGINS IN '22 AS CHAIR ELECT)

Bin Xu, Emory University is a professor of Sociology at Emory University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University. His research has appeared in leading sociological and China studies journals, including *Theory & Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *Social Problems, Social Psychology Quarterly, China Quarterly,* and *The China Journal*.
Bin Xu's research interests lie at the intersection of politics and culture. His latest book is *The Culture of Democracy: A Sociological Approach to Civil Society*, and is a survey of the cultural sociology of civil society offering a committed global perspective

COUNSEL MEMBER (2-YEAR TERM BEGINS IN '22)

Seth Abrutyn, University of British Columbia is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. His work focuses on two interrelated processes: (1) using evolutionary theory, he asks how social environments, particularly their enduring structure and culture, are built up from collective efforts to transform the social world and (2) how these environments can become detrimental to emotional, mental, and social psychological health. He has authored or co-authored peer-reviewed articles in forums like *American Sociological Review, Sociological Theory, Social Forces*, and the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Elisabeth S. Clemens, University of Chicago is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago as well as a former Master of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division. Her research explores the role of social movements and organizational innovation in political change. Clemens' first book, *The People's Lobby: Organizational Innovation and the Rise of Interest Group Politics in the United States, 1890-1925* (Chicago, 1997) received best book awards in both organizational sociology (1998) and political sociology (1999). She is also co-editor of P*rivate Action and the Public Good* (Yale, 1998), *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History and Sociology* (Duke, 2005), *Politics and Partnerships: Voluntary Associations in America's Past and Present* (Chicago, 2010; winner of the 2012 Virginia Hodgkinson Research Prize from ARNOVA), and the journal Studies in American Political Development

Iddo Tavory, New York University is a Professor of Sociology at New York University and the current editor of *Sociological Theory*. His work is in cultural interactionism and sociological theory and methods. He has received the Clifford Geertz for his work in the sociology of culture, the Robert Park award for Urban Sociology, and the Coser award for agenda-setting in sociological theory.

SECRETARY TREASURER (3-YEAR TERM BEGINS IN '22)

Daniel Shank, Missouri University of Science & Technology is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Science at Missouri Science & Technology. He has an MS in Artificial Intelligence and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Georgia. His research interests involve social psychological approaches to interaction with and perception of artificial intelligence (AI) agents. Current projects include investigating how people differently judge morality, mind, uncertainty, and affective impressions of actions, recommendations, and creations of AIs compared to those of humans. He currently has grants from the Army Research Office, the Leonard Wood Institute, and the National Science Foundation.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES (TERM BEGINS IN '22)

Laura Halcomb, UC- Santa Barbara is a doctoral candidate in sociology at UC- Santa Barbara. The overarching goal of her work is to theorize how moral and cultural beliefs shape markets for socially important goods, like medicine and medical technologies. She is a qualitative sociologist primarily interested in both bottom-up and top-down meaning making within the US health care system. She uses multiple methodologies, including historical analysis, content analysis, and in-depth interviews, and deploys a feminist analytical perspective, focused on status inequalities and outcomes.

SECTION AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Committee: Pamela Paxton (Chair) and Jenny L. Davis

Clemens, Elisabeth S, University of Chicago
Elisabeth Clemens, William Rainey Harper Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, is the 2022 recipient of the AMSS Distinguished Career Award. In her long and illustrious career, Lis has shaped our understanding of interest group politics, volunteerism in American governance, and the role of private benevolence in nation-building. Her path-breaking scholarship attends to the historical in understanding the contemporary and pushes us to recognize the deep interconnections between voluntary associations and the American state.

Her most recent book, *Civic Gifts: Voluntarism and the Making of the American Nation-State* addresses the seeming paradox of a powerful US state amidst a staunch culture of individualism, self-sufficiency, and anti-statist ideology. This historical analysis points to the social cohesion and connection developed through political gift giving, voluntarism, and philanthropy from which a powerful state arose. Delivered with characteristic depth and rigor, this work continues a legacy of empirical and theoretical advances that recast a socio-political landscape in ways that not only clarify the past, but also shed light on the conditions of today and how those conditions may propel us into potential futures.

We are delighted to recognize Elisabeth Clemens' legacy with the Distinguished Career Award.

OUTSTANDING PUBLISHED BOOK AWARD

Committee: David Melamed (Chair), James Cavendish, and Landon Schnabel

Dromi, Shai M. 2020. Above the Fray: The Red Cross and the Making of the Humanitarian NGO Sector. Chicago Press.
In Above the Fray, Shai M. Dromi delves into the emergence of the transnational field of humanitarian non-profit organizations in the 1860s, when the nascent Red Cross movement crafted the novel notion of impartiality, neutrality, and independence to provide humanitarian aid in international conflicts. Drawing on archival research at the International Committee of the Red Cross, personal repositories, and media archives, and on the memoirs of nineteenth-century and contemporary activists, Dromi shows how this notion was forged on the basis of nineteenth-century Swiss Calvinism and has continued to shape international humanitarian NGOs such as Doctors without Borders and Oxfam. By synthesizing Bourdieusian field analysis with the Strong Program in cultural sociology, Dromi delineates the "moral culture" that has sustained the beliefs and actions of humanitarian organizations for more than 150 years, a religiously inspired secular culture of morality that has provided a model of action in contexts of wars, catastrophes, and crises with a unique transnational legitimacy. This analysis allows Dromi to provide a diagnosis of the contemporary dilemmas of humanitarian organizations and the possible ways to overcome them.

OUTSTANDING PUBLISHED ARTICLE AWARD

Committee:Steve Benard (Chair), Jelena Golubovic, and Daniel Karrell

Bartram, Robin. 2021 "Cracks in Broken Windows: How Objects Shape Professional evaluation." *American Journal of Sociology* 126, no. 4: 759-794. This article theorizes the capacity of material objects to shape professional evaluations and disrupt correlations between sociodemographics, attitudes, and behavior. It focuses on two years of fieldwork with building inspectors in Chicago and seeks to make the connections to the ways materiality mediates evaluations and judgments.

Honorable Mention:

Frye, Margaret, and Anna Woźny. 2021. "Moralizing the Production and Sale of Student Papers in Uganda." *American Sociological Review 86, no. 3: 430-464.*

This article works to identify three groups of researchers—Knowledge Producers, Entrepreneurs, and Educators—who construct different professional identities and moral justifications of their trade, and who orient their market action accordingly. The approach of the article is intended to illuminate how institutional contexts and individual class positions within them influence producers' moral frameworks, leading to differentiation of the market.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

Committee: Bin Xu (Chair), Tirth Bhatta, and Kevin Estep

Laura Halcomb

"Crowdfunding a Life: How Relationships Shape Requests for Financial Assistance".

The paper addresses a new and interesting phenomenon that people use crowdfunding to seek financial help from strangers. The author asks two interesting questions: How do those help-seekers manage the social stigma? How do relationships shape justification for these financial requests? The paper draws on a content analysis of a massive number of GoFundMe campaigns and utilizes theoretical insights such as relational work to show the role of "third-party brokers." In plain English, if you want to raise money for your financial problems and also want to handle the stigma and trust issues, you need to have someone who you trust and other people trust to be your broker. The paper is outstanding for its solid data, in-depth analysis, and its theoretical significance for a few subfields, including the sociology of morality and economic sociology.

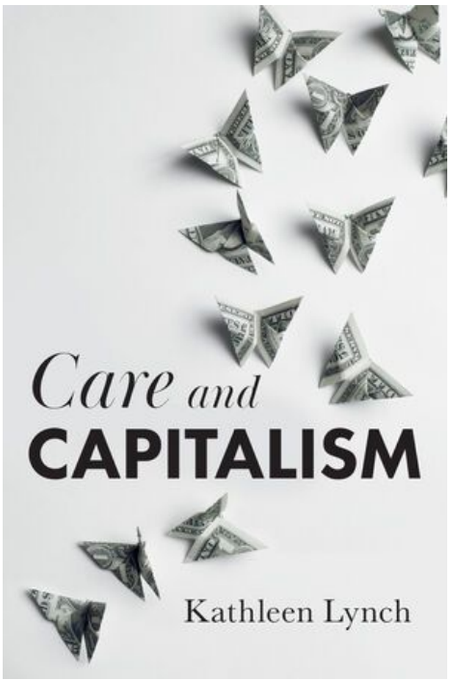
Honorable Mention:

Valentina Cantori

"Inclusive and Included? Practices of Civic Inclusivity of American Muslims in Los Angeles"

The paper starts with a counter-intuitive question: How do minority groups, particularly religious minorities, practice inclusivity in civic life, given that the prevalent discourse is always the opposite, the majority and mainstream try hard to be inclusive? The author draws on her ethnography in two Muslim groups in Los Angeles and identifies two practices of inclusivity: the inter-religious heritage and the shared ethics, which bridge religious differences between these two groups and other religious groups. The paper addresses some key issues in the literature of civil society and cultural sociology through an in-depth analysis of ethnographic data. It has been published in *Sociology of Religion*.

CARE AND CAPITALISM: WHY AFFECTIVE EQUALITY MATTERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



The logics and ethics of neoliberal capitalism dominate public discourses and politics in the early twenty-first century. They morally endorse and institutionalize forms of competitive self-interest that jettison social justice values, and are deeply antithetical to love, care and solidarity. But capitalism is neither invincible nor inevitable. While people are self-interested, they are not purely self-interested: they are bound affectively and morally to others, even to unknown others. The cares, loves and solidarity relationships within which people are engaged give them direction and purpose in their daily lives. They constitute cultural residuals of hope that stand ready to move humanity beyond a narrow capitalism-centric set of values. This book argues that care is a moral matter. It sets out to reclaim the language of love, care and solidarity both intellectually and politically and to place it at the heart of contemporary discourse. The goal is to help unseat capital at the gravitational centre of meaning making and value, thereby helping to create care, love and solidarity-led logics and ethical priorities for politics.

Capitalism Vs Care

Profit-oriented corporations own and control most of the world's productive resources and capacities. The human cost of the concentration of wealth among so few is unsustainable, something that became even more evident during the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to the proliferation of wars, forced migrations and starvation destroying so much of humanity. The book both documents and challenges the unethical ethics of neoliberal capitalism.

Because neoliberal capitalism provides a *normative* as well as an *analytical* framework for understanding the world, explaining it and prescribing how it should be, it has an ideological power that is deeply embedded culturally and politically. One of the aims of this book is to help create a counter-narrative to neoliberalism, one that does not simply critique its harms but helps challenge capitalocentric modes of thought and practice that have crowded out narratives of care and social justice in thinking about social change. Drawing on a wide range of sociological, feminist and general social scientific literature, *Care and Capitalism* makes a strong case for *carecentric* rather than *capitalocentric* politics.

To move beyond capitalocentric thinking, where meaning and value are overwhelmingly consumer-led rather than nurture-led, there is a need to recognise the inevitable vulnerabilities and inter/dependencies of the human condition, to recognise that people co-create each other, for good or bad, relationally. *Care and Capitalism* makes the case for a rethinking how we think about the human person. It explains why it matters to move beyond the non-relational, self-referential ontology that underpins neoliberalism's culture and politics. Given its focus on relational justice, the book is grounded in the work of those who have pioneered a more relational understanding of the human person in sociology. It is also a strongly interdisciplinary work, drawing on a diverse range of research about care and gender justice.

While humans are replete with contradictions, having the capacity to be altruistic and self-interested, kind and cruel, thoughtful and thoughtless, which dispositions are encouraged, developed and prioritized is contingent not only on their personal circumstances but also on the cultural and political values of their time. As Nancy Folbre observed several years ago, 'altruism does not emanate from our genes or fall from the sky. It is socially and culturally constructed, economically and politically reinforced.'

To challenge the *homo economicus* of neoliberalism, we must provide an alternative. The book does this by bringing the ideal of a caring (*homo curans*) and moral person to life intellectually. It extends the narrative about equality and social justice outside mainstream thinking about social change by placing the lifeworld of love, care and solidarity systems, in all its complexity, as a centre point of political, cultural and social resistance.

The book does not just document the harms and suffering promulgated by capitalism; it also identifies ways of challenging these through creating a new carecentric narrative than dislodges capitalocentric thinking. *Care and Capitalism* challenges the prevailing Hobbesian ethic of self-interest that dominates public discourse, thereby concealing the relationality and interdependence that is endemic to the human condition.

It is an engaging and hopeful sociological book. It will interest all of those who want to make the world a more socially and environmentally just, and caring place. It is also a book about resistance; neither neoliberalism nor capitalocentrism are invincible nor inevitable. The cares, loves and solidarity relationships within which people are engaged give them direction and purpose in their daily lives. They constitute *cultural residuals of hope* and act as potential sites for a *counter-movement* to the harming competitiveness of neoliberal capitalism.

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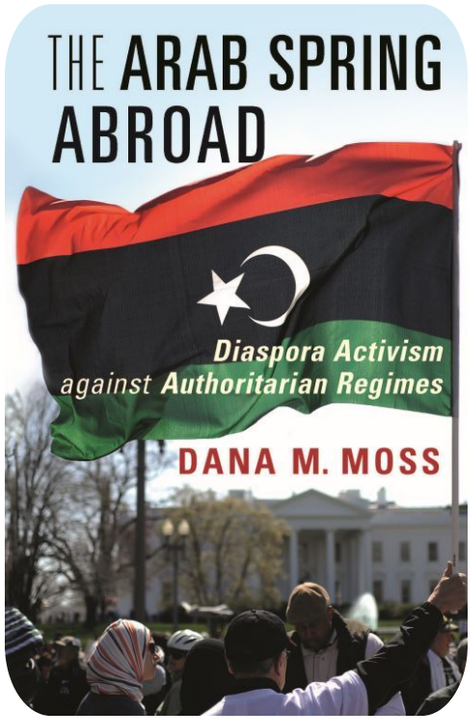
THE ARAB SPRING ABROAD: DIASPOA ACTIVISM AGAINST AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES BY DANA M. MOSS



In 2011, I watched on Al Jazeera Live as the "Arab Spring" revolutionary uprisings unfolded in real time in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. These movements not only reshaped the social and political terrain of the region; they also went global by mobilizing diasporas for change in their homelands. During this period, I began to wonder how anti-regime diaspora communities were mobilizing to support rebellion and relief in their home-countries – particularly in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, where the revolutions turned into prolonged crises that needed outside support. In the framework posed by theorist Albert Hirschman in his enduring work, Exit, Voice, and Loyalty (1970), when do diasporas gain a political "voice" after "exit?"

Searching for the answer took me from cities like Los Angeles and New York City, to London, Liverpool, and Tripoli, where I interviewed hundreds of diaspora activists from Libya, Syria, and Yemen. The book that emerged from this research, *The Arab Spring Abroad: Diaspora Activism Against Authoritarian Regimes* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), explains (1) when and how diaspora members mobilized to support anti-authoritarian causes in their home countries, and (2) why their interventions varied by diaspora (Libyan, Syrian, and Yemeni) and host country (the US and Great Britain).

During the political and humanitarian crises that unfolded during the Arab Spring, I found that diaspora activists in the United States and Britain did important and life-saving work to help their compatriots at home. For instance, they *broadcasted* information from areas in their homelands that were isolated from independent media and Internet access. Teams of youths, for instance, worked around the clock to update the world about the Libyan revolutionary uprising in Benghazi before outside journalists were on-site to report from the ground. Second, they *represented* revolutionary groups, either formally or informally, to policymakers and the media abroad. Some Syrian Americans and Syrian Britons, for instance, were deputized by Local Coordination Council resistance groups inside Syria to speak on their behalf and lobby for support. Third, they *brokered* between their home country compatriots and external supporters as interpreters, translators, and bridges between people fighting for their lives on the ground and outsiders who wanted to help, but who lacked the language skills and connections. Fourth, diaspora members *remitted* millions of dollars' worth of humanitarian supplies and other resources to the conflict, often funding initiatives that international donors would not or could not fund themselves. This was critical for keeping field hospitals running, vehicles fueled, and babies in diapers, literally. Fifth, they *volunteered on the ground* in many cases, staffing hospitals and trauma centers, working as journalists or as interpreters, volunteering to help internally displaced and outside refugees, writing grant proposals for donor aid, and more. Some even fought in these conflicts, and particularly in Libya, where the anti-Gaddafi war had external support.

THE ARAB SPRING ABROAD: DIASPORA ACTIVISM AGAINST AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES BY DANA M. MOSS (CONT'D)

During the Arab Spring, diaspora activists sometimes literally provided life-saving support to their co-nationals at home. However, not all anti-regime diaspora communities were equally well-advantaged to influence and stoke mobilization in their homelands. Rather, while Libyan communities from the US and Britain launched a full-spectrum and sustained intervention into the revolutionary war of 2011, Syrian interventions declined over time, and Yemeni mobilization remained weakly influential for its duration. What accounts for this variation? The book demonstrates that four major impediments can get in the way of diaspora activism against authoritarian regimes: (1) the *transnational repression* of diaspora groups by home country regimes, which seek to deter them from speaking out and causing trouble for regimes from abroad; (2) the *transmission of home country conflicts* to diaspora groups through their home country ties, which keep diaspora members divided and mistrustful; (3) a *shortage of resources* to channel homeward to home country allies; and (4) a *lack of geopolitical support* from outside powerholders, like the United States and Great Britain, who sometimes acted to block diaspora activism when they associated it with the so-called war on terror. I show that the four conditions discussed above intersect to fuel diaspora activism in some cases and undermine it in others, even during periods when diaspora engagement in resistance and humanitarian crises is badly needed at home.

Major contributions here: This book is the culmination of many years of research on diaspora activism, as well as previous work I have written on the subject of *transnational repression*. Transnational repression refers to the ways in which home-country regimes seek to deter, suppress, and punish criticism from diaspora communities and exiles. They do so in a number of ways, including through surveillance, by issuing threats, cancelling passports and student scholarships, issuing 'Red Notices' through Interpol, and through attacks and assassinations. The latter occurred in 2018 in Istanbul by the Saudi regime, which sent a hit squad to murder Saudi exile and journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Regimes also engage in what I call "proxy punishment," which refers to the punishment of non-activist family and friends in their home country; imagine having your mother or father interrogated and imprisoned simply because you spoke out at a rally, or condemned a regime on social media. These tactics are widely used by authoritarian governments across the world today, and not just by the Gaddafi and Assad regimes. My next book publication will be a co-edited volume with Saipira Furstenberg, PhD, on transnational repression in the Middle Eastern region and beyond.

The Arab Spring Abroad won three section awards from the American Sociological Association in 2022, and is available to download for free, courtesy of Cambridge University Press' 'Flip It Open' program.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Outstanding Published Book Award ***Deadline:*** **March 1, 2023**
Contact: **Philip Gorski - Yale University**

The Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the ASA is seeking nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Published Book Award. This award is given annually to the author(s) of a theoretical analysis, research monograph, or reader published in the last five years (2018-2022) that increases knowledge and understanding of altruism, morality, and/or social solidarity. Nominations must include the book itself and a brief statement regarding the merits of the book. Self-nominations are welcome. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a current AMSS section member. Send the nomination letter and a PDF of the book, with the subject line AMSS 2023 Book Award Nomination to the Committee Chair: Phil Gorski, philip.gorski@yale.edu

Distinguished Career Award ***Deadline:*** **March 1, 2023**
Contact: **Jan Stets - University of California at Riverside**

The Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the ASA is seeking nominations for the 2023 Distinguished Career Award. This award is given annually to a person who has made a number of significant contributions to the study of altruism, morality, and/or social solidarity over an extended period of time. It is intended to recognize a senior scholar's cumulative achievements. Nominations should include a brief description of the career contributions that make the candidate deserving of the award. Self-nominations are welcome. Please send nominations, with the subject line AMSS 2023 Distinguished Career Award Nomination to the Committee Chair: Jan Stets, jan.stets.@ucr.edu

Outstanding Published Article Award ***Deadline:*** **March 1, 2023**
Contact: **Shai Dromi - Harvard University**

The Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the ASA is seeking nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Published Article Award. This award is given annually to the author(s) of a peer-reviewed research or theoretical journal article published in the last three years (2020 - present) that increases knowledge and understanding of altruism, morality, and/or social solidarity. Nominations must include a PDF copy of the article and a brief statement regarding the merits of the article. Self-nominations are welcome. Multiple authored papers are eligible for the award. Co-author teams involving graduate students are eligible if the paper is not also under review for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a current AMSS section member. Send nominations, with the subject line AMSS 2023 Article Award Nomination to the Committee Chair: Shai Dromi - shai.dromi@g.harvard.edu

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award ***Deadline:*** **March 1, 2023**
Contact: **Paul Joosse -- University of Hong Kong**

The Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the ASA is seeking nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. This award is given annually to the author(s) of a research or theoretical paper that increases knowledge and understanding of altruism, morality, and/or social solidarity and that has been (a) presented at a regional, national, or international professional meeting, or (b) published, or submitted for publication, in a journal during the two preceding calendar years (2021-2022). Authors of eligible papers must be graduate students at the time of the paper submission. Multiple authored papers are eligible for the award if all authors are graduate students. Self-nominations are welcome. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a current AMSS section member. Please send nominations, with the subject line AMSS 2023 Graduate Paper Award Nomination, by March 1, 2023 to the Committee Chair: Paul Joosse, pjoosse@hku.hk

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers: Special issue "Solidarity in Theory and Practice" Journal of Social Encounters August 2023
Abstracts Deadline: April 1, 2023

Deadline for abstracts April 1, 2023. Please send an abstract of 150-200 words by April 1, 2023 to Dr. Ron Pagnucco ,JSE Coordinating Editor, at rpagnucco@csbsju.edu. Feedback on the abstract will be provided in one-two weeks. (Please note that essays not on the special issue theme of solidarity will be considered for publication).

Description of the Special Issue:

We come across many uses of the word “solidarity” today -- ethnic solidarity, worker solidarity, solidarity with the poor, global solidarity – the list goes on. Some analysts discuss solidarity in an empirical, descriptive way, as the degree of unity in a group or between groups. Others focus on solidarity as a moral duty of support for for those experiencing some type of difficulty. As used in much of the scholarly literature, the concept of solidarity often includes a descriptive (empirical) dimension and/or moral (normative) dimension.

Our working definition of solidarity for this special issue includes both empirical and moral/normative dimensions. Drawing from the scholarly literature, we define solidarity as a certain type of relationship that has the following components: the relationship is seen by its participants as being one of interdependence and unity; in which there is shared identity, interests, feelings of belonging (a “we feeling”) and mutual moral obligations and behaviors. One way to determine with whom we see ourselves in solidarity is to answer the questions: “Should we support them? Should we support us?” The “us” is our solidary group, or “in-group.” The “them” is an “out-group” with which we do not share solidarity. Behaviors towards one's in-groups and outgroups usually vary in negative ways (hostility. indifference) and positive ways (concern, altruism). Exactly who “them” is, and what, if any, moral obligations we have to “them” often is a topic of much debate within solidary groups and among scholars. How exclusive or inclusive a solidary group is can also be a topic of debate. For further information, contact Dr. Ron Pagnucco, JSE Coordinating Editor, rpagnucco@csbsju.edu

Possible essay topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Conceptualizations of solidarity in the humanities, including literature, ethics, philosophy, and religious studies.
2. Conceptualizations of solidarity in the social/behavioral sciences.
3. Empirical studies of solidarity including case studies and quantitative studies.
4. Solidarity Ethics.
5. Solidarity, inclusion/exclusion, and in-grouping/out-grouping.
6. Solidarity, social cohesion and the common good.
7. Solidarity, libertarianism and communitarianism.
8. Solidarity, human rights. and social justice.
9. Solidarity, allyship, coalitions. and social movements.
10. Levels of solidarity: local, national, regional, global.
11. How solidarity is built/barriers to solidarity.
12. Solidarity, bonding, bridging and linking.
13. Social, economic and/or political structures and policies of solidarity in theory/practice.
14. Solidarity, conflict and peacebuilding.
15. Solidarity and non-European cultural conceptualizations of belonging/interdependence, such as the African cultural concept of Ubuntu.

2023 Junior Theorists Symposium--Call for Papers

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1st, 11:59pm Eastern Time
The 17th Junior Theorists Symposium (JTS) is now open to new submissions. The JTS is a conference featuring the work of emerging sociologists engaged in theoretical work, broadly defined. Sponsored in part by the Theory Section of the ASA, the conference has provided a platform for the work of early-career sociologists since 2005. We especially welcome submissions that broaden the practice of theory beyond its traditional themes, topics, and disciplinary function. The symposium will be held as an in-person event on Thursday, August 17 prior to the 2023 ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

It is our honor to announce that Claire Decoteau (University of Illinois-Chicago), Greta Krippner (University of Michigan), and Victor Ray (University of Iowa) will serve as discussants for this year's symposium. Daniel Hirschman (Cornell University), winner of the 2022 Junior Theorist Award, will deliver a keynote address. Finally, the symposium will include an after-panel titled "Why Theorize?" This panel will seek to bring serious scholars, thinkers, and doers into conversation to explore convergences, tensions, and a range of possible responses to the question: why theorize?

We invite all ABD graduate students, recent PhDs, postdocs, and assistant professors who received their PhDs from 2019 onwards to submit up to a three-page précis (800-1000 words). The précis should include the key theoretical contribution of the paper and a general outline of the argument. Visit the Junior Theorists Symposium website to learn more.

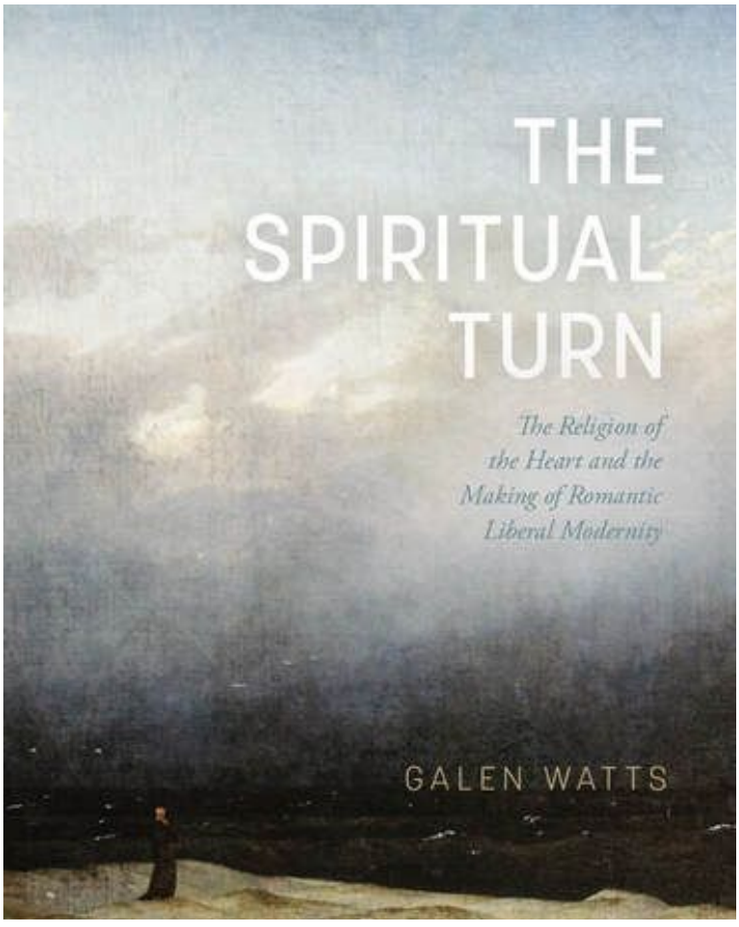
Please note that the précis must be for a paper that is not under review or forthcoming at a journal. As in previous years, there is no pre-specified theme for the conference. Papers will be grouped into sessions based on emergent themes and discussants' areas of interest and expertise. We invite submissions from all substantive areas of sociology, we especially encourage papers that are works-in-progress and would benefit from the discussions at JTS.

Please remove all identifying information from your précis and submit it via the Google form linked above. Wendy Li (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Jon Shaffer (Johns Hopkins University) will review the anonymized submissions. You can also contact them at juniortheorists@gmail.com with any questions. By early April, we will extend 9 invitations to present at JTS 2023. Please plan to share a full paper by July 7, 2023.
If you have any issues uploading your document, please send a copy of your précis with all identifying information removed to juniortheorists@gmail.com. Please include your name and affiliation (University and Department) in the body of the email.
*Presenters should plan to attend in-person, though this may change based on the Covid-19 pandemic.

AMSS PODCAST:

The Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity communications team has been recording interviews with scholars for a podcast series on works relevant to the section and the scholars who produce them. We are pleased to partner with Anchor.fm by Spotify to host our interviews and make them more accessible to our members.

Visit our site at https://anchor.fm/amss. to listen to conversations with section leaders Penny Egdell, Bin Xu, David Melamed and more. If you are interested in talking about your own research exploring altruism, morality, and social solidarity reach out to a member of the Communications team!



In *The Spiritual Turn: The Religion of the Heart and the Making of Romantic Liberal Modernity*, Galen Watts embarks on a project of lumping where others have been splitting by identifying the underlying unity of the turn toward "spirituality" in the West. In this interview, AMSS member Kerby Goff and Galen Watts explore the significance of this underlying unity and its relevance for understanding contemporary religion and current political debates about the role of religion in liberal democracies. You can find the audio for this interview on spotify at the following address: https://open.spotify.com/episode/2VqkS3d6TeHyalCNIU8CwD?si=PMnwaH6qS06TCYVJ6dzA1w

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Social Love and the Critical Potential of People. When the Social Reality Challenges the Sociological Imagination", Edited By Silvia Cataldi, Gennaro Iorio, Routledge, with a chapter of mine and Fabrizio Martire, "Universal is plural", and chapters by Sari Hanafi, Adrian Scribano, Alain Caillé and many others...

This book unveils the concept of social love as a kind of "Karst River" that flows through the history of sociology, reassessing it as a form criticism by people in everyday life. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, this book offers both theoretical and empirical reflections on social love. It shows that love is not only central to the human experience, but that it can also help to interpret and intervene in social problems such as climate change, poverty, xenophobia, and the (post-)Covid crisis, recognizing people as actors in social change. It explores the idea of love as a key element in the promotion of solidarity and recognition in today's plural and unequal societies. Based on empirical research on social love conducted through both qualitative and quantitative methods, especially in Europe and Latin America, this book explores the social dimension of love. Providing overviews on key questions and studies on current issues, the book is essential reference and resource for researchers, students, social workers, and professionals in social sciences, social philosophy, anthropology, social psychology, sociology of emotions and postmodern literature.

More information at https://www.routledge.com/Social-Love-and-the-Critical-Potential-of-People-When-the-Social-Reality/Cataldi-Iorio/p/book/9781032107820

Roma Minority Youth across Cultural Contexts: Taking a Positive Approach to Research, Policy and Practice, Edited by Radosveta Dimitrova, David Lackland Sam, and Laura Ferrer Wreder. Oxford University Press;

This book explores Positive Youth Development (PYD) in Roma ethnic minority youth. Standing apart from current volumes, this book focuses on the Roma ethnic minority — one of the most marginalized and oppressed minority groups in Europe — and on strengths and resources for optimal well-being in the community. The international and multidisciplinary contributors to this book address the complexities of Roma life in a variety of cultural settings, exploring how key developmental processes and person-context interactions can contribute to optimal and successful adaptation. The conclusions clarify how the PYD of ethnic minority children and youth may be fostered based on the empirical findings reported in the volume. The book draws on core theoretical models of PYD and theories of normative development from the perspective of developmental science to highlight the applicability of these frameworks to Roma groups. With a special focus on cultural, contextual, and socio-economic characteristics of Roma, this project also aims to provide a better understanding of what does and what does not contribute to the success of youth in oppressed minority groups.

https://global.oup.com/academic/product/roma-minority-youth-across-cultural-contexts-9780190654061?cc=it&lang=en&#

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