

ACCOUNTS

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GREETINGS FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear Colleagues:

Sociologists are descending on Las Vegas aiming at giving the lie to that city's motto that what happens there, stays there. On the contrary, we collectively aim at making these meetings yield consequences that go well beyond the Caesar's Palace grounds and its festive surroundings. Economic sociologists will be at the forefront of this enterprise and this third and final issue of *Accounts* for 2011-11 provides a down payment: the issue gives you full coverage of the ample set of activities sponsored by the Economic Sociology Section at the forthcoming meetings and it ushers the incoming Section chair, Wally Powell, with a detailed interview on his work and views.

This issue, like the two preceding ones, comes to you courtesy of an editorial collective at Princeton University integrated by graduate students David Pedulla, Rourke O'Brien and Victoria Reyes. I would like to thank them for their high-quality work and for the enthusiasm with which they have collectively tackled this demanding enterprise.

As your outgoing chair, I would also like to thank the committee chairs and members and the session organizers who have contributed so much to the Section's growth and its intellectual vitality. In particular, I recognize the membership committee co-chairs, Nina Bandelj and Alya Gusseva, who labored mightily at

the beginning of the year to insure sufficient numbers so that the Section would be granted additional slots in the 2011 ASA Program.

The Section is in good shape. Its membership surpassed eight hundred by the end of June and the number of submissions to open sessions and roundtables in these meetings vastly exceeded our expectations. Much of this work is devoted to scrutinizing the micro-foundations and dynamics of markets and other economic institutions, but there is also considerable interests in the political economy of global inequality and the recurrent crises of the capitalist economy. As I pen these lines, the manufactured Great Recession of 2007-08 is still with us and the American economy teeters at the brink of default thanks to the ideological obstinacy and short-term vision of some. Plenty of material for researchers schooled on the dynamics of power and on the unanticipated consequences of rational action.



-Alejandro Portes

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE OF *ACCOUNTS*

The final issue of *Accounts* for 2010-2011 focuses on institutions and the State.

We begin by presenting an interview with Walter W. Powell, Professor of Education, Sociology and Organizational Behavior at Stanford University, and the 2011-2012 Chair of the Economic Sociology section. The interview explores challenges facing institutional theorists today.

This is followed by a short essay by Donald Light who makes the case for increased sociological analysis of so-called markets for lemons.

Next, we review *Divided By Borders*, by Joanna Dreby, a qualitative study that examines the meanings and experiences of families separated by migration.

Finally, we shine our spotlight on the

2011 Ronald Burt Student Paper Award recipients and highlight Section activities at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the ASA.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Accounts*. Please send any comments you have to: rourkeo@princeton.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at ASA in Las Vegas!

- The *Accounts* Editorial Board

THE MICRO MOTORS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION

An Interview with Walter W. Powell

BY ALEX THAM

Walter W. Powell, Professor of Education, Sociology and Organizational Behavior at Stanford University, has researched and written about institutions for more than 30 years and is no stranger to the challenges facing institutional theory today. He is also the upcoming chair of the ASA's Economic Sociology section. As befits the theme of this issue of Accounts, Professor Powell kindly shared with us his views on the future of institutional analysis as well as his current research.

Alex Tham: In a recent article with Jeannette Colyvas (2008), you noted that institutional analysis tends to focus on large-scale factors and that there is a need to address this imbalance with more attention on the “micro motors” of institutionalization. Could you elaborate on this?

Walter Powell: Our article on micro-foundations was motivated, in part, because most writing on institutions resembles a play that begins with the second act, and takes the plot and narrative as an accomplished fact. So we get much about social construction, but very little about how institutions arise. Their origins are typically opaque, even with studies of diffusion. So rather than going about the research only after the dust has settled, we suggest that people should look at where the dust came from and why it settled in particular places.

To do that, we need more qualitative and historical research. I am a big fan of archival materials, and have used them in research on the origins of the commercial ethos in research universities in work with Jeannette Colyvas. More recently, with Kurt Sandholtz, we have looked at the founding moments of the

very first biotechnology firms back in the 1970s, drawing on materials produced at the time.

When we pursue this work, we find that small events, unexpected decisions, and debates over appropriateness loom large. Contests over the meaning of actions are always present in these small

“ONE GOAL OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE TOOLS THAT HELP PEOPLE ANALYZE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH NEW LINES OF ACTION ARE PURSUED.”

moments. Conceptually, work of this sort needs a micro motor and I find ideas from ethnomethodology, Berger and Luckmann, and Karl Weick most useful. Perhaps readers from differing viewpoints have been drawn to our microfoundations paper because it is rather capacious and open to divergent lines of inquiry. But I also think there is a genuine turn and interest in analyzing how institutions are constructed, rather than just assuming they are a social construction.

AT: You mentioned the role of “small events, unexpected decisions, and debates over appropriateness” in institutional processes. This reminds me of the pragmatist model of action where problem situations, instead of a fixed preference ordering, provide various lines of action for the actor to pursue (Whitford 2002). How can institutional theory complement such a model of action?

WP: I think there is a lot of work under way that is trying to rethink agency, making it less instrumental and heroic, and more focused on routines and skills.

There was an excellent session on pragmatism organized by Neil Gross at last fall's Social Science History meetings in which Ann Mische was especially thoughtful in painting a picture of skillful action in ambiguous contexts. Ann Orlov's SSHA Presidential Address on how to recast explanations of power and retheorize agency was particularly good as well.

One goal of institutional analysis should be to provide tools that help people analyze circumstances in which new lines of action are pursued. We can think of all kinds of ways in which people create, recast, or disrupt institutions, but they rarely do so without using tools and schemas with which they are familiar. These tools and schemas get repurposed, to be sure, but such efforts are much less muscular than most research seems to assume. I have been pretty critical of the literature on institutional entrepreneurship for precisely that reason. It seems to sample on the dependent variable and tell ‘just so’ stories about movements or actors who are successful at disruption without much consideration of the microprocesses that are involved. The framing literature in social movement research is useful, but I'd like to see more on where frames come from, and why they are efficacious under particular circumstances.

AT: Perhaps one way to address your critique of the literature on institutional entrepreneurship is to recognize the role of ambiguity in innovation. You've written that some institutional settings are “rife with multiple logics” that give “considerable latitude for human agency and interpretation” (Powell and Colyvas 2008:277). Is there such a thing as institutionalized ambiguity? Is it important to distinguish between ambiguity and uncertainty?

(continued on next page)

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER W. POWELL (CONT'D)

WP: I like this question a lot. I do think certain moments are pregnant with multiple possibilities. I tend to think of this as cognition in the wild, in which lots of possible pathways are available and the setting is one in which there are several ways in which things could go. I think that is the key difference between ambiguity and uncertainty. Uncertainty is a setting in which the road map isn't clear. Ambiguity is a setting where there are a number of possible roads but it is not obvious which one to take.

I often use the example of a meeting that became the basis for the founding of one of the first biotech companies, Genentech. A young, budding, twenty-something entrepreneur, Bob Swanson, contacted an associate professor, Herbert Boyer, at the University of California—San Francisco. Boyer was co-author on one of the early landmark papers on gene splicing. It was a cold call, and Boyer asked Swanson how he got his name. Swanson replied that he was using the list of

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attendees at a recent Asilomar conference in which scientists had gathered to discuss how to self-regulate their research on genetic engineering. Boyer quickly replied, “So Stanford biochemist Paul Berg turned you down.” He recognized that Swanson’s scheme was simply to go down the list of attendees alphabetically. Boyer said he would meet Swanson on a Friday at 4:45. Think for a moment about what meeting someone at 4:45 means. I often ask audiences to do this reflection, and it is fascinating to see the different array of answers. Some say, well you have only 15 minutes. Others say I don’t want my colleagues to see me meeting with him. Still others say if the meeting goes well we can go get a drink. I

remind them how difficult it is to park in San Francisco, and a 4:45 appointment really tests someone’s mettle. The point is that meeting time could be read in many ways, perhaps most naturally that I am a busy scientist and an end of the day appointment allows me to pay attention to things that matter, that is, science, and not be interrupted. As it happened, they talked for a long time, and Swanson told Boyer that he could get him some modest money for his research. Boyer took the then very unusual step of saying he would take the money and they would do some trial experiments that, if they worked, might be the basis for creating a company. Seen in one light, Boyer was a rule-breaker and what he was doing was highly transgressive, but he was also thinking about this new activity through a very old-fashioned set of lenses; that is, he thought this might be a faster and easier way to get funding for his postdocs, as the politics around genetic engineering had tied up grants at the NIH. To me this is a rich example to think about because it illustrates the ways in which professional identity and work-related demands condition how new opportunities are framed.

AT: It seems that much of the research on institutions requires delineating the institutional boundaries within which action and meaning are taken-for-granted. What methodological advice would you give to sociologists who wish to study institutions and their boundaries?

WP: The boundary question is a good one. Paul DiMaggio and I tried to make clear in our Iron Cage paper (1983) that understanding the boundaries of fields is an empirical question, in which it is necessary to study patterns of communication, structures of affiliation, and status hierarchies. But if I pick up on the idea of traffic across social worlds from symbolic interactionists, I think the critical area for current research is to study what Cal Morrill called the interstices, the space where different social domains intersect or overlap. John Padgett and I are very interested in the

recombinations that occur when ideas and practices are moved from one domain into another where they are alien and not initially recognized. Most such transpositions fail because they are not taking place on safe ground. But even failures can generate fresh action, overcoming what Harrison White called the “inherent lethargy of social life.”

John Levi Martin doesn’t explicitly talk about institutions in his book *Social Structures* (2009), but he makes a valuable point that shows keen awareness of an insight of Harrison’s. Social structures are decomposable into simple components. We can then think about how those components are assembled or concatenate in varied ways. When components from one domain are carried into another, the kind of reactions that occur to such movements tell us a lot about where the taken-for-granted boundaries of a field are.

Back in 1977, in their classic article, Mike Hannan and John Freeman commented that churches don’t operate gas stations. I am at an unusual university where the university has both a shopping mall and a gas station on the campus, but it is in some sense the exception that proves the rule. Visitors who come to the campus always remark how unusual it is to see a shopping mall and a gas station on the campus. Hannan and Freeman, of course, thought about such issues in terms of niche space and competition for resources, but it is also important to think about these ideas with respect to taken-for-granted expectations about what practices and activities are appropriate in particular domains. The controversy around Google becoming the world’s electronic library is one such example. Public libraries have always been the most anti-capitalist of institutions and now a private firm, no matter how well-intentioned or not, proposes to be that public library.

AT: I’m reminded of James Coleman’s famous “boat diagram” (1990) when we speak of moving back and forth between multiple levels of analysis in the study of institutions. Would you

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER W. POWELL (CONT'D)

say that institutions are aggregates of individual actions, as methodological individualists might, or do they have unique “social facts” of their own?

WP: No, no, no! Institutions are not mere aggregations, as some conceptions of them would have it. They have collective properties for a number of reasons. Long ago, in his masterful *Constructing Social Theories* (1968), Art Stinchcombe emphasized that the people and social forces involved in creating institutions are not the same as the social forces and individuals involved in maintaining them. The two need to be separately analyzed. Second, there are all kinds of ways in which social practices have tipping or cascade effects. I often draw on one of my favorite social theorists, Yogi Berra, who quipped about a popular New York restaurant – Sardi’s – that “nobody goes there anymore; it’s too crowded.” That line very nicely captures the kind of nonlinear dynamics that simple aggregation arguments miss. There is another wonderful Yogi Berra quote – “it gets late early out there.” He was talking about shadows in the outfield, but you can also think about the myriad ways in which the early trajectory of institutional development has a powerful effect in foreclosing certain directions. So no, I don’t think of institutions as the sum of individual choices, as Jim Coleman did.

AT: We’d love to know more about your current and future projects. Would you mind telling us what’s on your research radar at the moment?

WP: The big current task is to complete a book with John Padgett called *The Emergence of Organizations and Markets*. We hope to finish it this July and Princeton University Press will bring it out next year. We have been at this project for almost a decade, through our engagement with the Santa Fe Institute. But it just keeps growing! It is wildly ambitious, but we believe that novelty is not well understood in the social sciences or the sciences at large. We have lots of useful theories about how people choose alternatives, but only once those alternatives are within our field of vision. We are tackling the invention of new alternatives, that

is, where do new ideas, practices, organizational forms, and kinds of actors come from. The social sciences are pretty good at understanding selection and equilibrium, but we do not understand the emergence of what we choose or who we are. We develop a set of mechanisms that are useful in explaining emergence across very different historical circumstances. Our core approach is to look at the intersection of multiple networks and examine how those collisions and laminations create the possibility for novelty, and how such moments have catalytic effects by transforming the domains from which they came.

My other project is in a much more nascent stage, and more conventional. A group of graduate students and I are examining the origins and spread of metrics of accountability in the nonprofit sector in the U.S. and abroad, especially in the international development field. We are curious to account for the rapid growth of a lingua franca around outcome measurement, strategic philanthropy, and social impact assessment. This project reflects my longstanding passion for combining network and institutional analyses. Our colleague, Achim Oberg at Mannheim, has developed a webcrawler that lets us trace the network of hyperlinks on websites, and we look at documents on webpages to examine the depth and spread of this accountability logic.

AT: Finally, as the upcoming chair of the ASA Economic Sociology section do you have a particular vision for the section in mind after you take office?

WP: Nothing grand. It is a healthy section. I do want to try to connect the sessions at the annual meeting with Eric Olin Wright’s program theme on real utopias. In the newsletter, I’d like to bring attention to research on international migration and knowledge transfer, also work at the intersection of economic geography and network analysis, the sociology of finance, etc. I’d love to start a conversation about what I call welfare state 2.0, where fresh ideas about the role of the state, social

justice, and employment opportunity are considered. And given the state of research universities in the U.S., it would be useful to bring the insights of economic sociology to the study of higher education.

AT: Thank you for your time!

WP: Thank you for the fascinating questions!

Alex Tham is a second year doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at Princeton University.

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EXPANDING ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY INTO MARKETS FOR 'LEMONS'

BY DONALD W. LIGHT

Markets for lemons, in which customers suspect they might get a product or service with hidden flaws and sellers profit from not telling what they know, are a theoretically rich but unexplored domain for economic sociologists. Their asymmetries of information and power elicit practices of deception and manipulation that lead to legal challenges and governance issues. Power is used in multiple ways, and Portes's (2000) theme of hidden abodes lurk in market interactions.

A good starting point is the highly influential article, "The Market for 'Lemons': Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism" by George Akerlof in 1970, for which he shared the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001. The article discusses markets in which sellers know more about the flaws in the product than buyers and can profit from not disclosing them or dismissing their importance. A good wax job covers up a bent frame: "Ain't she a beauty?"

Akerlof's core theory is that when quality is hard to observe, sellers of inferior products will drive out sellers of superior products because the latter cannot get their full value in such a market. This sets in motion a downward spiral with "...the bad driving out the not-so-bad, driving out the medium, driving out the not-so-good, driving out the good in such a sequence of events that no market exists at all" (p. 490). Using several examples, he illustrates this dynamic and points out that dishonest dealings drive out

honest dealings. Counteracting institutions include guarantees, licensing, and brand names as an indication of quality.

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There is a rich lode for economic sociologists to mine here. How do actors in markets characterized by sellers' information asymmetry think, feel, and behave? How do market characteristics and actors' behavior differ in the short run ("Do I really need surgery, and should I let this surgeon operate on me?") compared to the longer run of personal, organizational, or institutional strategies for coping with the asymmetries? In my research, organizations create private forms of law to defend themselves and to force reductions in asymmetries. At another level, lawsuits and legislature challenge harmful practices in ways that change market parameters.

The first key move is to liberate oneself from Akerlof's particular theory, because several of its claims and assumptions I find are empirically incomplete or incorrect. For example, he does not explain how sellers and buyers know there is a lemons problem in the first place, or consider how lemons markets come about. He assumes or asserts that prices adjust downward to reflect

the perceived probability that a buyer will overpay for a lemon, but my research finds cases where they do not. If the Blue Book price for your car is \$4750, how do you know your pampered cream puff is worth more? And why should a buyer think you should be paid more for it?

Moreover, owners of pampered cars cannot escape the lemons problem. If they place a private ad, they simply create a mini lemons market, where anyone who responds faces the same problem: can I trust this owner to honestly tell me about hidden problems with his car?

Akerlof also assumes that dishonest dealings drive out honest ones. In some markets characterized by information asymmetry, however, dishonest dealers prevail for years. Why does that happen and what sustains semi-lemons markets for years?

A Thriving, Harmful Lemons Market

I have been investigating one of the largest markets for lemons in the world – pharmaceuticals. Quality is hard to observe, and information asymmetry prevails; yet first-class drugs stay in the market, side by side with scores of drugs that offer few benefits and have hidden risks of harm. All manufacturers claim that their drugs are better and play down or hide risks of harm, both for drugs that have killed more people than died in the Vietnam war and for drugs that have killed no one. Documented cases of dishonest

MARKETS FOR 'LEMONS' (CON'T)

dealings that keep being repeated include designing clinical trials so evidence of serious harm known before the trials begins is not gathered, manipulating the placebo effect so a drug looks more effective, using statistical techniques to dismiss evidence when it shows up, ghost-managing which trial results will be published and which will not, and sculpting the messages told to physicians in one-on-one personal visits by friendly sales reps who have a monthly budget to spend on them. These are being countered by organizational changes and laws that require well-designed trials, full disclosure of data and analysis, and prescribing based on independent measures of effectiveness.

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Despite these and other reforms, prescription drugs have become the 4th leading cause of death, account for 1.5 hospitalizations a year, and constitute an epidemic of 46 million adverse events a year – a market rife with lemons, especially when you consider that 85 percent of new drugs offer few or no offsetting advantages and 20 percent will cause enough serious harm to get a Black Box warning or be withdrawn (Light 2010). How do such partial-lemons equilibria sustain themselves over time? Contrary to Akerlof's

specific theory of how markets for lemons work, companies *raise* prices, even on me-too drugs, and superior drugs do not leave the market, because there is nowhere else to go.

Good Sociological Research Needed

There are many kinds of markets for lemons waiting to be studied. The mortgage market, in which sellers went about systematically creating millions of lemons loans with hidden triggers, would be an example. How do societal "fixes" vary from one kind of market and societal oversight to another? To what degree does regulatory capture or seller circumventions characterize those fixes? Professions are another cluster of potential markets for lemons because of information asymmetries. Professional training, licensing, certifications, and an ethic of honest service are used to assure clients they will not be victims of flawed or dangerous service. Yet it is patients' physicians who write the millions of prescriptions for new drugs with few advantages but risks of harm, and a large majority report getting their medical information from sales reps and taking favors from drug companies. This implies an interesting market structure, a two-tiered market for lemons in which patients rely on doctors to prescribe only safe, effective drugs, and doctors in turn rely on company sales reps, company-managed journal articles, and company-retained leaders in each specialty to tell them about hidden risks as well as benefits so that they can prescribe well.

There are other kinds of markets for lemons. Empirically, one of the first tasks is to flesh out Akerlof's comment about distinguishing between new and pre-owned products that can be plums or lemons. New-product lemons, when often the manufacturer and dealer do not know there are flaws in some units, differ in market structure and behaviors. A decade of theoretical and empirical work awaits.

Donald W. Light is teaching at Stanford as the Lokey visiting professor this fall. He is professor at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey and a researcher at Princeton. He would like to thank Cristobal Young for astute, critical comments.

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REVIEW OF *DIVIDED BY BORDERS: MEXICAN MIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN*

BY VICTORIA REYES

This edition of *Accounts* centers on the relationship between the state and the economy, and in this article we review an ethnography that sheds light into the reverberating consequences of state immigration policies at the micro-scale. In her book, *Divided by Borders* (2010), Joanna Dreby pulls upon the literature on family, migration, and gender to explore the meanings and experiences of families separated by migration, and the re-negotiation of what it means to be “family.”

Dreby’s work is a multi-method ethnography based on four years of data collection including: seven months of fieldwork in Mexico, in-depth interviews with twelve families, original surveys of Mexican school students, drawings of children age 6 and under, as well as 165 formal interviews consisting of 45 migrant parents, 60 children, 37 caregivers, and 23 teachers and administrators. This rich data allows Dreby to delve into how the migration of a family member is negotiated based on *who* migrates and *why*, and the ways in which children perceive and respond to the departure of a parent. This account is what Dreby calls a “domestic ethnography.”

Dreby seeks to reframe the dialogue of transnational migrants from that of a homogenous class of people to one in which the diversity of migrants is highlighted and explored (p. 33). Central to this

variation is her purposeful selection of her twelve main families – which consists of married fathers and single mothers who migrate alone, as well as mothers and fathers whom migrate together – and her emphasis on different types of caregivers: maternal/paternal grandparents and other relatives. She wants to disentangle how these varied family structures impact children differently based upon age and gender.

One of the key theoretical contributions of *Divided by Borders* is the relational account of the family, where family conflict and negotiations can only be understood holistically. Parent-child relationships cannot be understood without reference to the parental relationship, and caregiver-child relationships can only be understood within the context of the caregiver-parent relationship. The core of her argument – that migration has differential effects based on relationships – guides her analysis of the meanings attached to migration.

Another key contribution is Dreby’s dialogue with scholars purporting a “culture of migration.” Culture of migration scholars argue that parents pass on pro-migration attitudes and values to their children, thus continuing a cycle of migration (as cited in Dreby: p. 253); however, Dreby complicates this view by showing how migration “arises out of a combination of life course changes, children’s experiences of power in their families during separation and the lack of educational and professional opportunities available to children in Mexico” (p.

142). She shows how *structure* matters, particularly since she finds that children often initially hold negative attitudes towards migration (p. 264).

Much of *Divided by Borders* focuses on gifts and the tangled web of finances that migrants send to their children’s caregivers, and it is these sections of the book that I think could be improved by engagement with the recent theoretical contributions rising out of the economic sociology literature. Dreby highlights how migrants purposefully try to avoid signaling their relationships with their children and caregivers as based purely on economics (p. 26). Although she does not use these terms, she uses a “separate spheres/hostile worlds” approach, which views intimacy and economic transactions as incompatible (Zelizer 2005). I believe a *relational* approach that highlights the ways in which people actively match transactions and media with their relationships would be fruitful.

More specifically, this view would strengthen Dreby’s analysis of the gift giving between parents and children. In a conversation between myself and the author in November 2010, Dreby says that the parents did not want to talk about what gifts they gave or how much money they sent because they did not want to emphasize the parent-child relationship as economical. I wonder instead if the parents are aware of the mismatch (e.g. Barbie dolls as gifts for a 12 year-old daughter) and are

DIVIDED BY BORDERS (CONT'D)

uncomfortable talking about it because either they don't know the current interests of their children, and/or perhaps the gifts they give are purposefully chosen in order to construct an image of the life they live in the United States. Perhaps each gift is made based on *who* it's given to and what message they intend, since gifts can be a part of moral economies (Fourcade and Healy 2007) and shape relations (Zelizer 1997).

Furthermore, I believe that Dreby's work would be strengthened by engaging more in household economies literatures (e.g. Bittman, England, Folbre and Matheson 2003; Brines 1994; Carrington 1999; England 2005; Hansen 2005; Zelizer 2005) in order to disentangle the household dynamics in which the caregivers, their families,

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and the migrant's child live, and centering her gender analyses in more contemporary approaches that debate, extend, or are alternatives to West and Zimmerman's (1987) "doing gender" – the central theory in Dreby's gender argument (see England and Folbre 2005 for overview of gender and economics).

Although Dreby cites other scholars whose research is on transnational migrants and parenting (e.g. Smith 2005 and Parrenas 2001), she

should explain further how her work extends or provides an alternative to the frameworks they use. For example, Parrenas' (2001) findings from her work on Filipina domestic workers in Rome and LA and their husbands and children remaining in the Philippines are similar: men and women both conform but challenge traditional gender roles, men who remain in the household in the Philippines continue to put the carework of the children on grandmothers or other caregivers from the mother's side, and transnational communication is narrow and primarily via phone calls. In fact, Parrenas shows how these phone calls and the micro management of money by their daughters instead of their husbands was an example of intensive mothering from abroad. Is Dreby's contribution an extension of Parrenas' work to the Mexican case? Is it the inclusion of the male migrants? Her typologies of different types of family structures and their subsequent impact after migration is important but needs to be clearly defined in its contribution to related research.

Dreby's ethnography highlights the ways in which migration processes amplify family negotiations and processes, the different rationales for migration, and the heterogeneous types of migrant parents (p. 85). In addition, she beautifully weaves together multiple perspectives and uses innovative data – children's drawings to express their ideas of family and the United States. Although I believe a direct dialogue with the relational economic literature would strengthen Dreby's arguments, her ethnography remains an important contribution in

understanding family dynamics as they happen across national borders.

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Joanna Dreby is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Kent State University where she teaches courses on research methods, children and immigration.

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCOUNTS SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER YEKNEY, WINNER OF THE 2011 RONALD BURT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER

Chris Yenkey is a spring 2011 graduate in Sociology from Cornell University. His current research applies institutional theory and social network analysis to a set of interdisciplinary research questions focused on emerging financial markets in East Africa. His dissertation is a quantitative, individual-level study of investors in Kenya's fast growing emerging stock market, the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE). Chris has worked closely with Kenyan policy makers and the NSE's management team since 2007 and served as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Economic Affairs in Nairobi in 2008. Through his partnership with local stake holders he was granted access to the NSE's electronic trading platform, allowing him to build a longitudinal data set of trading behaviors for all 1.5 million Kenyan investors that includes a range of background information on each including geographic location and membership in scores of Kenyan tribal groups. Following his dissertation, Chris plans to expand his research into other regions of the globe as well as other types of emerging markets besides capital markets.

Chris first became interested in the social foundations of

markets as a result of living and working in Europe, Asia, and the Americas during an earlier career as a professional bicycle racer. After he retired from competition in the late 1990s, Chris began formalizing his thinking about markets first with a Bachelor's in Economics from the Univ. of Texas-Austin in 2001 and then as a macro-economic forecast modeler with the

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, a position he began just prior to September 11, 2001 and the subsequent recession. Working with Fed economists refocused his original interests in the social foundations of market, and he began his PhD studies in Sociology at Cornell in 2003.

Chris began an appointment as Assistant Professor of Organizations and Strategy at the Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business this summer, in addition to becoming a new father in the spring.



RONALD BURT AWARD HONORABLE MENTION: PABLO GASTÓN



Pablo is currently a third-year graduate student in the department of Sociology at UC Berkeley. His research interests revolve around the interaction of social movements and firms; specifically, he looks at how labor union organizing strategies are

shaped by organizational change in firms, as well as changes in product and financial markets. Pablo is currently working on a larger project with a number of colleagues at UCLA on the historical uses of strategic research in labor organizing, and the relationship between union research and the rapidly changing power dynamics among firm owners, managers, and other market actors.

Pablo grew up between Boston, Massachusetts and Havana, Cuba. He received a BA from Brown University, where he majored in Development Studies and wrote a thesis on the relationship between tourism development and housing inequality in Havana over the course of the 20th Century.

Pablo's interest in organized labor is more than academic. Before coming to Berkeley, he worked as a researcher and organizer at SEIU, helping to organize janitors and security officers in New England. Today, Pablo serves as a Head Steward in the Berkeley unit of UAW Local 2865, the union representing academic student employees. It is his hope that the expanded study of the relationship between movements and markets can not only get at key questions in economic sociology—it might also help movements in their fight for a more just and equitable economy.

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY EVENTS AT THE 2011 MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

You're Invited...

2011 Economic Sociology Reception

When: Monday, August 22nd 2011, 6-8pm

Where: Trevi Restaurant, Caesar's Palace

Who: Economic Sociology Section Members

What: Come celebrate with members of the Economic Sociology section and toast the Ronald Burt and Viviana Zelizer award winners!

And Mark Your Calendars...

Section on Economic Sociology Annual
Business Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 23rd, 2011, 1:30pm

Where: Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

***BE SURE TO CHECK THE OFFICIAL ASA PROGRAM FOR THE LATEST
INFORMATION ON TIME AND LOCATION!***

ACCOUNTS THANKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

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ASA ROUNDTABLES ON ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

Table 1: Social Structure and Financial Markets

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Organizations, Formal and Complex; 3. Occupations/Professions

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Room at the top: Relative Performance, Category Membership and Equity Ratings

-Anne Fleischer, University of Toronto
Securitization - Organizational Novelty, Global Assemblage, and the Rapid Emergence of Misunderstood "Alter-Markets"

-David C. Lubin, University of Chicago
Security analysts' attention structures and evaluation models

-Matteo Prato, IESE Business School
Ethnicity and Susceptibility to Network-based Learning: Recruiting Investors into the Kenyan Capital Market

-Christopher B. Yenkey, Cornell University

Table 2: Networks and Entrepreneurship

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Occupations/Professions

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Cross-National Sociological Examination of Entrepreneurship

-Richard A. Colignon, Saint Louis University; Chikako Usui, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Diverse Metropoli & Iconic Ghettos: Neighborhood Determinants of Inner City Entrepreneurship

-Christopher Wheat, MIT; Alfred Reed, Rutgers University

Stinchcombe was Right: Revisiting His "Liability of Newness" Hypothesis

-Tiantian Yang, University of North Carolina; Howard E. Aldrich, University of North Carolina

The Power of Founding Institutions: Comparative Studies of Two Chinese Start-up Cohorts' Network

-Chenjian Zhang, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences

(BIGSSS); Justin Tan, Schulich School of Business

Table 3: Institutional Logics of Markets

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Organizations, Formal and Complex

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Postsocialist Economic Change through a Gender Lens: "Add Gender and Stir" versus Gender as Constitutive

-Jeffrey Hass, University of Richmond

The German model going through crisis?

SMEs, Institutional Change and the Economic Crisis 2008/09

-Stefan Kirchner, University of Hamburg; Jürgen Beyer, University of Hamburg

Shareholder Power: Institutional Logics, Categories, and CEO Dismissal in Large U.S. Firms, 1985-2007

-Shoonchul Shin,

How Does Legitimation Cognitively Influence Actors?

-Hongwei Xu, INSEAD; Litao Zhao, National University of Singapore

Table 4: Networks and Innovation

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Organizations, Formal and Complex

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Small-firm Networks and Innovation: A Case Study of the Taiwanese Bicycle Industry

-Michelle Fei-yu Hsieh, Academia Sinica
Inter-organizational dynamics in organizational fields. Technological development as a source of self-reinforcing inter-organizational mechanisms

-Uli Meyer, Berlin Institute of Technology

Organizational Innovation in Creative Industries: High-technology Enablers, Fashion Incumbents and Digital Branding

-Iva Petkova, Columbia University

The Insider Problem: Measuring Information Access in Social Networks

-Craig Tutterow, University of Chicago

Table 5: Labor Markets I

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Occupations/Professions; 3. Work and Labor Markets

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

A Theory of Dual Job Search and Sex-Based Occupational Clustering

-Alan Michael Benson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Is My Friend My Colleague? Danwei and Coworker Ties in Contemporary Urban China

-Soyoung Kwon, Purdue University
How Contacts Matter: A Re-examination of Network Effects across the Earnings Distribution

-Steve McDonald, North Carolina State University

New labor-market intermediary and shifting market morphology

-Antoine Vernet, Université Paris-Ouest / Université Paris I

Table 6: Labor Markets II

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Organizations, Formal and Complex; 3. Work and Labor Markets

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Quitting a Job: The Effect of Job Characteristics on Job Separation of University Educated Women

-Mito Akiyoshi, Senshu University;

Junya Tsutsui, Ritsumeikan University
No Quick Fix: De-agglomeration and Flexible Specialization in the American Film Industry

-Heather D. Gautney, Fordham University; Chris Rhomberg, Fordham University

Apples to Oranges: How Category Overlap Facilitates Commensuration in an Online Labor Market

-Ming De Leung, UC Berkeley
Organizations, markets, and surveillance: making sellers for centers of calculation

-Zsuzsanna Vargha, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

ASA ROUNDTABLES (CONT'D)

Table 7: Economic Sociology of Work

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Work and Labor Markets; 3. Social Networks

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Documenting Unregulated Work: A Survey of Workplace Violations in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City

-Annette Bernhardt, National Employment Law Project; Michael W. Spiller, Cornell University; Diana Polson, City University of New York, Graduate Center

A Rural handloom Textile Industry in Bihar, India: A Case of social embeddedness

-Uma Sarmistha, Kansas State University

Conflicts, norms and social relations at work

-Kirsten Thommes, Radboud University Nijmegen; Agnes Akkerman, Radboud University Nijmegen; Rene Torenvlied, Utrecht University; Marieke Born, Radboud University Nijmegen

Outsourcing, skill and quality of work-life in global production networks: case of Indian software industry

-Asha Titus

Table 8: Economic Sociology of the Life Course

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Demography; 3. Stratification/Mobility

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Financial Socialization of College Students: A Comparison of University Students in Ankara and Florida

-Zeynep Copur, Hacettepe University; Michael S. Gutter, University of Florida *Where Education Matters Most: A Multilevel Analysis of Higher Degrees and Earnings across Metropolitan Statistical Areas*

-Colby R. King, University of South Carolina

Latent Classes of Mental Wants in the Korean and Hongkong Population: for Marketsegmentation

-Aejung Kwon, Yonsei University, South Korea

Occupation, Retirement, and Well-Being

-Michelle Pannor Silver, University of Chicago

Table 9: Comparative Regimes of Regulation

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

A Relational Account of the Rise and Decline of Defined Benefit Provision in the UK (1948-2008)

-Yally Avrahampour, London School of Economics & Political Science

An integrative framework for theorizing socially responsible markets and corporate regulation

-Keith R. Brown, Saint Joseph's University; Paul Dean, University of Maryland *Mobilizing Competing Standards: Transnational Private Regulation in the Field of Copyright*

-Leonhard Dobusch, Free University

Berlin; Sigrid Quack, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Myth of Neoliberalism in South Korea - Neoliberalization with absence of Neoliberalism

-Jeehye Kang, University of Maryland at College Park

Table 10: Income Inequality – Empirical Evidence

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Occupations/Professions; 3. Labor and Labor Movements

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Income Inequality and Economic Growth: The Estimation of Structural Equation Modeling Across the U.S. Metropolitan Areas

-Huiping li, Shanghai U. of Finance and Economics; Stephanie Moller, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Opportunities for a Few: Pro-market Economic Policies and the Regressive Redistribution of Income

-Marcos Emilio Perez, The University of Texas at Austin

Does Increasing the Minimum Wage Hurt Employment? A Look at Midwestern States in the US

-Michael Franklin Thompson, Indiana University Bloomington

Fat, Muscles, and Wages

-Tobias Wolbring, LMU Munich; Christiane Bozoyan, Institute of Sociology, LMU Munich

Table 11: Economic Sociology and Inequality

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Political Sociology; 3. Political Economy

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Inside Out/Outside In: Tensions of Belonging and the American Dream

-Melanie E. L. Bush, Adelphi University

Robin Hood Reversed

-H. Jacob Seilo, UC Berkeley *Attitudes toward Inequality and the Welfare State in the United States (1990-2006)*

-Liza Steele, Princeton University

Table 12: Market Crises

Topics: 1. Economic Sociology; 2. Political Economy

Session Organizer: Damon Jeremy Philips, University of Chicago

Short-Sighted Genius: How Financial Innovation Transformed Euphoria into Crisis

-John Barnshaw, University of South Florida; Lynn Letukas, University of Delaware

Economic Crises and Poverty in Turkey

-Didem Gurses, Yildiz Technical University

The Scarring Effects of Bankruptcy: Cumulative Disadvantage across Credit and Labor Markets

-Michelle Lee Maroto, University of Washington

A Cyclical Accumulation Theory of Capitalist Crisis

-Edo Navot, University of Wisconsin - Madison

ASA ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY SESSIONS

Invited Session. From Embeddedness to Relational Work: A Revised Agenda for Economic Sociology

Session Organizers: Fred Block, University of California-Davis; Viviana A. Zelizer, Princeton University

Information Asymmetry, Uncertainty, and Markets for Lemons: How do Actors, Organizations, and Institutions Cope?

Session Organizers: Cristobal Young, Stanford University; Donald Light, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Information Asymmetry, Uncertainty, and Risk Aversion: Prices and Pricing on the Dissertations for Sale Market

-Ararat L. Osipian, Vanderbilt University

Function through Ambiguity: Extending the $W(y)$ Model of Production Markets

-Xiaolu Wang, Columbia University

Face Value: Information and Signaling in an Illegal Market

-Trevon D. Logan, The Ohio State University; Manisha Shah, University of California, Irvine

Interorganizational Trust Production Contingent on Product and Performance Uncertainty

-Oliver Schilke, UCLA; Lynne G. Zucker, UCLA; Gunnar Wiedenfels, ProSiebenSat.1 Media AG; Malte Brettel, RWTH Aachen University

Inequality and the Crisis of American Capitalism

Session Organizer: Bruce Western, Harvard University

It's Good to Be a Capitalist: Why Capitalists are Getting More and Workers are Getting Less

-Tali Kristal, Stanford University; David B. Grusky, Stanford University

Executive Compensation in the Economy of Permanent Crisis: Do Institutional Pressures for Change Matter?

-Ed Carberry, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University

The Incidence of Low-Wage Work in the United States, 1949-2007: A Structuralist-Regulationist Analysis

-Pablo Andres Mitnik, Stanford University

Financialization, Wealth, and Income Inequality

-Michael David Nau, Ohio State University

New Institutionalism in Economic Sociology

Session Organizer: Victor Nee, Cornell University

Inter-Firm Status Signaling Through Conversational Exchange

-Scott Golder, Cornell University; Victor Nee, Cornell University

How Are Legal Institutions Formulated?: Organizational Dynamics of Art Bill Deliberations in Korean National Assembly

-Kang San Lee, Yonsei University; Dongyoub Shin, Yonsei University; Eunmee Kim, Seoul National University; Joongeek Lee, Seoul National University

The Extra-Legal Governance Structure of a Shadow Financial System: Governance in the Absence of Formal Regulation

-Todd Arthur Bridges, Brown University

The Paradoxical Resurgence of Managerialism in the Shareholder Value Era, 1984-2001

-Adam Goldstein, UC Berkeley

From Economic Openness to Institutional Embeddedness: Global Investors and Firm Performance in China's Stock Market

-Junmin Wang, University of Memphis; Doug Guthrie, Stern School of Business, New York University

Culture and Exclusion in the Organization of Work

Session Organizer: Alexandra Kalev, University of Arizona

Cultural Labor & Industrial Upgrading in India's IT Enabled Service Industry

-Eric Richard Eide, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Off to a Green Start? How State Agents Shape the Employment Outcomes of Foreign Nationals

-Ben A Rissing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Emilio J. Castilla, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Organizational Culture and Politics of (In)visibility: On the Blind Spots of Women's Discrimination in the Academy

-Nitza Berkovitch, Ben Gurion University; Anat Waldman, Ben Gurion University; Riza Yanay

The Equal Employment Opportunity Law and the Institutionalization of Sex Segregation in Japan

-Eunmi Mun, Harvard University

Branding Femininity at Hooters: Permissible Sex Discrimination

-Emilie Dubois, Boston College

Performance implications of outward personnel mobility networks in creative industries

-Frederic Clement Godart, INSEAD; Andrew Shipilov, INSEAD; Kim Claes, INSEAD

Measuring and Quantifying the Art Market: Indexes and Analysis from the 1960s to 1990s

-Erica H. Coslor, University of Chicago

Great Chefs or Great Dishes?: A Gendered Analysis of Media within a Creative Occupation

-Deborah A. Harris, Texas State University-San Marcos; Patti A. Giuffre, Texas State University-San Marcos; Jamie Hornbuckle, Texas State University - San Marcos

Disclaiming the Hamburger? Maintaining Status with Disclaimers in the Face of Lowbrow Behavior

-Oliver Hahl, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Renee Richardson Gosline, MIT Sloan School of Management

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