



SANscript

SOCIOLOGISTS AIDS NETWORK
FALL 2008
[HTTP://WWW.SOCIOLOGISTS AIDS NETWORK.ORG](http://www.sociologistsaidsnetwork.org)

SAN Chair
Tasleem Padamsee
Ohio State University
padamsee.1@osu.edu

Treasurer
Carrie E. Foote
IUPUI
foote@iupui.edu

Webmaster
Alton Phillips
New York University
alton.phillips@nyu.edu

Newsletter Editor
Erika Laine Austin
Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham
elaustin@uab.edu

CHAIR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of SANscript! I hope the end of the semester is proceeding smoothly for you, and that you find time to rest and rejuvenate over the winter break.

Although I always enjoy finding out what SAN members are up to, this particular newsletter is notably rich in content. I encourage you to read the feature articles contributed by Gary Linn, on the contributions sociologists can make to PEPFAR efforts abroad, and by Judy Auerbach, on the key themes from this year's International AIDS Conference. Our thanks go to Gary and Judy for these contributions! If you have topics you might like to write about for a future SAN newsletter, please e-mail them to Erika or myself (see contact information above).

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of my work with SAN this year is the planning of the upcoming SAN Mini-Conference. Mark your calendar: this important event will take place on Friday, August 7th – the day before the ASA annual meeting begins. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has kindly agreed to host us for this full day of speakers, panel presentations, discussions, and community-building among HIV/AIDS sociologists and other interested scholars. A conference organizing committee has been formed, and will distribute a Call for Papers and Panels later in the winter. In the meantime, please start thinking about what you'd like to present or propose for our Mini-Conference, talk it up within your departments and organizations, and plan to attend! If you have early ideas to contribute or if you'd like to help with the planning, please get in touch with one of the organizing committee members: Erika Austin, Abdallah Badahdah, Kim Blankenship, Naomi Braine, Megan Comfort, Anne Esacove, Sam Friedman, Melissa Kew, Teresa Labov, Bronwen Lichtenstein, Gary Linn, Tasleem Padamsee (Chair), Christie Sennott, and Celeste Watkins-Hayes.

As you will see in the pages that follow, many other members have been active within SAN and their research fields this year. Congratulations go in particular to our 2008 Award winners for best student essay, scholarly activity, and career contributions. Special thanks go to Christie Sennott for helping our wonderful newsletter editor assemble this edition. And congratulations to everyone listed in our "Member Accomplishments" section!

You will hear from me frequently as we pull our mini-conference together in the coming months. Until then, happy reading!

- *Tasleem Padamsee*

SAVE THE DATE!

SAN Mini-Conference
Friday, August 7th 2009
9 am – 5 pm
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
995 Market Street, San Francisco

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAN AWARD WINNERS

The Martin Levine Student Essay Competition

Congratulations to Terence E. McDonnell for being selected as the 2008 winner of the Martin Levine Student Essay Competition. His paper, entitled “Cultural Objects as Objects: Materiality, Urban Space, and the Interpretation of AIDS Campaigns in Accra, Ghana” explores the ways in which media objects and campaigns shape the availability of knowledge about AIDS in Ghana. The article is part of his dissertation work entitled, “AIDS Streetscapes: A Social Iconography of HIV/AIDS Campaigns in Chicago and Accra.” McDonnell is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at Northwestern University.

SAN Scholarly Activity Award

Congratulations to Christie A. Sennott for being selected as the 2008 winner of the SAN Scholarly Activity Award. Ms. Sennott will use the award money to fund expenses associated with her project investigating the relationship between gender, adolescent sexual behavior and fertility, and marriage outcomes on HIV/AIDS risk in rural South Africa. This mixed methods project utilizes a life course theoretical perspective to analyze the influence of social norms and sanctions on young girls’ sexual behaviors and marriage partner selection. Sennott is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Career Contribution to the Sociology of AIDS Award

We are honored to recognize Dr. Judith Auerbach as the 2008 winner of the Award for Career Contributions to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Auerbach currently serves as Deputy Executive Director for Science and Public Policy at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), where she is responsible for developing, leading, and managing SFAF’s local, state, national, and international policy agenda.

Dr. Auerbach received her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1986 from the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught at sociology at Widener University and the University of California, Los Angeles and published and presented in the fields of AIDS, health research and science policy, and family policy and gender. For the last two decades, Dr. Auerbach has been devoted to working on health policy issues, occupying various positions including: Congressional Policy Fellow in the office of Representative Pat Schroeder in Washington (1988), Director of the Institute for the Study of Women and Men at the University of Southern California (1989-1990), Associate Director for Government Affairs at the Consortium of Social Science Associations, Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (1998), and Senior Program Officer at the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, where she served as Study Director for the Committee

on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in AIDS Research. In addition, Dr. Auerbach joined The Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) in 2003, serving as Vice President, Public Policy and Program Development after serving from 1995-2003 as Director of the Behavioral and Social Science Program and HIV Prevention Science Coordinator in the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Auerbach's work in the sociology of HIV/AIDS has often focused on women and girls and she received the 2004 Feminist Activist Award from Sociologists for Women in Society in recognition of this work. We at SAN are pleased to congratulate Dr. Auerbach on her important accomplishments and contributions to the study of HIV/AIDS.

SOCIOLOGIST SUPPORTS ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUG ADHERENCE IN RURAL MOZAMBIQUE

by J. Gary Linn, Ph.D., Tennessee State University

On July 30, 2008, President Bush signed the reauthorization of the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) program committing \$48 billion to primarily HIV/AIDS (and tuberculosis and malaria) treatment in selected resource-limited countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean for the period 2009 to 2013. The original PEPFAR legislation provided over 15 billion dollars to a group of "focus" countries with high HIV prevalence rates. They included Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia. Recent estimates indicate that PEPFAR-supported clinics (mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa) have enrolled 1.7 million people in anti-retroviral treatment (ART), supported AIDS care for 6.6 million people, and provided mother-to-child HIV prevention services resulting in 200,000 children being born HIV free.

I have several years experience working as a sociologist supporting the PEPFAR program in Mozambique. My focus has been on three clinics in rural Zambezia province. With about 4 million inhabitants, Zambezia is one of Mozambique's most populous but poorest provinces. It has an estimated HIV prevalence rate of 19%. Although Mozambique has one of the worst healthcare-to-patient ratios in the world (approximately 40% of its population traveling on foot more than 20km to a primary care facility), PEPFAR supported clinics, including those in outlying rural districts, have additional staff and improved infrastructure, which increases their capacity to effectively treat patients with HIV, TB, Malaria, and other illnesses.

A universal challenge to the successful implementation of ART in resource-limited countries is the maintenance of adequate drug adherence, which is necessary to optimize treatment results. An adherence level of around 95 % is required to achieve expected reductions in mortality and morbidity and prevent the emergence of anti-retroviral drug resistant strains of HIV. Since the obstacles to successful ART adherence in resource-limited settings are to a great degree social, i.e., stigma, lack of information, low self-esteem, and rural isolation, sociologists have a natural role in developing/implementing strategies to address them. Three strategies that we have assessed for PEPFAR in Mozambique are: (1) active search, (2) mobile clinics, and (3) the expert patient. The active search "busca activa" involves finding patients who have

failed to show for follow-up treatment with the help of community residents who work with the clinic. Small vans "chapas" can be equipped as mobile clinics and be dispersed to outlying rural districts to treat patients who otherwise would not have access to ARTs. Patients who are adherent to ARTs can be trained to work in the clinics as AIDS/HIV educators, providers of social support, and medical assistants. They are the expert patients "pacientes peritos" who provide valuable services and serve as positive role models for other patients.

The expansion of ART in rural Mozambique, as in other developing areas, depends upon multiple interrelated organizational processes. When the sociologist joins the clinician in the "roll out" of AIDS treatment, they expand the more restricted focus of the medical model to include important dimensions of local culture and community, regional healthcare organization, and national health policy. This complex global perspective has greater potential for success.

KEY THEMES FROM THE XVIIITH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

by Judy Auerbach, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Over 20,000 researchers, program implementers, policy-makers, funders, industry and media representatives attended the XVIIth International AIDS Conference held in Mexico City, August 3-8, 2008. The program, as usual, consisted of a range of session types—including large plenaries, abstract-driven paper and poster presentations, targeted symposia, and privately-organized satellite sessions on a range of scientific, programmatic, and policy issues affecting the global pandemic.

Although there were no major scientific advances presented (most scientists now present at smaller, more targeted conferences), a few important themes emerged from the array of presentations and discussions that should be of interest to sociologists:

A focus on the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic. Usually, the status of the American epidemic is under-examined at the international conference, where, in recent years, most focus has been on developing countries. This year, however, there was significant attention to the U.S. due to the confluence of a few factors: the location of the meeting in Mexico—right across our border; the recent reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which highlighted the U.S. government's global AIDS program; the release of a report by the Black AIDS Institute that made the point that if Black America were a country, its experience of HIV/AIDS would be comparable to that of a PEPFAR focus country in the developing world; and, perhaps most importantly, the release of new HIV incidence estimates by the CDC, which suggested that there are 40% more incident HIV infections in the U.S. than previously thought, and that gay men, African Americans (men and women), and Latino/as are disproportionately affected.

A greater awareness of the disproportionate impact of HIV on gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) everywhere, including developing countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, and Latin America. Data finally have emerged (highlighted in a report released at the conference by amfAR) to show that even where countries have relatively low overall HIV prevalence rates, gay and other MSM are

highly and disproportionately affected.

The need to develop and finance “combination prevention”—i.e., packages of biomedical, behavioral, and social interventions and programs—to produce greater impact on HIV transmission than we can expect from singular, “magic bullet” approaches. How best to package and evaluate the effectiveness of such combination approaches is an open question (NIH recently issued an RFA on this); and, perhaps of greatest note to SAN members,

A much greater recognition of the role of social science in the response to HIV/AIDS, including basic research on social “drivers” of HIV, social/structural interventions, operations research and implementation science. A host of challenges remain about the conceptualization, operationalization, measurement, and evaluation of social-level factors and interventions in the context of the prevailing biomedical paradigm, but there is heightened interest among researchers, programmers, funders, and policymakers in tackling this head-on.

It is clear from all these themes that this is an opportune time for sociologists (and other social scientists) to become more engaged in AIDS research. How to take advantage of this opportunity will be the subject of a number of discussions among SAN members and others being planned for the annual ASA meeting in San Francisco next August. Stay tuned . . .

MEMBERS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A brief overview of some of our members' varied accomplishments:

Terence McDonnell will have the cover photo/essay for the upcoming December issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly*. The article is titled "The (re)Presentation of an Epidemic in Everyday Life."

Sam Friedman has just published his first full-length book of poetry entitled “Seeking to make the world anew: Poems of the Living Dialectic.” Lanham, Maryland: Hamilton Books. 2008. It contains two sections of poetry on HIV-related topics.

Cathy Reback and Sherry Larkins have an article coming out in *Sexual Archives* entitled, “Sexual meanings among a sample of heterosexually-identified Men who have Sex with Men.” It is a study of heterosexually-identified MSM and how their heterosexual identity is maintained and reaffirmed in light of discrepant sexual experiences.

Barry D. Adam, Winston Husbands, James Murray and John Maxwell. 2008. “Silence, Assent, and HIV Risk” *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 10(8):759-772.

----- . 2008. “Circuits, Networks, and HIV Risk Management” *AIDS Education and Prevention* 20(5):420-435.

Painter, Thomas. 2008. Connecting the Dots: When the Risks of HIV/STD Infection Appear High but the Burden of Infection is not Known – The Case of Male Latino Migrants in the Southern United States. *AIDS and Behavior* 12(2):213-226.

Comfort Megan. 2008. Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of the Prison. The University of Chicago Press.

Grinstead O, Comfort M, McCartney K, Koester K, Neilands T. 2008. Bringing it HOME: Design and Implementation of an HIV/STD Intervention for Women Visiting Incarcerated Men. *AIDS Education and Prevention* 20(4):285-300.

Comfort M. 2008. "The Best Seven Years I Could'a Done": The Reconstruction of Imprisonment as Rehabilitation by Former Prisoners and Their Partners. Imaginary Penalties, Pat Carlen (ed.), Willan Publishing.

Mutchler, Matt. G.; Bogart, L.; McKay, T.; Elliot, M., Suttorp, M. & Schuster, M. 2008. "Psychosocial Correlates of Unprotected Sex without Disclosure of HIV-Positivity among African-American, Latino, and White Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 37:736-747

Amin Ghaziani. 2008. *The Dividends of Dissent: How Conflict and Culture Work in Lesbian and Gay Marches on Washington*. University of Chicago Press.

Zuniga, Jose M., Alan Whiteside, Amin Ghaziani, and John G. Bartlett (Eds.). 2008. *A Decade of HAART: The Development and Global Impact of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy*. Oxford University Press.

Carrillo, H., Fontdevila, J., Brown, J., and Gomez, W. 2008. Risk Across Borders: Sexual Contexts and HIV Prevention Challenges among Mexican Gay and Bisexual Immigrant Men. Trayectos Study Monograph (NICHD/CAPS/UCSF/Hurlbut-Johnson Fund; www.caps.ucsf.edu/projects/Trayectos).

FUNDING HELP NEEDED FOR SAN MINI-CONFERENCE!

The Organizing Committee is looking for co-sponsors who can help support the SAN Mini-Conference through financial contributions. The Mini-Conference will mark the contributions sociologists have made to HIV/AIDS scholarship and efforts to fight the epidemic, and will provide a venue for looking ahead to our next steps. Sponsoring organizations will help support this important milestone, and their contributions will be acknowledged in all conference announcements and advertisements. If you work for a department or research organization that has an interest in HIV/AIDS issues, or if you know of a colleague who does, please contact Tasleem Padamsee (padamsee.1@osu.edu) to explore sponsorship options. Any amount will help make this mini-conference possible, and will be happily accepted by the organizing committee. Thank you for your help.

2009 AWARD FOR CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF HIV/AIDS

This award honors outstanding contributions to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS. The award may recognize work that has significantly advanced our understanding of social aspects of the pandemic, or that has contributed to prevention, treatment, or policy interventions. Nominees should have pursued substantial research and/or applied work related to HIV/AIDS, and should have worked in the field for at least eight years. Nominations (of yourself or others) should include a statement of up to two pages about the nominee's qualifications and an electronic copy or web link to her/his CV. Nominations (and questions) should be submitted to the committee chair, Sherry Larkins, at slarkins@mindspring.com (attachments in .doc or .pdf format only, please) by May 15, 2009. Scholars who have been nominated before will be automatically re-considered this year, but nominators should feel free to submit additional materials.

ANNOUNCING THE 2009 SAN SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AWARD

Objectives: The Sociologists AIDS Network (SAN) Scholarly Activity Award aims to nurture scholarly interest in the sociology of HIV/AIDS by supporting the work of emerging scholars in the field. One applicant will be chosen each year to receive a one-time award of up to \$250 and a year of free membership in SAN.

Eligibility: All graduate students working on topics in the sociology of HIV/AIDS are eligible to apply. Supportable activities include, but are not limited to:

- Research expenses such as incentives for research participants, transcribing interviews, or copying archival materials.
- Travel to conferences to present original research.

Application Process: Applicants should submit the following items to the award committee chair, Jorge Fontdevila (jfontdevila@fullerton.edu), by May 15, 2009.

- A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor.
- A project proposal of 2-4 pages, including:
 - Description of the research project to be completed or presented
 - Contribution of your scholarly activity to the sociology of AIDS
 - Description of how funds will be used
 - Description of when the activity will be completed
 - A complete budget for your conference travel, research project or other scholarly activity. If you are applying for funding from other sources, please indicate which portion of your budget this award will be used to cover, as well as where you hope to procure the balance.

Proposals will be reviewed by Jorge Fontdevila, Abdallah Badahdah, Andrew Dzurisin, and Christie Sennott (2008 Scholarly Award Winner). Applicants will be informed of the results in early August 2009 and awards will be made formally at the SAN Business Meeting during the ASA Annual Meeting.

2009 MARTIN LEVINE STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

Sociology students are invited to submit an original, 20-page (double-spaced) essay on the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS for the annual student essay competition. The topic is broadly defined and can include any aspect of HIV/AIDS from a sociological perspective. The student must be the first author and must have written most, if not all, of the manuscript. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2009. Submissions will be reviewed by Anne Esacove (Paper Committee Chair), Terrence McDonnell (the 2008 award winner), Erica Austin, Sharon Rodner, Benjamin Drury. The winner will be notified in early August prior to the annual meeting and will be announced at the SAN Business Meeting and in Footnotes. The winner will receive an award of \$100 and a five-year membership to SAN. All students who enter the competition will also receive a one year membership to SAN. Papers should be submitted by e-mail to Anne Esacove (esacove@muhlenberg.edu).

SAN MENTORING PROGRAM

Both graduate and undergraduate students doing research on AIDS-related topics often have difficulty finding faculty mentors who understand and are interested in their topics. Students looking for contact with knowledgeable faculty who can help them are encouraged to e-mail Howard Lune (luneh@wpunj.edu) with a brief summary of their research. Faculty willing to informally mentor a student should contact Howard as well; he will coordinate finding appropriate mentors for each student from among the volunteers.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SAN

Just a reminder, if you change jobs, schools, etc., and you wish to remain a part of the SAN network, please be sure to send me an e-mail with your new contact information to Carrie Foote at foote@iupui.edu so we can keep your contact information current. Thank you!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a new publication, grant, project, or major recognition or award that focuses on HIV related issues or your accomplishments? If so, please send us details so we can keep members informed about current research and achievements of SAN members. E-mail your information to the SAN Newsletter Editor or SAN Chair (see contact information on page one of the newsletter).

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2008
Carrie E. Foote

The current balance of the SAN account is: \$2526.72.
This year we had deposits of \$290, expenses of \$385 (\$100 - paper award, \$250 scholarly award, \$35 food expense for business meeting).

If you have not already paid your dues for this year, please send them in with the form included in this newsletter. Thank you!

SAN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please RENEW your membership or become a NEW MEMBER now!

You may renew or join SAN online at <http://www.sociologistsaidsnetwork.org/> or simply complete this form and attach a check for \$10 (general members) or \$5 (student members) payable to the Sociologists' AIDS Network. Send the form and check to:

**Carrie E. Foote
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Department of Sociology
CA 303, 425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202**

Membership Category (check one): _____ General 1-year (\$10)
_____ General 3-year (\$30)
_____ Student 1-year (\$5)
_____ Student 3-year (\$15)
_____ Lifetime membership (\$250)

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

Areas of Interest: _____
