

# Sociology of Emotions

## American Sociological Association

**MISSION:** The ASA Section on Sociology of Emotions brings together social and behavioral scientists in order to promote the general development of the study of emotions through the exchange of ideas, theory, research, and teaching. Scholars from a variety of backgrounds are members of this section, and collectively encourage the study of emotions in everyday social life. Substantive topics of investigation include: the expression and experience of emotions, emotions in social interaction, identity and emotions, emotions in historical perspective, the cross-cultural study of emotions, emotions and violence, and the traditions of theory and research in the area of emotions.

### From the Chair's Desk: Amy Wilkins

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These are unprecedented times, and it is hard sometimes to think about going about our business as usual, but we have a big and exciting meeting in Montreal to prepare for, and this year, we are up first, with most of our events happening on Saturday and Sunday, the first days of the meetings. Although ASA is happening outside of the U.S., creating unforeseen obstacles for some of our members, I hope many of you are planning to come. Montreal is a lovely and lively city, and my brother who just moved back to the U.S. from Toronto, tells me that,

for those of living in the U.S., the exchange rate is currently desirable. Which makes me and travel budget a bit happier. Before I tell you about what we have planned for Montreal, I am delighted to congratulate our award winners this year. The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award winner is Jorie Hofstra (Rutgers) for "Attentive Flexibility: A Theoretical Grounding of a New Concept in the Study of Emotional Support." Many thanks to the committee--Clare Stacey, Marci Cottingham, and Christabel Rogalin--for their work on this. The Outstanding Recent Contribution Paper Award winner is Chana Teeger for "Both Sides of the Story" History Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa" 2015. *American Sociological Review* 80(6): 1175-1200. A big thanks to this committee as well for work: Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, Kathy Charmaz, and Kim Rogers. We will have a change to congratulate and honor Jorie Hofstra and Chana Teeger again at the Business Meeting on Saturday, August 12 from 3:30-4:10.

Now, onto the program. It is exciting to see how often people are integrating emotions into their work. Here, I highlight the sessions organized by our section, though there are many more. Emotions came up 99 times in the program. Our first session, organized by Simone Ispa-Landa, is on Saturday from 10:30-12:10. It is the Open Session on Emotions: Emotions in Institutions and includes papers on emotions in medicine, finance, and politics. After lunch, you can enjoy the Chair's Hour, which is organized loosely around the theme of Emotions, Culture, and Inequality. On this panel we will hear from a group of scholars thinking in different ways about these issues, including Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, who won the Recent Contribution Award last year! I am excited about it, but that might be because I organized it, with help from Simone Ispa-Landa. I hope you will be too. Please stay for the Business Meeting, if for no other reason than to help honor our award recipients and to see me pass the gavel (which I hope Karen will remind me to bring) to Jessica Collett.

Saturday night, we have planned the party from 6:30-8 at Le Veaux Dublin Pub, which is a short walk from the convention center. As in past years, we are co-hosting with our colleagues from Social Psychology and Altruism, Solidarity and Morality. The first 100 people will get a free drink ticket, and we have planned (from a distance) a nice spread for you. We look forward to seeing you all there after our big day of emotions.

There is more on Sunday! From 10:30-12:10, Seth Arbutyn has organized a fascinating session called Advances in the Sociology of Emotions. And the Roundtables, co-hosted with Social Psychology, are at 8:30. Thanks to Kait Boyle for organizing those!

Many thanks to Amelia Blume and Joshua Stout for their work on the newsletter. Please look for additional details throughout.

I want to take this time to thank the additional committee members for their work this year. The Council: Alicia Cast, Seth Arbutyn, Jessica Leveto, Karen Hegvedt, and student member Annaliese Skavo-Loeher; Chair-elect Jessica Collett, and Secretary/Treasurer Shane Sharpe. The Nominations Committee: Ken Kolb (chair), Rebecca Erickson, Gretchen Peterson, Natalia Ruiz-Junco, and Melissa Sloan. The Ad Hoc Membership Committee: Amanda Gengler (chair), Martha Copp, and student members Kathryn Pranger, Kayla Pierce and Justin Van Ness. We are a small section, and we rely on the time and commitment of our members. I appreciate it tremendously because I know how important our time is. I also encourage anyone who wants to get involved in this great section to let me or someone else know. I enjoy working with the people in this section tremendously.

In the meantime, we are all easing into summer break. I hope you all get a breather before starting whatever is next. I look forward to seeing many of you in Montreal. Please contact me with announcements and be looking for more as ASA approaches!

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## 2016-2017 Section Committees

### Outstanding Contribution Award

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, Chair  
Kathy Charmaz  
Kim Rogers

### Program Committee

Amy Wilkins, Chair  
Simone Ispa-Landa  
Kait Boyle

### Graduate Student Paper Award

Clare Stacey, Chair  
Marci Cottingham  
Christabel Rogalin

### Publications Committee

Amelia Blume, Co-Chair  
Joshua Stout, Co-Chair  
Amy Wilkins

### Nomination Committee

Ken Kolb, Chair  
Rebecca Erikson  
Gretchen Peterson  
Natalia Ruiz-Junco  
Melissa Sloan

### Ad Hoc Membership Committee

Amanda Gengler, Chair  
Martha Copp  
Kathryn Pranger  
Kayla Pierce  
Justin Van Ness

# New Work In Emotions

## Recent Articles:

- Cristen Dalessandro and Amy C. Wilkins. 2017. "Blinded By Love: Women, Men, and Gendered Age in Relationship Stories." *Gender & Society* 31(1):96-118.
- Wilkins, Amy C. and Sarah A. Miller. 2017. "Secure Girls: Class, Sexuality, and Self-Esteem." *Sexualities*
- Parvez, Z. Fareen. 2017. "The Sorrow of Parting: Ethnographic Depth and the Role of Emotions." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 42(2): 201-225.

## Recent Books:

### MUSIC, DANCE, AFFECT, AND EMOTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

Edited by PABLO VILA



## Music, Dance, Affect, and Emotions in Latin America



Edited by Pablo Vila

"Music, Dance, Affect, and Emotions in Latin America innovates by placing emphasis on how music and dance mobilize affect—something made evident in the expression 'groove to the music'—while at the same time detailing the complex set of factors (social conditions, identity constituents, etc.) that mediate musical representations and corporeal affects and emotions."

— George Yúdice, University of Miami

"For the humanities and humanistic social sciences, the affective turn forcefully compels a return to bodies in their multifarious relations—with themselves, other bodies, places, communities, with things of all kinds, and much more. This remarkable volume makes another, and most audacious, turn: South. Incisive essays show the rich complexities of how

affect and emotions animate musicking (making, listening, dancing) in the specificity of Latin America locations. In a stunning demonstration of post-constructivism, we experience affect and emotions as living correlates of meaning and as a dynamic force for the evasive but inescapable subsistence of identities and subjectivities."

— Jairo A. Moreno, University of Pennsylvania

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Music, Dance, Affect, and Emotions in Latin America* is a collection of essays that analyze different manifestations of Argentine music and dance taking advantage of the exciting new theoretical developments advanced by the current affective turn. Contributors deal with the relationship between music, dance, affects, feelings, and emotions in different scenarios and show how the embodiment of music shape the experiential in ways that may impact upon but nevertheless many times evade conscious knowing. This book is one of the first academic attempts (regardless of region or country of scope) to try to solve some of the most important problems the affective turn has identified regarding how music and dance have been researched so far, such as the tendency, in representational accounts of music, to ignore the sensory and sonic registers to the detriment of the embodied and lived registers of experience and feeling that unfold in the process of making or listening to music.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pablo Vila is professor of sociology at Temple University.

# Goffman and Lynd Confronted a Modern Taboo

Thomas Scheff

C. H. Cooley laid the groundwork for the idea that much of human life is determined by other people's thoughts, or at least, what we think are their thoughts:

“[The self] seems to have three principal elements:

1. The imagination of our appearance to the other person.
2. The imagination of his [or her] judgment of that appearance.
3. Some sort of self-feeling, such as pride or mortification [shame]." (p.184).

This idea has come to be named "the looking-glass self." It is an abstract theoretical statement, but Cooley gave only a few brief examples of how it works.

Goffman seems to be at the opposite extreme in his best known work, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (1959). It is one of the most popular books ever published in sociology, selling hundreds of thousands in the 58 years since its release. He offers literally hundreds of concrete and often quite lengthy examples of the workings of the looking-glass self, but at first glance, **no theory**, none at all. Although Cooley is referred to three times, there is no mention of the looking-glass self.

However, after many, many years of searching for a theory, I found this statement in the sixth page of the last chapter of PSEL:

There is no interaction in which participants do not take an appreciable chance of being slightly embarrassed or a slight chance of being deeply humiliated. (p. 243).

This statement occurs only at the end of the book, instead of on the first page, where we rightly expect the governing generalization to be. It asserts unmistakably that ALL social interaction carries with it the risk of exposure to embarrassment or humiliation.

This is an idea that can be used to develop what Goffman repeatedly names as the central idea of the book: impression management. This phrase implies the concern about shame that he finally gets around to voicing in the last chapter. **The reason we spend such time and care managing our impressions is to avoid embarrassment and humiliation as best we can.** Since it can be argued that embarrassment and humiliation are types of shame (embarrassment shallow, humiliation, deep), then Goffman's book conveys the large part that shame plays, though usually quite hidden, in modern life.

Why did Goffman not quote the looking glass self in the beginning, and leave his theoretical basis to the end, where it has been invisible to us readers? One possibility: Goffman himself didn't notice the basic structure of the book until he was reviewing it in order to write the last chapter.

But finally it occurred to me that long before the avoidance of shame became a current topic of scholarly articles Goffman seems to have understood it, and challenged the taboo. Most of his early work is focused openly on shame or its two siblings, embarrassment and humiliation. (Embarrassment the lighter version, humiliation the heavier version of shame). His first article "On Cooling the Mark Out" (1952) concerns humiliation. Next he devoted an entire article to embarrassment (1956). In what seems to be still be a necessary step toward the systematic study of the shame world, he tried to organize a detailed definition. Finally, in two articles (1961, 1963), he openly defined stigma as a type of shame (Scheff 2014).

Based on Goffman's detailed analysis of shame and its siblings, both before and after PSEL, it seems possible that he knowingly put the central proposition at the end rather than at the beginning in order to give the book a chance to be read. Perhaps Goffman first understood this problem from his experience with his early books and articles: most of the readers may have seemed uneasy about the shame part.

### Helen M. Lynd Confronted the Taboo Directly

In 1929 Helen Lynd and her husband Robert published a book that immediately became a best seller: Middletown, one of the first sociological studies of a civic community. Twenty-one years later, she published her own book On Shame and the Search for Identity. In it she did directly what neither Cooley nor Goffman did at all: she described the way that the various literatures deal with shame, not only psychology, psychiatry and philosophy, but also the liberal arts.

Her book is surprisingly insightful, perhaps because of the broad reach of her search. One indication is the way she cites the way that Goffman deals with shame in one of his early articles (1955). Other instances are the ways she brought in the connection between embarrassment with laughter, one the one hand, and shame and violence, on the other. It seems to me that her book is a valuable addition to the shame literature that could still be very useful.

### References

- Cooley, Charles H. 1922. Human Nature and the Social Order. New York: Scribner's.
- Goffman, Erving. 1952. On Cooling the Mark Out: Some Aspects of Adaptation to Failure. Psychiatry, Nov;15(4):451-63.
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 1959. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life. Garden City, NY: Doubleday/Anchor Books.
- Lynd, Helen. M. 1958. On Shame and the Search for Identity. New York: Science Editions.

## Spotlight: Jun Zhao

Since 2014, Jun Zhao has served as the Section for the Sociology of Emotions webmaster. She will be stepping out of this position at the end of the summer. Jun is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Georgia, and expect to graduate in June 2017. Her research focuses on the ways in which social structures, such as race, gender, and social networks, shape social stratification processes throughout the life course across a range of outcomes,



including education, mental health, and sentencing. Her dissertation, *The Role of Educational Expectations, Friendship Networks, and Moral Codes in the Mental Health of Adolescents*, examines how structural properties at the individual, dyadic, and cultural level generate health and social behavior disparities in the lives of adolescents and young adults. The three studies of this dissertation address three specific aims: (1) to explore the extent to which parents adjust their educational expectations in response to adolescents' academic performance and the long-term socio-emotional consequences of expectation recalibration, (2) to track and model the coevolution of adolescents' friendship networks and their depression by studying gendered pathways to depression homogeneity, and (3) to assess the role that culturally embedded moral codes play in shaping young adults' impressions and reactions to transgression. She has advanced training and experience in a wide range of quantitative methods, including experimental, survey, networks, and simulations. In the Fall of 2017, she will start as a postdoctoral fellow at the Quantitative Social Science program at Dartmouth College.

Thank you, Jun, for your hard work and service to the section these past 3 years.

# Social Media Update



@SocEmotions currently has 1,199 followers on Twitter. Twitter remains a space where we share new publications, announcements and other materials for anyone interested in the Sociology of Emotions.



The "Sociology of Emotions Section American Sociological Association" Facebook page currently has 910 followers. Facebook posts include recent publications, calls for papers, section announcements and provides a forum for dialogue.

## Call for Contributions

The Sociology of Emotions seeks the following:

- Upcoming conferences, calls for papers, special issues of journals or grant opportunities
- Information related to conferences that would be of interest to section members.
- Profiles of graduate students who are on the job market.
- Titles of new or forthcoming books or articles that would be of interest to section members
- "What's On Your Bookshelf?" - A short description of three books that have been influential to you
- Photos from recent conferences.
- Updates on issues that are relevant to the Sociology of Emotion
- Online resources relevant to Sociology of Emotions (Blogs or other relevant electronic resources)

If you have other relevant materials please let us know, we are happy to make a space for new and innovative contributions and contributors!

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## Mission:

The American Sociological Association (ASA) is a non-profit membership association dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good.

