



Society for Cross-Cultural Research

May 2010 Newsletter

Dear SCCR Colleagues,

On Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 12:00PM to 1:30PM our General Membership Meeting took place as the 39th Annual Conference of the SCCR came to a conclusion. At that meeting I, Barb Shwalb, volunteered to be the *SCCR Newsletter* editor. **Editors need to have something to edit and therefore, I am asking for your help.** Please consider ‘publishing’ information or ideas that you might have which could enhance or benefit the work of your colleagues in SCCR. The information or ideas that you ‘publish’ may apply to a few SCCR members or many SCCR members. But the number of people to which your information or ideas applies isn’t as important as the fact that you may be a catalyst who ignites another SCCR colleague in our joint efforts to produce meaningful cross-cultural research.

In case you need a bit of prodding, I have thought of two types of things that you should send or phone in for *SCCR Newsletter* inclusion. The first general category is ‘news of interest.’ Please send: (1) announcements of upcoming conferences, talks, meetings, courses and broadcasts; (2) your reviews of software, books, papers, video and audio recordings; (3) web site addresses useful for SCCR members; (4) debates and advances concerning methodologies, data analysis, etc.; (5) abstracts of papers and talks—yours or others—along with web links to full texts; (6) appeals for chapter or paper contributions to books, journals or conferences; (7) information about undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and post-doctorate opportunities or job announcements; and (8) news dissemination to all members from the Executive Committee.

The other general category is ‘news of people.’ It would include: (1) personal information about you - - change of address or status, awards, publications, travels, current projects, etc.; (2) your opinions and thoughts - - a personal narrative about how you came to cross-cultural interests, why is it that you work with particular people(s), what influences how you examine cross-cultural events, etc.; and (3) your inquiries for information - - for example, ‘Can anyone in Utah or Nevada teach me how to use NVivo content analysis software?’

I ask for your help again. Remember that a newsletter editor needs news to edit. So please, kick up by one notch your commitment to the goals of SCCR and share what you know about any aspect of our world-wide cultural community.

News of Interest

On February 20th the 39th Annual Conference of the SCCR concluded. The conference was successful on many different fronts. In no particular order, success was defined by the following events.

A recently (2007) organized group, the American Anthropological Association Children and Childhood Interest Group (AAACIG), had its first joint meeting with us. The AAACIG has as a goal cultural and cross-cultural investigation of children's lives beyond the academic information provided in classrooms. The group takes the methodological approach of child-as-agent as well as child-as-impacted by environment. AAACIG attendees were a diverse group with regard to their occupations, methodological approaches, particular interests and research settings. The joint meetings between SCCR and AAACIG seem to be a beneficial match-up and the SCCR Executive Committee hopes it will continue. The conference program that was e-mailed to you lists the papers presented at AAACIG sessions. The group's web address is www.aaacig.org.

SASci met jointly with us as they have since 2005. Once again it was intellectually and personally stimulating to interact with SASci's members. SASci gave tribute to the life and work of Melvin Ember; a dedicated, active, influential and much respected SaSci leader. SaSci paper sessions were dedicated to memories of Mel and a special tribute to him was published in the most recent issue of *Cross-Cultural Research*. SaSci's web address is www.anthrosciences.org.

Other defining events of the successful conference included the large number of international participants who represented 20 countries. SCCR set a new standard of inclusion for itself and there is justifiable pride in this accomplishment. An increase in student participation was also evident. This year's conference set a new record for the largest number of students attending and for the largest number of students presenting research. Twenty-nine students attended the social that was organized as a special venue for them. This was the largest group ever to attend the student function.

All of the successes of the 2010 conference reflect the hard work, consistent efforts and excellent organizational skills of SCCR President, Dr. Ziarat Hossain. Many thanks are extended to Zia, to those who worked with Zia to make the conference wonderful and to Zia's wife (Rozy) and children who supported his SCCR responsibilities.

SCCR's President-Elect (the person who puts together next year's conference) is Dr. Deborah Best of Wake Forest University. Debbie can be contacted at best@wfu.edu. She has already negotiated and booked the hotel for the 40th Annual Conference of the SCCR. In 2011 we meet in Charleston, SC, from February 16 – 20 at the Francis Marion Hotel (www.francismarionhotel.com/). Debbie suggests that we look at the website to learn more about this historic register hotel named after the "Swamp Fox" of the Revolutionary War. Coincidentally, at the same time as our meetings, the Southeastern

Wildlife Exposition (www.sewe.com/index.php) events will be held in the town square across from the Francis Marion Hotel. Debbie was able to get a room rate of \$139 a night. So students, find a friend or two to share a room, and join non-student SCCR members in the second most popular tourist destination city in the US, Charleston (second to San Francisco, according to Debbie Best). What a nice time and event to look forward to!!

News of People

2010 Conference Award Winners:

The 2010 *Leigh Minturn Award for Early Career Cross-Cultural Research* went to Brien Ashdown who has just completed his first year as assistant professor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

The 2010 *John & Beatrice Whiting Award for Student in Cross-Cultural Studies* was awarded to Carrie M. Brown, St. Louis University.

The Best Student Paper award authors are Ji-Hong Cheong and Seon-Woo Lee of Yonsei University in South Korea. Their paper was titled *The Influence of Depression on the Life Satisfaction of the Elderly People Living Alone*.

The Best Student Poster award author is Prarthana Pant of Syracuse University, NY and G.B. Pant University, India. The poster title was *Belief Systems of Indian Youth (in USA and India) Regarding Parenthood and Parenting Roles*.

Seinenu M. Thein (seinenu@ucla.edu) has volunteered to work with the SCCR Executive Board on student-related issues. Seinenu is a native of Burma and is currently a third-year doctoral student. Please contact her if you are willing to serve SCCR in any capacity or if you have questions about the roles available for students. Seinenu wants to increase student activity within SCCR and to make student involvement more apparent.

SCCR wants to increase international representation. To that end, several SCCR members will pool their talents and figure ways to attract members outside the US. These volunteers are: Ramadan Ahmed of Kuwait University (ramadan81am@hotmail.com); Fatos Erkman of Bogazici University, Turkey (ferkman@gmail.com); Wally Karnilowicz of Victoria University, Australia (wally.karnilowicz@vu.edu.au); Takashi Naito of Ochanomizu University, Japan (NaitoT@aol.com); Dung Ngo at University of Wisconsin, La Cross (ngo.dung@uwlax.edu); Anisoara Popa of Danubius University, Romania (apoparo@yahoo.com); and Tiia Tulviste of University of Tartu, Estonia (Tiia.Tulviste@ut.ee). If you have any ideas about increasing 'foreign' participation, please contact any, or all, of these volunteers. They want very much to hear from you.

David Shwalb (shwalb@suu.edu), webmaster, has the SCCR home web page restored. It had been 'broken' since the end of February. You can go to www.sccr.org to see all the photos taken by Rafael LaPorte during this year's conference meetings.

And finally, Barb Shwalb (shwalbb@suu.edu) volunteered to write/edit the SCCR *Newsletter*. Send something for *Newsletter* inclusion. Barb can be reached at the suu (Southern Utah University) web address, via SCCR's home web page or at 435 586-7557 after July 10. Utah is Mountain Time zone.

The next *Newsletter* will be sent during the last week of June 2010. What would you like to read about? Send it!