

January 2007

Dear PAA Member:

On behalf of the PAA 2007 Program Committee, we are pleased to present the Preliminary Program for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. The meeting will be held in New York City from Thursday March 29 to Saturday March 31, 2007 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

The creation of the program for the annual meetings of the PAA is the product of the research interests of our membership. Following last year's meeting, PAA members submitted over 175 suggested sessions for the 2007 meetings. Based on these suggestions, investigation of the most popular sessions (as measured by the volume of submissions) at recent meetings, and informal canvassing of PAA members, the PAA Program Committee assembled a list of 88 regular sessions that were listed in the Call for Papers posted on the website in July. In a change from previous years, a notification postcard alerting past participants and PAA members to the Call for Papers was mailed last August. The program committee endeavored to create broad, meaningful titles for sessions and asked members to serve as session organizers who had not been in this role in the last two years.

More than 2000 unique submissions came into the PAA Meetings website. This is a record! The real heroes of program planning are the session organizers who read and evaluated the submissions under quite a tight deadline. With 88 regular session organizers, the mean number of papers per organizer is close to 23, but many organizers had more than 50 submissions: Jennifer Barber, Hannah Brueckner, Irene Browne, John Casterline, Siân Curtis, Stefanie DeLuca, Katharine Donato, Brian Finch, Penny Gordon-Larsen, Kimberly Goyette, Lingxin Hao, Carl Haub, Robert Hummer, Elizabeth M. King, Rosalind B. King, Heather Koball, Sarah O. Meadows, Nancy Riley, Bruce Spencer, Cecilia Tomassini, David K. Weir, Leah K. VanWey, Lawrence Wu, and Scott Yabiku. The PAA Program Committee is grateful for the extra effort that was required. For session organizers who received many more good papers than could be accommodated in a single session, 75 additional "overflow" sessions were added to the program. Four additional sessions were created from submissions that were submitted directly to the President or that were routed to her by the organizers. In addition, this year a seventh poster session was added. There are approximately 60 posters per session. In all, we are able to accommodate over 1000 of the submissions in the 2007 PAA program. The preliminary program includes over 2000 participants (including co-authors of multiple authored papers). It is hard to imagine a more productive and participatory scholarly association.

All of this is possible because hundreds of PAA members spend countless volunteer hours working as members of the program committee and as session organizers. THANK YOU! We also appreciate the willingness of PAA members to serve as discussants and session chairs. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Bridget Riordan, who coordinated the preparation of the program, and Germán Rodríguez, who is the creator of the machinery behind the PAA Meetings website and database. Years ago, all of this work was done by hand. The program was created from piles of papers laid out on tables and the floor. Assessing balance and checking for conflicts was laborious, with changes rippling through the program. It is so different now! The ease of the whole process, from paper submissions, to organizer reviews to the creation of the final program is all due to Germán's clever programming of the website and database, which can handle all the complexities of organizing and scheduling the Annual Meetings. Germán also volunteers plenty of his time to help and to troubleshoot problems that inevitably emerge in the use of

such a complex program. Germán, thank you for your dedication and service.

There are 13 invited sessions on a variety of special topics. Linda Jacobsen has organized a session entitled “Using the News Media to Increase Public Attention to Demographic Information.” Ira Flatow, of NPR’s *Science Friday*, has agreed to participate. This is very exciting. The program includes three “author meets critics” sessions. One entitled, “Why is Health in the US so Much Worse than Other Developed Countries?” features an article published in *JAMA*. Organized by David Blau, this session gives several well known scholars a chance to comment and for the authors to respond. “Populations at Risk,” organized by John R. Weeks, features a volume just put together by the NRC Committee on the Effective Use of Data, Methodologies, and Technologies to Estimate Sub-National Populations at Risk. The third, organized by Jacqueline Hagan, focuses on Robert Courtney Smith’s *Mexican New York*. Two other invited sessions also give prominence to the site of this year’s PAA meeting: “The Economic and Social Impact of 9/11 on NYC,” organized by Greg Duncan; and “Sociodemographic Change in a New York Minute,” organized by the Applied Demography group. There are also special sessions on “Women, Work and the Opt-Out Revolution,” organized by Philip Cohen; “Collection and Analysis of Biomarker and Genetic Data,” organized by Kathleen Mullan Harris; “Perspectives on the American Community Survey at Full Implementation” and “Data Access, Perceptions of Privacy, and Disclosure Avoidance,” both organized by the Committee on Population Statistics (COPS); “The Politics and Future of International Family Planning Programs: Where Are We, and Where Should We Be?”, organized by Karen O. Mason; “The Impact of Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health on Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction,” organized by Subha Nagarajan and Tamara Fox; and “Panel on Immigrant Selection and Adaptation: Comparative Perspectives,” a joint effort of the PAA and the Canadian Population Society.

As in the past, we also take time at the PAA Annual Meeting to remember members of our field who have passed away since our last meeting. This year, we have tragically lost Thomas R. Ford, Wen Lang Li and Kurt B. Mayer. There will be a special session on Thursday evening, 8:30-10:00 pm, to remember them. If you know of other PAA members who have passed away during the past year, please let Dudley Poston know ([dudleyposton@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleyposton@yahoo.com)), so that their names may be included in the memorial service program. Members are encouraged to participate in this session and to contribute remembrances of recently deceased members.

This year, as has become the custom, the PAA is offering parents the opportunity to register for child care during the session hours. Child care services will be provided by The Babysitters’ Guild and PAA will provide a suite for child care. More information can be found on the PAA website. The PAA Board continues to search for creative ways to enhance access at the annual meetings for all members within the constraints of our very limited association resources. The presidential session will also be captioned for those with special hearing needs. Suggestions to improve access to the meetings are most welcome.

As in recent years, there will be LCD projectors and overhead projectors in all sessions. Presenters (or session organizers) are responsible for bringing a laptop computer with their PowerPoint presentations to connect to the LCD projector. The PAA program will continue until 2:15 pm on Saturday afternoon.

There are a few changes also. In response to member suggestions, the sessions have been shortened by five minutes to allow more time between sessions. Rather than 110 minutes per session, there will be 105 minutes per session. Unless otherwise directed by the session chair, authors should plan on no more than 15 minutes for their presentation. This will leave time for introductions, transitions, and audience questions and comments. Another change involves the poster sessions. Each poster session will group posters by broad topic area – family, fertility, migration, methods, etc. We hope that this will help specialists who visit poster sessions to find the posters in their specialty areas, as well as group together poster authors with similar interests.

New York City is a fascinating and energetic city with much to see. Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Station, Central Park, The Empire State Building, The United Nations, the Metropolitan Museum of Art are just a few of the many attractions and places of interest located nearby. Legendary entertainment venues and theatres such as Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and Broadway Theatres are also close to the hotel, not to

mention all the wonderful restaurants and shops. We hope you will take some time to enjoy the sights and sounds of this exciting city.

We look forward to seeing you in New York.

Best wishes for a happy new year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Entwisle".

Barbara Entwisle, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Duncan".

Greg Duncan, Vice-President