

**Action of the 2010-2011 American Sociological Association Council
On Change of Venue for the 2011 Annual Meeting**

**By Conference Call on December 10, 2010, followed by
Unanimous Email Vote of all Council Members on December 13, 2010**

Conference Call Participation

Present on Conference Call: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), Randall Collins (President), Debra Minkoff, Joya Misra, Sandra Smith, Sarah Soule, Robin Wagner-Pacifici, and Erik Olin Wright (President-Elect)

Absent on Conference Call: Sarah Fenstermaker, Evelyn Nakano Glenn (Past President), Rosanna Hertz, Jennifer Lee, John Logan (Past Vice President), Omar McRoberts, Cecilia Menjivar, Debra Minkoff, Joya Misra, Mario Luis Small, Sandra Smith, David Snow (Vice President), Sarah Soule, and Edward Telles (Vice President-Elect)

Staff Present on Conference Call: Janet L. Astner, Sally T. Hillsman, Kareem D. Jenkins

Email Voting Participation

Present on Email Vote: Catherine White Berheide (Secretary), Randall Collins (President), Sara Fenstermaker, Evelyn Nakano Glenn (Past President), Rosanna Hertz, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Jennifer Lee, John Logan (Past Vice President), Joya Misra, Omar M. McRoberts, Cecelia Menjivar, Debra Minkoff, Mario Small, Sandra Smith, David Snow (Vice President), Sarah Soule, Edward E. Telles (Vice President-Elect), Robin Wagner-Pacifici, and Erik Wright (President-Elect)

President Randall Collins convened the conference call from 1:08 – 2:22pm on Friday, December 10, 2010, to discuss the information sent to ASA Council by the ASA Executive Officer Sally Hillsman on 12/8/10 (see Appendix 1).

Due to the lack of a quorum on the conference call, the ensuing discussion was considered advisory and a full vote of Council was subsequently undertaken electronically. ASA Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman provided the following background information by email.

Background

Council members discussed the labor dispute involving the Hilton Chicago hotels with which ASA has contracts for August 2011. This dispute involves hotels across the city of Chicago, as well as hotels in San Francisco and Honolulu. As a consequence, there is no way Council or Hilton can be certain what issues are holding up approval of the three-city contracts by UniteHERE. Therefore, Council has no way to judge with confidence whether negotiations will be concluded by August 2011.

There was some sentiment that, if the contracts remain unsigned, the Hilton Hotels in Chicago might be targeted because ASA makes a visible target. While this is entirely supposition, Council members were concerned that, despite their desire to see the

Annual Meeting in Chicago, many ASA members would be extremely upset if there no labor agreement, and more so if there were disruptions during the meeting. The short- and long-range consequences of such member reactions for the ASA were discussed.

Council also discussed how long it could delay before making a final decision and signing a contract with a new site. Three issues were highlighted. First, the window of opportunity for finding a suitable space of the size needed by ASA is rapidly closing now that the meeting is only eight months away. The ability to negotiate good contract terms for a new site (e.g., hotel rates, free internet, hotel hosting receptions) is highest if paperwork can be signed by December 31, 2010. Second, the longer that ASA is unable to let members and program participants know the site has changed (and probably the dates), the higher the prospect of significant problems arising because participants will have less opportunity to make suitable arrangements to attend in a different city at a different time. Third, delaying ASA decisions places heavier burdens on the associations that meet by choice in the ASA city at the time of the ASA meeting because of overlapping memberships (e.g., SSSP, ABS, ASR, etc.). These associations will also face pressure to move once ASA announces its move because they are also in hotels that are covered by these labor negotiations.

Council concluded during the conference call that an *immediate* vote of the full Council was needed so that ASA staff could proceed with finding and negotiating a suitable new site, alerting the sister societies that are also meeting in Chicago in August, and informing the ASA membership and program participants of the changes so everyone can make suitable program adjustments to preserve the existing program (some of which is substantially focused on Chicago and some Chicago activists).

Finally, Meeting Services Director Kareem Jenkins gave Council an update on the ASA Meeting Services work to secure other venues. The Hilton Hotel national representatives are assisting the search for a possible Hilton location that has the space requirements and dates that ASA needs. He reported that we can certainly get the entire meeting into a single major Hilton property in Las Vegas as of today (which keeps the meeting more in the middle of the country where our geographical rotation has us this year); there might be an opportunity to book New York City, but that is uncertain. Minneapolis and other mid-western sites are also being explored. The selection of a final site will require a second vote of Council, if Council votes today to move from Chicago, as was the unanimous sentiment at today's Council meeting via conference call.

Please cast your vote as soon as possible, but no later than Noon Eastern time, Monday December 13, 2010. The sooner we hear from you, the sooner we can move forward to implement Council's decision.

Recommended Action: to move the 2011 Annual Meeting out of Chicago:
VOTE "YES" TO MOVE FROM CHICAGO.
VOTE "NO" TO REMAIN IN CHICAGO.

ACTION: To move the 2011 Annual Meeting out of Chicago. Approved unanimously.
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