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# Resources for Faculty Development with Sociologists

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# Disciplines

## Resources for Faculty Development with Sociologists

CHARLES A. GOLDSMID

POD members doing faculty development with sociologists or with departments of sociology have a *substantial* number of resources on which they can draw. Following a brief introduction, this article lists major sources of material and other forms of assistance. Specific contacts, addresses, organizations and journals are noted.

### *Background*

Sociology is taught in over 95% of all types of institutions in higher education. Total annual enrollment is about two million students. In recent years, there is indication of decreases in the number of sociology majors and many departments have decreases in their annual enrollment. Most sociology departments get much of their enrollment from college-wide distribution requirements or from requirements that students in a particular major take a sociology course. Such "service courses" often are important in departmental enrollment.

The *American Sociological Association* (ASA) is the national professional organization of the discipline. Traditionally, it has focused on issues and activities chiefly of concern to scholars in the field. In the last five years, however, the ASA has been very actively involved in teaching and curriculum-related concerns. It now represents a major resource to sociologists and their departments.

There are eight regional and more than two dozen state associations in sociology. Their main activity is an annual meeting. Traditionally, state associations have been concerned with teaching; typically, their annual meetings have many sessions on teaching.

POD Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 1979)

Information on associations in your area can be obtained from Dr. Lawrence Rhoades, American Sociological Association, 1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 833-3410.

Few community college sociologists have been members of the ASA; relatively more attend state meetings. The *Community College Social Science Association* publishes a journal and holds several meetings each year in different parts of the country. Teaching is a major focus. For information contact: Prof. Gerald Baydo, CCSSA, Gossmont College, El Cajon, CA 92020.

POD members working with graduate sociology departments may be interested in knowing that some two dozen graduate departments, including many of the largest and best known, now have workshops or courses on the teaching of sociology. Information sheets which describe opportunities and issues in faculty development are available for in-service faculty and for graduate students preparing to teach. For information, contact: Charles Goldsmid.

In 1972, the Section on Undergraduate Education was formed within the ASA. It publishes a *Newsletter*, holds a full day of sessions on teaching at the annual ASA meeting, and issues periodic informational mailings to members.

In 1973, Sage Publications, Inc. started publication of *Teaching Sociology*, now a quarterly journal. In 1974, the ASA Projects on Teaching Undergraduate Sociology were launched. Funded by a total of four grants from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (HEW) and the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the ASA Projects have held dozens of workshops, issued numerous publications on teaching of sociology and launched several of the efforts described below. The ASA Projects has some 150 sociologists who contribute their time and energy; a substantial amount of activity is involved.

In 1977 *Change's* July issue focused on sociology and two other disciplines as part of its national program on teaching. The October 16, 1978, issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* carried an extensive story about the ASA Projects.

In sum, there is a substantial amount of visible, organized activity in sociology regarding teaching, curriculum and factors affecting them. Here are a few of the sources now available.

#### RESOURCES IN SOCIOLOGY

*Teaching Sociology*: a quarterly journal, each issue of which carries about seven articles and many book reviews. One year sub-

scriptions to individuals: \$15.00 to Sage Publications, Inc., P. O. Box 776, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. First issue was October, 1973. Each issue carries much material of direct use to the classroom teacher.

*ASA Teaching Resources Center* (1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 833-3410. Director is Dr. Lawrence Rhoades.) A publications list, "Teaching Resources Available" includes some 40 documents on teaching sociology and teaching and curriculum generally for sale; some free materials are also available. In addition, the Center can often link people with questions to those with answers. Launched by the ASA Projects on Teaching, the TRC is now a formal part of the ASA. Checks for documents should be payable to the "ASA Teaching Resources Center." Among the publications available are:

*Teaching Sociology: A Bibliography*, 2nd ed. (1977) 351 annotated citations to articles on the teaching of sociology; emphasis is on post 1965 work. Includes 39 citations on the introductory course. 120 pp. \$3.00/copy.

*Introductory Sociology: A Set of Syllabi and Related Materials*. 16 syllabi illustrating diverse approaches to the course. Prepared by the ASA Section on Undergraduate Education. 190 pp. \$6.75.

"The Sociology Curriculum," special issue of *Teaching Sociology* (October, 1977). 120 pp. \$4.00.

"Preparing Sociologists to Teach," special issue of *Teaching Sociology* (April, 1976). 151 pp. \$4.00. One article on in-service and 6 articles on preparing graduate students for teaching; major resources section.

*Syllabi and Related Materials from Graduate Courses on the Teaching of Sociology*. Materials from seven courses. 1976. \$4.25.

*Teaching Resources Group* (ASA Projects). A group of 45 sociologists around the country are available to visit departments to serve as resource persons on diverse aspects of teaching and curriculum. Expenses must be borne by the inviting department. All 45 of them have areas of specialization but a broad base in resources on teaching. For further information, contact: Dr. Charles A. Goldsmid.

*ASA Teaching Newsletter.* Issued six times a year; annual subscriptions are \$4.00. One need not be an ASA member to subscribe. Send check payable to "ASA Projects on Teaching" to Dr. Lawrence Rhoades, ASA Teaching Newsletter, American Sociological Association, 1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. A major source of information on development in the profession of teaching, workshops, services, publications, news, etc. Differs from *Teaching Sociology* in that the latter contains a smaller number of extended papers and is not a news source.

*ASA Section on Undergraduate Education.* Membership is open to ASA members. Section dues are \$5.00/year. Send check (noting its purpose) payable to American Sociological Association, 1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

*ASA Projects on Teaching Undergraduate Sociology.* The Projects launched many of the services described above. For information, write to Dr. Hans O. Mauksch, Department of Family & Community Medicine, TD3-W Medical Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201; (314) 882-6183. The Projects holds workshops, arranges for speakers at state and regional meetings, etc.

For information on working with graduate students in preparation for teaching, contact: Dr. Charles Goldsmid; see also materials listed under ASA Teaching Resources Center, above.

For curriculum-related issues, contact: Dr. Sharon McPherron, Department of Sociology, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, St. Louis, MO 63135; (314) 595-4420.

*Change* (July, 1977) Report No. 4 on Teaching features a section on sociology; 10 articles; also, a supplement titled "Approaches to Undergraduate Teaching in Sociology" (with 41 short articles) was issued. Each are available for \$1.00 from the ASA Teaching Resources Center.