

ALTRUISM AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY SECTION OF THE ASA

JOIN AN IMPORTANT NEW AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SECTION

A new American Sociological Association section on "Altruism and Social Solidarity" is now in formation. The section focuses attention on phenomena such as generosity, altruism, forgiveness, unlimited love, philanthropy, intergroup cooperation, and universalizing solidarity. Please consider joining us to participate in the activities and to work toward realizing the goals set forth in our Mission Statement.

MISSION STATEMENT: ALTRUISM AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY SECTION

The purpose of the section is to promote theoretical development and empirical research pertaining to altruism and social solidarity. In the broadest sense, this subject matter consists of activities intended to benefit the welfare of others. These activities span the micro-macro continuum, from individual, to interpersonal, to organizational, to global, in all their forms and processes. Attention is given to the cultural and structural sources of altruism and social solidarity, and both their anticipated and unanticipated consequences.

In today's world beset with individual and intergroup discord and violence, the intrinsic scientific, policy, and public relevance of this subject in helping the human community to construct "good societies" is unquestionable. The work of the section promotes understanding of the conditions necessary for a broad vision of the common good that includes all individuals and groups.

Section activities are directed towards establishing the discipline of sociology in the forefront of theoretical development and empirical testing in this essential interdisciplinary area of scientific investigation. These activities include the following: to provide for periodic regular exchanges of information at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association; to formally recognize outstanding theoretical, empirical, and applied work in the field of altruism and social solidarity through annual awards; and to link with other scientific groups working on psychological, cultural, and genetic aspects of altruism and solidarity.

In doing so we seek to develop and augment a community of scholars dedicated to the study of altruism and social solidarity; to provide an ongoing social context and support system for efforts to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the nature, sources, and effects of altruism and social solidarity; to encourage the investigation of the policy implications of this knowledge; and to facilitate the dissemination of information to publics regarding aspects of altruism and social solidarity that will benefit individual lives and the social organization of modern society.

VISIT OUR SECTION HOMEPAGE

Our Section Homepage is <http://www.csun.edu/~hbsoc126/>

Copies of the Section Newsletter, Volume 1, Numbers 1 and 2, are available on the Homepage.

TO JOIN

The ASA website is www.asanet.org. From there go to "Membership Information," then "Join or Renew," and finally "Join a Section." We are third on the list of sections: "Altruism and Social Solidarity (47)." Check to join the section, then go "Payment," which is only \$5.