

UNIVERSITY OF  
PITTSBURGH

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

SSA Planning Meet-  
ings each month

Send an email to  
SSAPitt@gmail.com  
to get on our Mailing  
List

Join our Facebook  
Group!

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# Sociology Student Association Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 18TH, 2010

## What is SSA? A Message From Our President

The SSA is the Sociology Students Association at the University of Pittsburgh. The SSA was founded on four main principles; to inspire an active interest in Sociology within the Undergraduate body, to act as a facilitator in meeting and learning from graduate students and faculty, to prepare students for graduate school or finding a job and to encourage a social community around our common interest in Sociology.

Monthly planning sessions are held at 8:30pm in Posvar 2200 and have led to the creation of teams working on projects for the betterment of the Sociology community. Projects so far have ranged from setting up a cultural tour of Pittsburgh, to creating after-school sociology programs in local high schools, to going on group social endeavors to see the Oscar Award winning film "Milk". As the group settles into a more formal structure we look forward to events such as giving back to the community by volunteering time in local non-profits as well as fundraising to attend sociological conferences and interact with peers from other universities.

While still in the early stages, the Sociology club is building a newsletter staff as well as a journal staff to take on the task of creating an undergraduate outlet for sociological interest and research. We're looking to publish a newsletter much like this one monthly, so expect more to come. Thanks to support from a donor within the Sociological community at Pitt we are very excited to be publishing an undergraduate journal in the Spring of 2010.

Although still a relatively young club, a sense of community is building. Even the networking alone would make experiences with this club worth the time put in and I am excited to see where our projects and goals lead us. If you want to know more about the club or stay updated about our activities please email me at SSAPitt@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you soon.

## Call for Undergraduate Content

The SSA Newsletter would like to publish your undergraduate work! Send a short scholarly article (2-3 pages) pertaining to sociology in a Microsoft Word format to SSAPitt@gmail.com. Our editors will select the work which will be published in our monthly newsletter.

The SSA would also like to publish your articles related to current events or sociological happenings. Whether it is a movie review or a social movement call to action, send your work in Microsoft word format to ssapitt@gmail.com for review.

Lastly the SSA is in need of artistic content. Photos, paintings, poems, any visual aesthetics relating back to Sociology should be emailed to SSAPitt@gmail.com with "visual" in the subject line in a PDF format for review.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~sorc/ssa/>

## Soc Course Highlight: Sociology Internship



Subject: Sociology  
 Catalog: 1900  
 Class Number: 10614  
 Meeting Time: Varies  
 Where: Varies  
 Prerequisites:  
 Students must be in good academic standing. Students are eligible to register for internships after they have completed 36 credits toward a degree, including at least 6 credits in sociology.

A sociological internship is a type of Independent Study in which the student is, in some sense, employed in a non-academic position (usually as a volunteer but sometimes for pay). Student interns are sponsored, guided and evaluated by a faculty member (usually the Internship Coordinator). Interns are also directly supervised by an appropriate person at the internship site.

The experience gained by the student must have direct sociological relevance. The normal academic requirements of an internship include a research paper, a daily journal and regular communication with the faculty sponsor.

If you are an interested Sociology major, please contact Dan Romesburg for more information.

*“Her childhood dream really was to be a professor but she admits her childhood idea is different from the reality.”*

Dr. Suzanna M. Crage is the newest addition to Pitt’s Sociology Department



## Profile of a Professor

Dr. Crage is the newest Professor in the Sociology department. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University. Dr. Crage attended the University of Washington for undergraduate work where she received degrees in Microbiology and Psychology. Halfway through her last semester there, she decided she did not like Microbiology and added a Psychology major because she wanted a completely different type of science. After graduation she obtained a job related to Psychology. Dr. Crage decided that she did not want to pursue further work in Psychology and went back to school for a Ph.D. in Sociology. Dr. Crage’s research focus is “city level responses to refugee

immigration in Germany”. She finds this interesting because the country has a duty (by their own laws) to asylum seekers and the people might not always want them there.

Her childhood dream really was to be a professor but she admits her childhood idea is different from the reality. Dr. Crage has always had an interest in teaching but did not want to teach high school. She does like to teach introductory level classes. She would be interested to teach classes in social problems in higher education and an upper level class on immigration but these are not usually classes offered by our department.

Students will be most surprised to learn that Dr. Crage completed seventh grade and then started her freshman year at the University of Washington.

She never had the experience of high school. She has been very surprised with how friendly the people of Pittsburgh are, especially in her new neighborhood. She expected to find that the Greek Life on campus would have a larger presence but admits that she did graduate work at Indiana University, which is larger and a larger percentage of the student population is Greek. She is not yet a Steelers fan but when she interviewed here, they told her she would have to become one.

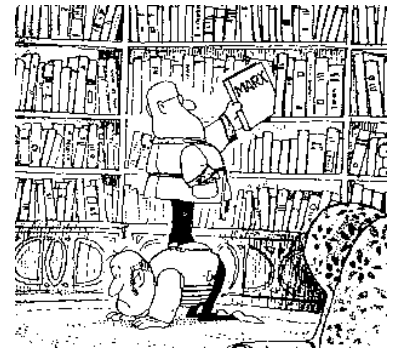
Dr. Crage hopes that through her classes students learn two things through her classes: the role of gender, race, and/or class as is relevant to that class’s topic and that lives are not just a product of our actions but of groups.

Written By  
 Rachel Lipow

# Upcoming SSA Events

<p><b>Next Planning Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>March 4th in Posvar 2200</b></p> <p>Stop by our planning session at 8:30pm to help guide our club's programming into the Spring semester.</p>	<p><b>Major Events on the Agenda:</b></p> <p><i>Journal publishing party</i></p> <p>-We need an event planning committee to help plan the release party for the SSA journal, Social Concepts.</p> <p><i>Officer Elections</i></p> <p>- We will be electing our new officers for the next calendar year at our planning session. If you're interested in running for an office, contact SSAPITT@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Currently Running for Office</b></p> <p>President:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mark Hoelzel</li> <li>2.</li> </ol> <p>Vice President</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steve Green</li> <li>2.</li> </ol> <p>Business Manager</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tessa Lewis-Whitson</li> <li>2.</li> </ol> <p>Secretary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Josh Rorapugh</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
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## Soc Comic Corner



## SSA Goes To The Movies

Each month the SSA sets up a movie night with sociological relevance. In the past we've gone to see movies such as "Milk", "Capitalism a Love Story", and "Adventureland".

If you want to help decide our next movie, drop by the facebook group's discussion board and put in your two-cents.

### Facebook Group

<http://tinylink.com/?1QjgWCV41D>

### Discussion board

<http://tinylink.com/?dvqj3CeVyr>

## Monday Luncheons

Please join the SSA Mondays at 12:00 in 2800 Posvar for lunch and discussion with a Soc. department faculty member. This is a great way to interact

with professors, gain knowledge on topics like grad school and future careers in Sociology, and to get to know other Sociology majors. Bring your

own lunch or pick something up from Einstein's on your way there. See you then!



Department Head Dr. Kathleen Blee was our first faculty member in attendance on 10/26/09.

SSA Officers:

President– Richard Rosenow

Vice President– Lesley Noone

Business Manager– Ken Eger

Secretary– Josh Rorapaugh

Fundraising Chair– Erin Toy

Public Relations Chair– Lindsay Litowitz

Technology Chair-- Mark Hoelzel

Journal Editor– Steve Green

Newsletter Contributors:

Lesley Noone - Editor

Rachel Lipow

Steve Green

Richard Rosenow

Lindsay Litowitz

**Special Thanks To:**

Dr. Rod Nelson

Dr. Suzanna Crage

Tim Brundrett

University of Pittsburgh's Sociology Department



To the outgoing officers, a special thanks goes out to all of you for everything you've done. You've dedicated a lot of time and energy to the club and set it on its own feet. We learned it's not easy to start a new organization on campus. It can be disheartening when only officers show up to events or events get cancelled. We did however have a lot of great events and movie nights, we are in the end stages of publishing the first Sociology student journal at the University of Pittsburgh, and we managed to have a lot of fun along the way.

Out of everything we did over the past year, what I felt was the most meaningful was the founding of the club itself. By founding this club, we've created an organization and a community where before there was nothing. We've been able to put forth the idea of a community of students based on a passion for common interest and a need to know your peers in more than just an academic setting. This groundbreaking was the hard part.

To the future clubs, best wishes and my fullest support. The Pittsburgh Sociology department is a great place for student ideas and events to prosper. You could not ask for more responsive and engaged professors and staff. Remember that in the end, both Sociology and this club are about bonds between people. I wish you the best of luck in everything you do.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Rosenow

Outgoing SSA President

**<http://www.pitt.edu/~sorc/ssa/>**