
Finding aid prepared by Reiko Nagumo, Updated by Lynn Drennan
California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives
University Library
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September 2011, Updated July 2017
**Title:** Pacific Sociological Association records

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS 2006/13

**Contributing Institution:** California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 14.25 Linear feet (10 record cartons, 1 manuscript box, and 1 flat boxes)

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1960-1988

**Date (inclusive):** 1958-2016

**Abstract:** The collection begins with records from 1929 when Emory Bogardus, Ph.D. of the University of Southern California founded the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) and ends in 2008 upon the retirement of PSA Chief Executive Officer, Dean S. Dorn, Ph.D., of California State University Sacramento. Contents of the collection include correspondence and emails, minutes of Business and Executive Council meetings, newsletters, annual meeting agendas, election materials, committee reports, copies of annual PSA presidential addresses and early accounting records. There are gaps in the chronology of some of the earlier records, especially for meeting minutes, membership and election of officers.

**Physical Location:** Some of the CSUS Special Collections and University Archives are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

**Language:** The collection is in English.

**creator:** Pacific Sociological Association.

**History**

Emory Bogardus, Ph.D. of the University of Southern California founded what is now called the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) in 1929. In the fall of that year, Bogardus called together professors of sociology in southern California to form a regional sociological association. The name adopted at this meeting, Pacific Southwest Sociological Association, was changed in 1931 to the Pacific Sociological Society and the constitution was changed to provide for an enlarged membership that would extend from southern California to British Columbia. By vote of the membership in 1960, the name of the organization was changed to the Pacific Sociological Association. The purpose and object of the association is to promote both sociological research and the teaching of sociology in universities, colleges, community colleges, and high schools in the Pacific area. It accomplishes its mission by convening an annual meeting and publishing its journal. The Pacific Sociological Review was launched in 1958 with the intent to publish articles presented at the society’s meetings as well as a few manuscripts submitted independently. In 1983, the journal was renamed Sociological Perspectives.

**Preferred Citation note**

[Identification of item]. Pacific Sociological Association records, MSS 2006/13. Department of Special Collections and University Archives, The Library, California State University, Sacramento.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

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**Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection is open for research. Some restrictions may apply.

**Processing History**


**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

The Pacific Sociological Association records were acquired as a gift in 2007.

**Scope and Contents note**

Collection files begin with PSA history, including a biography of Emory Bogardus. Historical updates appear in 2002, 2004 (publication of the book by Dean Dorn, “75 Years of PSA, 1929-2004”) as well as a “projection” of what PSA will be like in 2029. Files on PSA Constitution and Bylaws (1935-2007) reflect organizational development. Membership grew from 40 in 1935 to almost 1300 by 2006. The composition of the membership shifted from a professorial group to include non-academic sociologists, graduate and undergraduate students. Geographic boundaries include Hawaii, Alaska and the western Canadian provinces, Pacific coastal states and several inland states.
A constitutional requirement of the association is that one annual Business meeting for the general membership and two Executive Council/Advisory Committee meetings be conducted. Minutes from business meeting are on file from 1940 to 2008 and for the executive group from 1953 to 2008.

PSA activities are driven by committees, both standing and ad hoc. Their reports and proposals are then presented at Executive and Business meetings for final policy determinations. Examples of active committees include: Audit, Awards for Scholarship and Teaching, Award for Social Conscience, Committee on Committees, Contract Monitoring, Endowment, Freedom of Research and Teaching (COFRAT), Membership, Nominations, Publications, Status of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgender persons, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and Status of Women. The records from the Committee on the Status of Women includes files on specific women sociologists who requested that the PSA investigate allegations of discrimination at universities e.g., Redlands, Stanford, U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis.

Annual Meeting files include a handbook, master calendar, and attendant duties of advertising, local hosting issues, site selection policies, and annual agendas for the period 1931-2008. Between 1959 and 1962, spring and fall “mailings” were sent to members announcing the dates, site and call for papers for the meeting. In January 1993 this procedure was replaced by the first issue of the Pacific Sociologist newsletter (see Publications Committee file). Augmenting the newsletter is the correspondence file between meeting planners and presenters on a given program. Traditionally, the PSA presidential address is given at the annual meeting. On file are copies of many addresses from 1930 to 2003 as well as an analysis of each speech. (See Dean S. Dorn’s “75 Years of the Pacific Sociological Association, 1929-2004”, pages 146-149 for President and title of speech.) Unfortunately, some speeches were never published, therefore, those copies are unavailable. The collection includes also audiotapes of some of the speeches.

The financial records in the collection reflect the income and expenses of the PSA from 1935 to 2007 as well as the balance sheets for their bank accounts.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Dorn, Dean S.

Pacific Sociological Association.

Sociology.

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- Box 1, Folder 1: Constitution and Bylaws, 1935-2007.
- Box 1, Folder 2: 75 Years of the Pacific Sociological Association, 1929-2004, by Dean S. Dorn, 2005.
- Box 1, Folder 5: Historical notes, 1953-1984.
- Box 1, Folder 6: 2006: Summary of Events, Decisions, and Discussions and Reports, n.d.
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- Box 1, Folder 10: Secretary’s notebook, 1935-1941.
- Box 1, Folder 11: Brochure, “Become a Member of the Pacific Sociological Association”, undated

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Committee on Committees. 2004-2006.

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Community Colleges Committee (ad hoc). 2006.


Education Committee. 1982.


Freedom of Research and Teaching Committee. 1982-1996.


Membership Committee, correspondence. 1959-1962.

Membership Committee, correspondence. 1963-1968.

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