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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue represents my fourth annual volume as editor of JIASS. I hope you, the reader, are as pleased with the result as am I and my editorial staff. As in previous years, we continue to publish high-quality original scholarly research along with theoretical analyses and public policy commentary on a broad range of topics.

At our annual meeting last October (2013), we had the good fortune to hear an exciting and highly relevant address on the changing nature and meaning of family from one of the nation's leading family researchers and scholars, sociologist Brian Powell of Indiana University. Professor Powell shared the results and implications of his recent book that details his survey research on how people define and practice family life. Professor Powell's paper, thoroughly revised and updated, appears as the lead article at the beginning of this volume. In light of the ongoing federal and state controversy and debate over gay-lesbian marriage and family, his paper is essential reading for any social scientist who wishes to be informed by the most up-to-date research and thinking about this issue. I highly recommend it as essential reading for every social scientist who cares about social science, public policy, and social justice.

As of my tenure as editor beginning with Volume 14 (2010–2011), submission of papers to JIASS is no longer limited to papers presented at the annual meeting and conference. While some of the submissions I receive still originate from our annual meeting, that has become less the case with each issue I have published. Accordingly, Volume 16 (2013) includes several papers not presented at the IASS annual meeting, and Volume 17 continues this trend, with the most to date. To ensure quality and fairness, each and every article submission is subject to a double-blind peer-review process that involves at least two referees.

As is evident from an inspection of the table of contents, the journal no longer endeavors to publish at least one paper from each or most of the disciplines represented by the IASS in every volume. Some disciplines may have more than one paper represented, while others may have none. Beginning with Volume 16, JIASS no longer identified papers by disciplinary subject heading. I continue with the practice in this volume of publishing exceptional undergraduate and/or graduate student papers. You will note I have also continued the practice of publishing papers under the rubric of Teaching/Pedagogy.

Volume 17 continues to be published simultaneously online (www.iass1.org) and in an attractive 8.5" X 11" print edition. We no longer mail print copies; instead, copies are available for members to pick up at the annual meeting (print copies may be requested for an additional mailing and handling charge of \$10). Volume 17 will, as usual, be indexed and available through EBSCO. JIASS is also listed in *Cabell's Directory* (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance). All of these developments represent important milestones for both the journal and the Academy and will ensure their successful transition to the 21st century of scholarly communication.

As always, I want to publicly acknowledge and thank all of my editorial staff for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout the editorial review process. Some important changes in the organization of editorial staff are reflected in Volume 17.

Jaishankar Raman (Valparaiso University) now serves as senior deputy editor; Surekha Rao (Indiana University Northwest) joins Dulce Maria Scott as a deputy editor. Both Shankar and Surekha bring strong editorial skills, and especially expertise in business and economics, to their posts—assets that promise to be of great value in processing and evaluating the high number of submissions that JIASS receives in those areas.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge and publicly thank the many reviewers who serve as referees of papers submitted. Quite simply, JIASS would not be possible without the professional dedication and commitment of our many reviewers. The authors, IASS, and I owe you many thanks for helping to make possible and to preserve the high-quality reputation of JIASS.

JIASS and I have been very fortunate to have had Stephanie Seifert Stringham serve as our copy editor since the beginning of my tenure as editor in 2010. Stephanie has been copy editing the journal since Volume 14, and her perseverance, intelligence, dedication, and amazing talent all seem just as amazing to me today as her work did four years ago. It is difficult for me to praise enough the wonderful job she has done in every issue, somehow pulling the rough copy together into the finely crafted product we have all come to enjoy as well as to expect. Thanks, Stephanie!

Finally, I would like to once again thank Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, for his sincere and wholehearted support of my work as editor and with IASS in general—I simply could not imagine a more genuine or committed friend of JIASS than Jay has been these past four years.

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