

Organiser: **CSA Annual Meeting Programme Committee**

Chair: **Melanie Heath**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, McMaster University, [mheath@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mheath@mcmaster.ca)

1) **Michael C. Adorjan**, Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong, [madorjan@hku.hk](mailto:madorjan@hku.hk)

### **News from Somewhere: Youth Crime, Emotions Contests and News Reflexivity**

Competing emotional ideologies within three Canadian newspapers during the 1990s are analyzed with respect to youth crime debates. Comparing and contrasting representational tactics between regional and national, as well as ‘tabloid’ versus ‘broadsheet’ newspapers, this paper seeks to explicate ‘emotions contests’ which are closely related to ‘victim contests’ over young offender culpability and identity. Emotions contests are underscored where emotional reactions to social problems become, themselves, the source of contention. Drawing upon constructionist theory, particular attention is paid to the ‘discursive architecture’ of news articles, including the arrangement of claims in dialogue with each other. News reflexivity is argued to be a central feature of these articles, whereby references to ‘the media’s’ representational strategies are often espoused through the media itself. The aim of the paper is to suggest areas for advancement of constructionist analyses of emotions discourses in relation to social problems debates.

2) **Monetta Bailey**, PhD Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary, [mmbailey@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mmbailey@ucalgary.ca)

### **An Exploratory Review of the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program in Western Canada**

In April 2003, the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) came into effect, replacing the Young Offender’s Act (YOA) as the legislation governing youth ages 12-18 in Canada. Under the YCJA, provinces are charged with the responsibility of implementing the Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) Program as an alternative to the formal justice system for young offenders. Since 2003, little research has been done to investigate how the various provinces have implemented this program as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the various models. The following study looked at how the EJS Program has been put in place in three Western provinces: British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. A total of 14 respondents from these three provinces completed an online survey. Respondents were identified by their provincial government representatives responsible for youth justice as committees who experienced a “high” case load. Overall, findings revealed that the EJS programs sampled did appear to be fulfilling their mandate of providing an alternative to the formal justice system; however few of these agencies went beyond the EJS program to provide supplementary support to the youth or victims. In addition, EJS programs did little in the way of coordination between other EJS programs both within the province and across the provinces. Nevertheless, EJS programs all reported high levels of success of the young people who were referred to them.

3) **Steven Hayle**, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, [steven.hayle@utoronto.ca](mailto:steven.hayle@utoronto.ca)