

# CONFERENCE CALL

## The Legacy of the Chicago School

13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007



## Key Speaker Howard Becker



University of Manchester, England

**Social Theorists, Methodologies and  
Methods Conference**

**Details from**

<http://web.mac.com/theorists/iWeb/>

### What are the main themes for this conference?

The 'Chicago School' of sociology is famous. So famous it has become a generic term for a range of perspectives, approaches and methods that are rarely cited. Who now cites Robert Ezra Park, Albion Small, Walter C. Reckless, Ruth Shonle Cavan, Edward Franklin Frazier, Everett Hughes, Roderick D. McKenzie, Frederick M. Thrasher, Ernest Burgess, Homer Hoyt or Louis Wirth? One occasionally sees W.I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki cited (but not Dorothy Swain). George Herbert Mead is still a major source of theory and concepts. But what of the detailed empirical work of Harvey Warren Zorbaugh, Charles Edward Merriam, Samuel C Kincheloe, Harold Foote Gosnell and Nels Anderson?

The methods of ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, life histories, personal documents (letters, diaries), population statistics, maps, real estate pricing, and interviewing were all developed and widely used. The list of topics they investigated and established is long and includes urban sociology, community studies, immigration, racism, inequality, identity and adaptation, political participation, leisure and commercialized entertainment, African American politics, exclusion, community radicalism, religion, white peoples' perceptions of black communities, social problems, traditions, sub-cultures, urban planning, institutionalization, social reform, social mobility... **The theoretical and empirical work of the 'first' Chicago School has become a largely forgotten source of so much taken-for-granted knowledge by contemporary sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, demographers, geographers, policy makers, and practitioners in education and social work professions.**



We appreciate the following organization for their support

**Midrash Publishing.**

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We aim to publish a selection of papers in the *Journal of Classic Sociology*. Other papers are to be published in a book.

**We invite proposals** between 200-250 words for 40 minute paper that examines the legacy and relevance of the Chicago School.

### **Deadlines For Proposals**

Regrettably places at this conference are limited. Send expressions of interest to attend and proposal to present to Chris Hart. The deadline is the 11th May 2007 for proposals. We are able to offer a subsidy to graduate students to help cover the conference fee.

### **Conference Organizers**

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