



Update No. 1 (10/07/2004)

Dear Members and Supporters,

This is the first **Astrosociology.com Update** and hopefully far from the last. The intention of these updates is to keep members and supporters apprised of news and events related to the establishment of astrosociology as a new subfield and, beyond that, those that foster its growth. To be honest, while the progress is far from rapid, we are further along at this time than I first envisioned.

ASA Meeting Highlights

Two events made it onto the ASA Program. This reality, by itself, represents a small but important first step in the establishment of astrosociology as a new sub-discipline! I thought you might be interested in how things transpired at the ASA Convention last August. None of the detractors of astrosociology showed up as they promised.

The good news is that only supporters took part in our discussions. The bad news is that fewer than ten supporters were able, or willing, to take part for the two events. This result is unlikely to represent the true interest in astrosociology among ASA members. As an optimist, I believe there are several reasons for this, including:

- (1) too many conflicts due to several presentations taking place at once;
- (2) members attending presentations consistent with their current specialties;
- (3) many ASA members remaining ignorant of astrosociology;
- (4) astrosociology representing a new proposal requiring greater evaluation over time;
- (5) ASA members unwilling to overtly support astrosociology until it becomes more accepted by others (this is related to a perception of a low level of legitimacy); and:
- (6) considering the very nature of a new subfield and the fear of failure / harm to career if part of failed effort.

Many unable to attend the ASA events contacted me following the conference to express their support, and confirmed some of the reasons listed above. I suspect that attendance will pick up over time, as astrosociology becomes better known and more accepted by the sociological community.

I met two avid supporters in San Francisco. Dr. Marilyn Dudley-Rowley and Thomas Gangale made the conference productive for me due to their support and friendship. In fact, we have several projects in the works aimed at contributing to the development of astrosociology. As you can see below, the three of us are taking part at the CSA conference as another major step in this process.

CSA Meeting

I was given the privilege of organizing a session devoted exclusively to astrosociology at the upcoming California Sociological Association (CSA) meeting coming up in mid-October (next week). This is huge! Details concerning the two sessions involving astrosociology from the preliminary schedule appear below. Both sessions take place on Saturday, October 16. Everyone is encouraged to attend! You can anticipate a second update following this conference.

10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Session E-3: LOST HORIZONS, REGAINING GROUND

Organizer: **Marilyn Dudley-Rowley**, *Sonoma State University & OPS Alaska*

Participants:

Sociological Perspectives on International Relations

Thomas Gangale, OPS-Alaska and San Francisco State University

Space: Sociology's Forsaken Frontier

Jim Pass, Long Beach City College & Astrosociology.com

Class, Status, & Power and the Salvadorian "Civil" War

Lorena Pianezzola, CSU Northridge

Sexism in a Dramaturgical Patriarchal Organizational Story

Cliff Cheng, USC

[CSA Program continued on next page]

2:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Session F-3: ASTROSOCIOLOGY: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SUBFIELD

Organizer: **Jim Pass**, *Long Beach City College & Astrosociology.com*

Participants:

The Relevance of Astrosociology in the 21st Century

Jim Pass, Long Beach City College & Astrosociology.com

The Great Divide: Sociology and Aerospace

Marilyn Dudley-Rowley, Sonoma State University & OPS Alaska

Practical Astrosociology

Thomas Gangale, OPS Alaska & San Francisco State University

[Astrosociology Section-in-Formation Petition](#)

Creation of an ASA section devoted to astrosociology represents a critical step toward establishing astrosociology as a new subdiscipline. If you have not done so already, please fill out the petition form at the following URL:

<https://www.astrosociology.com/sectinform.html>.

Instructions are located on this page along with a link to the ASA's website for those who need to join or renew their ASA memberships. Additionally, please contact any of your colleagues who may be interested and encourage them to sign the petition as well. Finally, those who are not sociologists per se, but see the value of astrosociology and possess even a slight interest in the social sciences, are encouraged to join the ASA and sign the petition in order to assist us in meeting the overall goal of establishing astrosociology as a mainstream, acceptable subfield.

[Astrosociology.com Directory / Contact Your Colleagues](#)

Please review the ***Membership / Supporter Directory*** now available at the site at your convenience. Check for errors if your entry is already included and report any corrections or additions back to me. If you are not included, I encourage you to demonstrate your support by submitting your name and information. This represents a very good way to show potential supporters, and even detractors, that the astrosociological community exists. As more members and supporters add their entries, the growth of the astrosociological community becomes obvious for all to see. Here is the URL for your convenience: **<http://www.astrosociology.com/directory.html>**

[Astrosociology.com Pens – My Personal “Business Cards”](#)

Soon, members and supporters whose physical addresses are known will receive three (3) of these pens. (If you do not receive them by the end of November, please contact me). Keep one and pass out the others to colleagues! You may request more at \$2.00 per pen. This covers the cost of each pen, mailing, plus a small donation. (Please make all donations payable to *Astrosociology.com*). They are comfortable writing instruments, and refillable! Each pen is black with a space theme and the following inscription:

ASTROSOCIOLOGY.COM

Jim Pass, Ph.D., Founder

“Understanding space & society
from a grounded perspective”

My nightmares related to printing a decent business card pushed me in this direction despite the extra expense. The result is more than satisfactory!

[Your Great Ideas Invited](#)

Please send any ideas you may have for the promotion of astrosociology to **ideas@astrosociology.com**; including any strategies for encouraging reluctant though interested sociologists to join the cause. Collaboration remains the best way to make astrosociology an important and relevant subdiscipline. Your participation is vital to our success!

Best regards to all,

Jim Pass