



Update No. 2 (01/14/2005)

Dear Members and Supporters,

I hope that everyone enjoyed a joyous and safe holiday season!

This is the second ***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 securing the establishment and fostering the growth of astrosociology as a new subdiscipline. To be honest, while the progress is far from rapid, we are further along at this time than I first envisioned.

Membership Dues

As you can probably guess, running a website and paying all the promotional and conference-related costs to promote astrosociology becomes expensive over time. This effort to establish astrosociology has cost members and supporters nothing since the creation of ***Astrosociology.com*** on July 15, 2003. However, the costs are becoming increasingly burdensome. And while I will not allow this to stop my overall effort, your assistance can greatly increase the effectiveness of our cause. I believe my request affects each individual only modestly.

Starting in 2005, members are obligated to pay dues at the rate of \$20.00 per calendar year (\$15.00 for students – at any level). Current members are strongly encouraged to pay membership dues, of course. However, supporters are not required to pay dues, so members may change their status to “supporter” to avoid paying membership dues. “Supporters” will continue to receive updates and other benefits. However, I urge all supporters to change their statuses to “member” and pay dues so we can improve our ability to promote this new subfield. **Either way, please be assured that your support is highly valued, and no repercussions exist for any action you take related to**

payment or nonpayment of dues! I will send a separate brief message to remind you of your status as indicated in my records.

Donations are encouraged beyond membership dues, of course. You can pay online via **Paypal** or by check made out to **Astrosociology.com** (for donations or dues). Additionally, please do not forget to visit the **Amazon shopping page** (<http://www.astrosociology.com/shopping.html>). The offerings on this page change over time as new books and products become available. If you plan to buy a book or any product from *Amazon* anyway, you can benefit *Astrosociology.com* by first clicking on a link on the shopping page to get to *Amazon.com* and even purchase something within 24 hours. You need do nothing special during your purchase as their site “knows” you came from *Astrosociology.com*.

Membership dues and donations do not cover all expenses, but they contribute to paying for:

- ! Hosting, programming, and maintenance fees associated with running *Astrosociology.com*;
- ! Conference fees related to promoting of astrosociology (e.g., presentation of papers and promotional events);
- ! Speaking engagements to interested space advocacy and social sciences groups/organizations (which decline to pay);
- ! Ongoing internet advertising;
- ! Promotional item purchases (e.g., *Astrosociology.com* pens);
- ! Office expenses (e.g., stationary, labels, staples, postage, office utilities);
- ! Payment of cash prizes for student competitions and other web-based events;
- ! Research projects (e.g., survey of ASA members regarding their perceptions and attitudes about astrosocial phenomena and astrosociology as a new subfield);
- ! Miscellaneous expenses (no expenses unrelated to *Astrosociology.com* (or its core mission).
- ! **No funds go toward a salary, or any form of personal compensation unrelated to the promotion of astrosociology!**

CONTACT 2005

A great opportunity arose recently to speak at the upcoming CONTACT 2005 conference at NASA Ames Research Center (Mountain View, CA) over the March 18-20 timeframe. My paper is entitled “**The Sociology of SETI: An Astrosociological Perspective.**” All members and supporters are encouraged to attend if at all possible. My presentation takes place on either Saturday or Sunday. The special character of this conferences relates to the diversity of its attendees vis-à-vis their specialty fields (e.g., social scientists, members of the space community, science fiction writers, those in the physical sciences, other interested parties). This represents my first opportunity to attend, and it is extremely compelling to me. Please go to their site for a description of their mission and conference information (including registration, directions, and accommodation details), via the following link: <http://www.contact-conference.org/>.

CSA Meeting

As stated in the first *Update*, I received the privilege of organizing a session devoted exclusively to astrosociology at the California Sociological Association (CSA) meeting that occurred in mid-October. This session represented another great avenue to promote astrosociology. The session details concerning papers about astrosociology are reproduced below.

You can read them in the Virtual Library (<http://www.astrosociology.com/vlibrary.html>).

August 16, 2004

10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Session E-3: LOST HORIZONS, REGAINING GROUND

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

Space: Sociology’s Forsaken Frontier (currently available in the *Virtual Library*)

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

(The other papers in this session do not relate to astrosociology).

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*

(Part Two of *Inaugural Essay* currently available in the *Virtual Library*)

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

The Great Divide: Sociology and Aerospace
(currently, only citation is available in the *Virtual Library*)
Marilyn Dudley-Rowley, *Sonoma State University & OPS Alaska*

Practical Problems in Astrosociology
(currently available in the *Virtual Library and OPS-Alaska*
—both links available in the library)
Thomas Gangale, *OPS Alaska & San Francisco State University*

The opportunity to present these four papers to CSA members proved to be a gratifying and productive event. We were able to add several members and supporters to our cause in addition to additional petition signatures (see the next section for a description). I urge members and supporters to assist us by recruiting others and participating in the construction of a new body of knowledge and literature devoted to astrosociology!

[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, legitimate subfield.

[Submit Your Astrosociology Papers!](#)

These papers must be original compositions written exclusively for astrosociology initially, though you may seek publication after your paper is posted on the site. (Part One of my *Inaugural Essay* was accepted by ASA referees after I posted it with their knowledge). You retain full copyright rights. We must take purposive steps to create this new body of knowledge and literature related to astrosociological issues. While I encourage you to attempt publication in established journals, ***Astrosociology.com*** provides another avenue to make your ideas known to others. At some point, I expect that the best papers to be published in an anthology of articles in a refereed astrosociological journal or perhaps a book. In the meanwhile, the best thing we can do is to get our ideas “out there” on the

World Wide Web. The submission page contains a new listing of many topics from which to choose. Acceptance or rejection of papers for posting at the site is based on majority rule of a committee consisting of three individuals. The link is

<http://www.astrosociology.com/submit.html>.

Suggestion: someone should write a paper about the social consequences of the Mars Rover and/or Cassini/Huygens mission. How about that Huygens landing! Spectacular!

[Special Contributions to the Virtual Library](#)

You may also submit papers for posting intended for future publication or already printed or presented elsewhere. **Currently, I encourage you to read the two existing contributions and provide feedback to the authors.** (See the *Directory* for contact information for both supporters at **<http://www.astrosociology.com/directory.html>**). Wendell Bell of Yale University provided a draft of a chapter from an upcoming book. He kindly mentions astrosociology and promises to expand on his current reference to it. Michael Schetsche, provided an updated paper taken from an article published in the German journal *Polis*. Dr. Michael Schetsche, political scientist and sociologist, leads the department of "Cultural Studies and Social Research" at the Institute for "Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene e.V." in Freiburg (Germany). His fields of study include knowledge and media sociology, sociology of social problems and anomalies, futurology, and qualitative prognostics.

[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 (at **jpass@astrosociology.com**). 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 Mailed](#)

Pens were sent to all members and supporters, according to my contact list. Please inform me if you did not receive your pens, and provide a preferred mailing address, and I will immediately send them out to you. You may request additional pens if you plan to pass them out at a conference or other upcoming event.

They are comfortable writing instruments, and refillable! Each pen is black with a space theme and the following inscription: "Understanding space from a grounded perspective."

As Always, 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. For example, one suggestion under serious consideration provided by member Andrew Hund relates to creation of a **student paper competition**. I invite you to send along any ideas related to its implementation or prizes to award winners. Collaboration remains the best way to make astrosociology an dynamic and relevant subdiscipline. Your participation is vital to our success!

Best regards to all,

Jim Pass