CHESTNUT HILL, MA (June 11, 2007) -- Sociology doctoral candidate William Wood has been awarded the 2007 Edward Shils-James Coleman award from the American Sociological Association for the best student paper in theory.

The highly competitive award is given to a paper which makes a "profound contribution."

Wood's paper "(Virtual) Myths" examines notions of territoriality and space and calls for a stronger sociological examination of these concepts.

The paper reportedly "fits well with section chair Karin Knorr-Certina's call for an examination of 'extreme theory' at the 2007 meetings because it takes on a largely under-examined sociological issue and makes a profound contribution towards basic conceptualizations of why this issue matters and how it can be studied."

As one committee member put it, "The cultural logic is so well captured that it is able to make a convincing argument that geographical mapping of the pre- and colonial era is related to our contemporary mapping of the genome –and that both are practices of control and ordering of the Western culture based on technological/scientific rationality."

The paper was published in 2004 in Critical Sociology, Vol. 30 No. 4 (July).

Honorable mentions were given to Gabriel Abend of Northwestern University, Stefan Kluseman of the University of Pennsylvania and Isaac Reed of Yale University.

The 2007 Shils-Coleman award committee members were Dustin Kidd, Chair of Temple University, Vida Bajc of the University of Pennsylvania and JoAnn Brooks of Bentley College.

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