

Introducing New Minority Fellows

The American Sociological Association and the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are pleased to introduce the nine new Fellows who comprise MFP Cohort 33. The MFP Advisory Panel met last spring in Washington, DC, to review the highly competitive pool of applicants. MFP Cohort 33 consists of PhD candidates with strong research interests in the sociological study of mental health and mental illness, race and ethnicity, and the discipline in general.

The new MFP Fellows officially began their Fellowships on August 1, 2006. As an early part of their training, the Fellows attended the 2006 Annual Meeting in Montréal, where they participated in a day-long orientation complete with a brief history of the ASA and MFP followed by research presentations by several sociologists with expertise in mental health, medicine, and race. During the remainder of their time in Montréal, they participated in numerous sessions and workshops, attended MFP-sponsored events, and met sociologists with similar research interests. All current and new MFP Fellows heard words of encouragement from Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (Duke University) and Mercedes Rubio (National Institute of Mental Health) at the MFP breakfast.

The Minority Fellowship Program, established in 1974, is funded primarily through a T-32 training grant provided by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), with some co-funding by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). MFP is also supported by generous donations from Alpha Kappa Delta, the Midwest Sociological Society, Sociologists for Women in Society, the Association of Black Sociologists, the Southwestern Sociological Association, and the ASA Council, as well as contributions from many individual ASA members.

The New MFP Fellows Are:

Sabrina Alimahomed (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of California-Riverside

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Berkeley

Sabrina is currently a third year PhD student in Sociology at University of California-Riverside. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of California-Berkeley where she majored in Interdisciplinary Field Studies with an emphasis in Sociology, Ethnic Studies, and Women's Studies. Sabrina was awarded the Beth Hess Memorial Scholarship by the Sociologists for Women in Society last year for her scholarly and activist commitments towards social change. She recently co-authored an article with Edna Bonacich on global, racialized labor. Sabrina is interested in the intersecting oppressions of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Her research focuses on the mental health of lesbian and bisexual women of color. Sabrina stays grounded by working with social justice community organizations.

Khaya Clark (SWS/ABS Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of Oregon

Undergraduate Institution: University of Oregon

Khaya is a fourth year PhD student at the University of Oregon. She earned a BA in Sociology from the University of Oregon and an MA from the University of

California-Santa Cruz. Her dissertation is titled "The Development of a Racial Attitudes Index, Grades K-3" and is funded by the National Science Foundation (Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program). Her academic research interests are race and ethnicity, sociology of childhood (with an emphasis on racial attitudes and social schemas), and social psychology. In her spare time, Khaya works as a Research Scientist at an applied research institute in Eugene, OR. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Khaya's applied research involves topics related to diversity, children's understanding of race and phenotypic variation, and racial disparities in healthcare and education. Khaya grew up in the Pacific Northwest and enjoys cycling, backpacking, gardening, and spending quality time with friends and family.

Delores A. Forbes-Edelen (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of Central Florida

Undergraduate Institution: University of Central Florida

Delores is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Central Florida. As a research associate with the department's Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences, she has gained considerable research experience in her role as project manager for a wide range of social policy and impact study research projects conducted at the institute. Her doctoral research will build on Carol Aneshensel's innovative social outcomes model to identify the social and behavioral processes that contribute to early onset mental illnesses. Her research will attempt to help explain what aspects of children's social location are most psychologically deleterious for African-American and Hispanic children, by gender, in order to articulate the processes by which children and youths of different racial and ethnic groups and genders come to be overrepresented in populations with different psychological disorders.

Lisette M. Garcia (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: Ohio State University

Undergraduate Institution: Pennsylvania State University

Lisette is a PhD student at Ohio State University (OSU). She earned a BA in Sociology and a BS in Labor Studies with minors in Business Administration and Spanish from Penn State in 1996. After graduation she worked for several years in higher education administration at the University of Richmond before returning to earn her MS in Sociology from Virginia Tech in 2002. Most recently she has been working on the Ohio Discrimination Project, under Vincent Roscigno. This project is the basis for her dissertation research on the psychological consequences of employment discrimination. Lisette also enjoys spending time in the classroom having taught several courses, including the Sociology of Education, Social Stratification, and Work, Employment & Society. She was selected as the Outstanding Graduate and Professional Student for 2004 and the *Beyond the Baccalaureate Research Forum* winner at in 2003 at OSU. She was also an American Association for Higher Education Hispanic Caucus Fellow and a Form-Huber Fellow in the OSU Department of Sociology for 2002.

Mary Gee (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of California-San Francisco

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Berkeley

Mary, a San Francisco native, is a second-year PhD student in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California-San Francisco. Since graduating Cum Laude with a BA in Psychology from the University of California-Berkeley, Mary has been employed as a Research Coordinator/VP with Davis Y. Ja and Associates, Inc., a program evaluation consulting firm in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has gained valuable applied evaluation research experience working with

nonprofits on demonstration grants serving ethnic minority and underserved populations in the areas of mental health/substance treatment and prevention, criminal justice, housing, eating disorders, and HIV/ AIDS. To complement these experiences, Mary decided to return to school in 2004 to pursue further academic training in the sociology and social psychology of health, illness, and health care policy and institutions. Her research interests include examining the socio-cultural factors contributing to the prevalence of eating disorders among Asian Americans, as well as their implications for mental health treatment, access to care, advocacy efforts, policy, and mental health disparities. Mary is actively involved with the Academy for Eating Disorders and Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action.

Jooyoung Lee (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of California-Los Angeles

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Berkeley

Prior to becoming a PhD student at University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), Jooyoung attended University of California-Berkeley where he received his BA in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies. As an undergraduate, he was interested in Hip-Hop Culture, leading him to write his honors thesis and shoot a mini-documentary titled, "Hip-Hop Culture as Informal Politics." At UCLA, his primary areas of interest are in mental health/disorder, race, culture, urban sociology, and social interaction. His main research focuses on the everyday lives of individuals with autism. Through UCLA's Center for Autism Research and Treatment, Jooyoung conducts participant observation in a Los Angeles high school, noting the ways that autistic youth use a 'theory of mind' and manage peer stigma within everyday school activities. Jooyoung has not lost his interest in hip-hop, however, having further developed his previous research by conducting an ethnographic study of young black men (ages 18-26) who rap on a street corner in South Central Los Angeles. This study reveals subtle forms of social cooperation and deference within a public space commonly linked to street violence and public disorder.

Genevieve Pham-Kanter (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: University of Chicago

Undergraduate Institution: University of Iowa

Genevieve is a PhD student at the University of Chicago. Prior to graduate school in Sociology, she worked for several years at the World Bank on international health issues as well as in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Her primary research field is social stratification with a primary focus on socioeconomic disparities in physical and mental health, and in the biological and material mechanisms through which social conditions affect health. Genevieve completed undergraduate work at the University of Iowa (Biomedical Engineering) and Northwestern University (Philosophy), and holds master's degrees from Harvard University (Tropical Public Health) and the University of Cambridge (Economics). When she is not squinting in front of her computer, she enjoys distance running and trying to fix her hapless Toyota by listening to "Car Talk."

Zandria Robinson (Midwest Sociological Society Fellow)

Graduate Institution: Northwestern University

Undergraduate Institution: University of Memphis

Zandria is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern. She earned her BA in English and in African and African American Studies and her MA in Sociology from the University of Memphis. Her general research interests include epistemology and social theory, urban sociology, race, class, gender, and sexuality, and the sociology of culture. Zandria's current research projects focus on

young black women's reproductive decision-making processes and local hip-hop scenes. As a master's student, Zandria served as a Graduate Fellow with the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change and received a research grant for her working paper, "Stratification Processes in the City Schools: Race, Property and Postmodernism," published by the Hooks Institute Working Paper Series, *Contemporary Frontiers in Civil Rights and Social Justice*. She is author (with Wanda Rushing) of a chapter in *African Americans and Whites: Changing Relationships on College Campuses* (2006, University Press of America). This year she will serve as student representative to the Association of Black Sociologists. Aside from her academic career, Zandria is a classically-trained violinist who taught violin throughout high school and college to underserved children. She is also the proud mother of an almost potty-trained daughter, Assata.

Ruth Thompson-Miller (NIMH Fellow)

Graduate Institution: Texas A & M University

Undergraduate Institution: University of Florida

Ruth is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Texas A&M University, where she is mentored by Joe Feagin. She earned her BA in Anthropology at the University of Florida, where she graduated summa cum laude. While at the University of Florida, she was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and a University Scholar. She is interested in the longlasting psychological effects of racial violence (broadly-conceived) that whites perpetrated on African Americans during legal segregation. Her research indicates that the mental well-being of elderly African Americans in the U.S. Southwest and Southeast has been greatly affected by their experiences with racial violence during and after legal segregation. She would like to see major new national health programs that assist in addressing, understanding, and eliminating the health-related illnesses resulting from long-lasting psychological traumas in African American communities. She presented her research on two panels at the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Durban, South Africa. While in South Africa, Ruth interviewed several South Africans about their experiences during the massive apartheid there. She has forthcoming articles in the journal *Counseling Psychologist*, the edited book, *Without Borders: Human Rights*, as well as some articles in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*.