

SEXUALITIESNEWS

The official newsletter of the American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Sexualities

Winter
2019

Dear Sexualities Section Members:

Happy February! Your Sexualities Council and dozens of membership volunteers have been busily working, since this past August, on a number of tasks and initiatives that I'm happy to preview here. Our work is largely focused on extending the momentum, vision, and conversations of the 2018 ASA Sexualities Preconference, "Sexualities, Race and Empire: Resistance in an Uncertain Time."

Part of this work includes formation of two Section Taskforces—one focusing on the production and submission of Book Salon (formerly termed Author Meets Critic) proposals for ASA consideration. The purpose of this task force is to create proposals for sexualities-related books, and particularly those centering scholarship focusing on subjects, identities, and experiences connected to: race, ethnicity, and racialization; transnationality; and those who are intersex and/or transgender/gender non-conforming (GNC). The aim of this task force is to generate an institutional mechanism for gaining broader sociological visibility and platforms for this important scholarship. The second taskforce focuses on a review of section membership, leadership, mentorship, and awards processes. The purpose is to determine the degree to which our aims of inclusion and equity in our section are reflected in our leadership, membership, mentorship, and awards. Policies and procedures have already been shifting across our nominations, awards, and programming committees to ensure broader representation and inclusion of marginalized scholars and scholarship in our section.

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Notes from the desk of: CARLA A. PFEFFER

Section Chair



THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Section on the Sociology of Sexualities is to encourage, enhance and foster research, teaching and other professional activities in the sociology of sexuality, for the development of sociology and the benefit of society, through organized meetings, conferences, newsletters, publications, awards, and other means deemed appropriate by the Section Council.

The section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in sociology, the sociology of sexualities, and allied disciplines.

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CHAIR'S LETTER, CONT.

We look forward to sharing a truly excellent slate of nominees for Section Council with you in the coming months. Submission for our section awards have also begun rolling in and, taking an early look, there is indeed much to be proud of and inspired by in our vibrant section. This year, Sexualities is working with both Race, Gender, and Class and Sex and Gender to develop a joint mentorship program with the intention of reducing mentor burnout and facilitating student and faculty connections and networks across sections. Abigail Saguy (Chair of Sex and Gender) and I are also working to finalize contract details for our joint section reception at an accessible and fun location just two blocks away from the conference hotels. We look forward to sharing more details soon. Our ASA 2019 section sponsored and co-sponsored programming is also fantastic. Here is a quick preview:

Jyoti Puri's Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle Over the Antisodomy Law in India: an author-meets-critics session organized by Salvador Vidal-Ortiz with Vrushali Patil as presider; panelists include: Ghassan Moussawi, Tina Fetner, and Rod Ferguson.

Simon and Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Beth Schneider: an invited panel session with panelists including: Judith Auerbach, Tristan Bridges, Steven Epstein, Jodi O'Brien, and Beth Schneider.

Let's Talk About Sex: an open-submission thematic panel organized by Julia Meszaros with Angela Jones as discussant (panelist details TBA).

Embodied Resistance: Activism and Protest for Social Justice: an open-submission thematic panel co-sponsored with Sociology of Body and Embodiment organized by Apoorva Ghosh and Kjerstin Gruys. Presided over by Sonny M. Nordmarken with Victoria L. Pitts-Taylor as discussant. Panelists include: Ryan Ashley Caldwell, Sekani Robinson, Jeff Sheng, and Weijun Yuan.

Transnationalizing U.S. Gender and Sexuality Studies: Beyond the Local and the Global: an invited session co-sponsored with Sociology of Sex and Gender organized by Ghassan Moussawi and Héctor Carrillo with Ghassan Moussawi presiding. Panelists include: Olugakemi M. Balogun, Vrushali Patil, Jyoti Puri, Raka Ray, and Michael Stambolis-Ruhstofer.

Section on the Sociology of Sexualities Roundtables: organized by D'Lane Compton, Mael Embser-Herbert, Apoorva Ghosh, and alithia zamantakis (roundtables and presenters TBA).

Chairs and Chairs-Elect from the sections on Race, Gender and Class; Sex and Gender; and Sexualities, along with co-Chairs from Sociologists for Trans Justice, and a number of cross-section Council members and volunteers also worked together to submit three workshop proposals for ASA 2019 in NYC focusing on inclusion and equity for: 1) scholars of color and scholarship focusing on race, ethnicity, and racialization processes; 2) transgender, gender non-conforming/non-binary, and intersex scholars and scholarship; and 3) transnational scholars and scholarship. We look forward to hearing more about the status of these proposals soon and sharing information about these workshops with you should they be accepted.

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DIVISION NEWS & NOTES

Orlaith Heymann (PhD candidate, University of Cincinnati) has received the Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement award from the National Science Foundation for her dissertation on sex educators' experiences in schools.

Amanda Baumle, Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston, with colleagues **Lee Badgett** (Professor of Economics) and **Steven Boucher** (Executive Officer of the Law & Society Association) at the University of Massachusetts, was awarded a \$294,492 grant from the National Science Foundation to study EEOC charges of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Ying-Chao Kao received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University in 2018 May. His dissertation is titled Organizing Transnational Moral Conservatism: How U.S. Christian and Taiwanese 'Pro-Family' Movements Converge, Diverge, and Collide. His research was recently covered by The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/nov/24/taiwan-same-sex-marriage-vote-referendum>) and BBC–Chinese Edition (<https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/trad/chinese-news-46315326>).

Ying-Chao Kao also accepted an offer from Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA) and is now serving as an Assistant Professor (research faculty) of Sociology at VCU. His research tracks the global flows of Christian conservatism and anti-gay sexualities, exploring how Taiwanese and American pro-family organizations have collaboratively shaped and mobilized the global structures to oppose the sexual citizenship of the tongzhi (LGBTQI+) people. Kao joined VCU as one of the three cluster hire positions focusing on “LGBT+ and Queer Studies.”

ESS Panel: Queering Race, Racing Queerness

Organizers: Ghassan Moussawi, Vrushali Patil

This panel brings in conversation scholars working on the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. The panelists will consider multiple genealogies of sexuality and queer studies, focusing on those that challenge single axis approaches to our understanding of queerness, such as queer of color critique, postcolonial and decolonial theory. By queering dominant approaches to gender and sexuality studies, the panelists will explore the following questions: What ontologies are enabled with single-axis approaches to race, gender, or sexuality? What sort of racial assumptions shape single-axis approaches to queerness? What is rendered invisible and who become silenced? How can we think race and queerness together? The panel considers various spaces, groups, and time periods, showing how questions of race and racialization are central to our conceptualization of gender and sexuality.

Panel Participants:

Ghassan Moussawi, University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign (Discussant)

Sara Crawley, University of South Florida

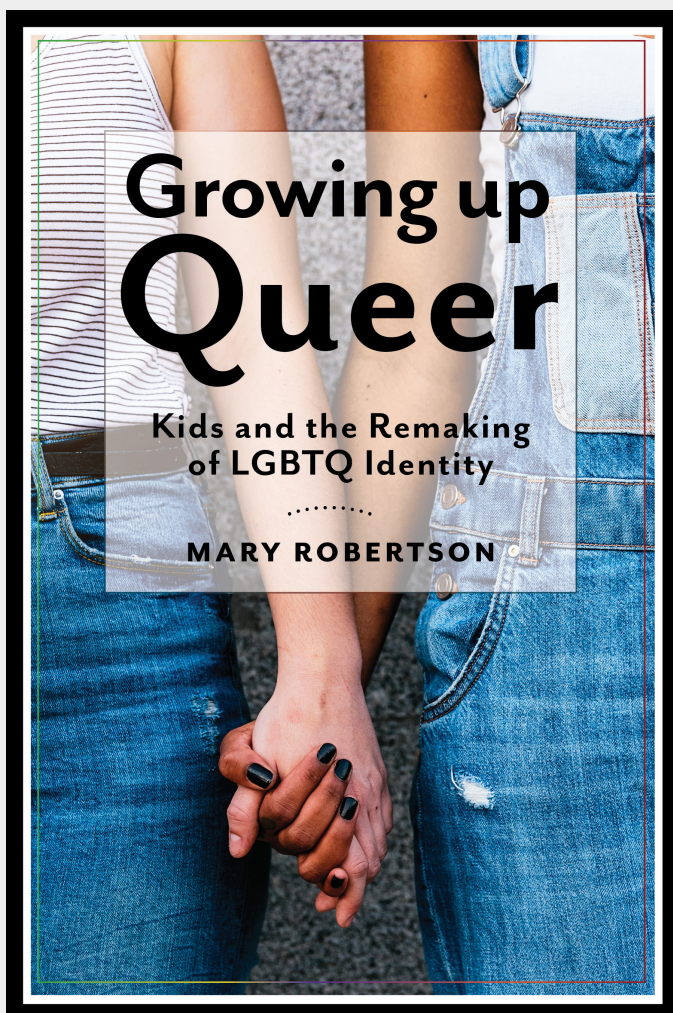
Cristina Khan, University of Connecticut

Theo Greene, Bowdoin College

Vrushali Patil, Florida International University

DIVISION NEWS & NOTES

Growing Up Queer explores the changing ways that young people are now becoming LGBT-identified in the US. Through interviews and three years of ethnographic research at an LGBTQ youth drop-in center, Mary Robertson focuses on the voices and stories of youths themselves in order to show how young people understand their sexual and gender identities, their interest in queer media, and the role that family plays in their lives.



The young people who participated in this research are among the first generation to embrace queer identities as children and adolescents. This groundbreaking and timely consideration of queer identity demonstrates how sexual and gender identities are formed through complicated, ambivalent processes as opposed to being natural characteristics that one is born with. In addition to showing how youth understand their identities, *Growing Up Queer* describes how young people navigate queerness within a culture where being gay is the “new normal.” Using Sara Ahmed’s concept of queer orientation, Robertson argues that being queer is not just about one’s sexual and/or gender identity, but is understood through intersecting identities including race, class, ability, and more. By showing how society accepts some kinds of LGBTQ-identified people while rejecting others, *Growing Up Queer* provides evidence of queerness as a site of social inequality. The book moves beyond an oversimplified examination of teenage sexuality and shows, through the voices of young people themselves, the exciting yet complicated terrain of queer adolescence.

You can listen to Dallas public radio station KERA's talk show "Think", featuring the book, [here](#).

DIVISION NEWS & NOTES

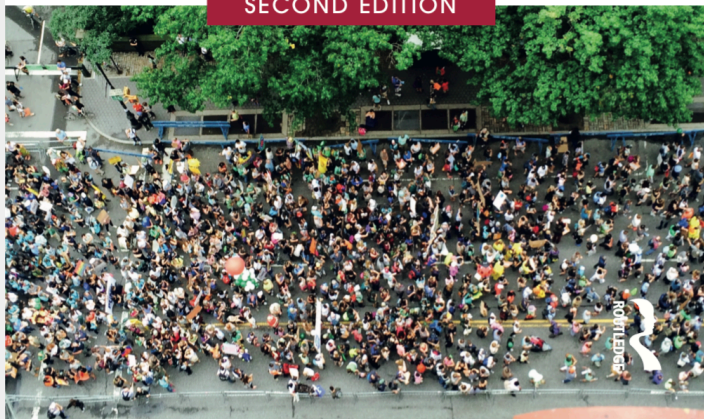
Intersectionality: Foundations and Frontiers is an accessible, primary source-driven exploration of intersectionality in sociology, psychology, women's and gender studies, and related fields. The book maps the origins of the concept, particularly in Black feminist thought, opens the discourse to challenges and applications across disciplines and outside academia, and explores the leading edges of scholarship to reveal important new directions for inquiry and activism. Charting the development of intersectionality as an intellectual and political movement, Patrick R. Grzanka brings together in one text both foundational readings and emerging classics.



INTERSECTIONALITY FOUNDATIONS AND FRONTIERS

EDITED BY PATRICK R. GRZANKA

SECOND EDITION



The completely revised and expanded second edition includes 17 new readings, including an original essay by Lisa Bowleg on the urgency of intersectionality in contemporary politics.

"Patrick Grzanka has delivered the new definitive reader on intersectionality! More expansive and inclusive in scope, it maps intersectionality's movement across time and space. An outstanding resource and teaching tool."

Jyoti Puri, Professor, Sociology, Simmons College

"This is a wonderfully comprehensive reader on intersectionality that showcases the field's multi-faceted histories, its diversity of voices, its range of sites, and its wealth of insights. Tracking classic as well as contemporary contributions, the book shows the ongoing significance and necessity of intersectionality."

Vrushali Patil, Associate Professor, Sociology and Women's Studies, Florida International University

#METOOMEREDITH AND HELPING SURVIVORS

By Meredith G. F. Worthen

The power of #metoo is undeniable but as a professor teaching and researching about sexual violence cloistered away in academia, I wasn't sure until recently how I could more specifically contribute to the grassroots activism surrounding #metoo.



Building on my own experiences, the work of Tarana Burke and the Silence Breakers, decades of disclosures from my students, and the watershed testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, I decided I needed to do something to help survivors. #MeTooMeredith is a simple idea: survivors of sexual violence and harassment send a direct private message to [@MeTooMeredith](#), I send them a message back requesting permission to post their story without any identifying information, and then I post it on the [Instagram page](#). In a nutshell, #MeTooMeredith is a social media platform that gives survivors a place to share their stories anonymously.

I created the page just a few months ago and I have been astounded by its success. Nearly 5000 followers have flocked to the page to create a community of support for all those that share their stories of sexual violence and harassment on MeTooMeredith. To date, I've posted over 550 stories but there are so many more. I receive between 10 and 20 new stories every day and hundreds are waiting in my inbox to be posted. The stories themselves come from all over the world (Australia, Greece, India, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to name a few) and although they are extremely difficult and triggering to read, sharing these stories can be healing at the individual level and to others who are reading stories they can relate to. On MeTooMeredith, we are all connected to each other through our painful experiences with sexual violence, but we are also connected through our strength and through our abilities to heal with one another.

The success of MeTooMeredith demonstrates the pressing need for anonymous platforms to share our stories. The anonymous component is integral to the success of #MeTooMeredith because nearly all survivors reiterate the importance of keeping their story anonymous and a sizeable amount indicate that they have not told anyone about their experience (with the exception of sharing with MeTooMeredith). Survivors also regularly indicate that they feel their experiences "don't count" because they don't meet some preconceived cultural stereotype about sexual violence (often a hetero-cis-normative male perpetrator and female victim rape scenario). One of my regular posts, "Don't forget the LGBTQ in #MeToo" is helping to bring LGBTQ survivors' voices to the forefront. MeTooMeredith and other #MeToo initiatives have the power to push back against these stereotypes and educate about the complexities of sexual violence.

Learn more about MeTooMeredith on Meredith's [website](#) and in local news features from [The Norman Transcript](#), [KOCO Channel 5](#), [The OU Daily](#), [KGOU](#) and [proFmagazine](#).

THE WELCOMING PROJECT

Supporting LGBTQ-Friendly Places and LGBTQ Student Activists

By Meredith G. F. Worthen

What Is The Welcoming Project?

Sociologist Meredith G. F. Worthen, Ph.D., from the University of Oklahoma created [The Welcoming Project](#) in 2011 to encourage businesses, health care/service providers, organizations, and congregations to display [welcoming signs](#) for the purpose of making LGBTQ individuals and allies [feel welcomed as patrons](#). To date, nearly 700 places throughout the United States and across the globe have signed up to support LGBTQ people with rainbow “All Are Welcome” signs on their websites and in their windows. A comprehensive list of all Welcoming Places is available in the searchable online [directory](#).

Scholarships for LGBTQ Student Activists

Every year, The Welcoming Project awards a \$500 scholarship to one undergraduate student and a \$500 scholarship to one graduate student who provide outstanding contributions to LGBTQ activism. Over the years, The Welcoming Project has received applications from LGBTQ activists at universities throughout the United States and internationally. The caliber of students around the world who are dedicated to LGBTQ activism is impressive and The Welcoming Project is proud to continue to offer these scholarships to support their work. Scholarship applicants must be enrolled in degree-granting institutions in August of 2019 and provide an outstanding contribution to LGBTQ activism. The application information packet is available on The Welcoming Project [website](#). **The application deadline is March 1, 2019.**

Want to support this scholarship program? Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to The Welcoming Project, a 501c4 non-profit organization.



CHAIR'S LETTER, cont.

Beyond our work toward section nominations, awards, and programming, Council and section volunteers have also been busy behind the scenes getting ready for a reinvigoration of our section's social media. Be on the lookout for (re)emergence of our section's Facebook and Twitter presence, along with circulation of our community posting guidelines. Gathering together just once a year is never enough, so we hope that our section social media will facilitate feedback and the continuation of conversations between our annual meetings. Last but certainly not least, a HUGE thank you and much gratitude to our wonderful Sexualities Newsletter Editor, bee Coston. bee has served as our Newsletter Editor for the past three years and will be stepping down from newsletter editorship responsibilities after this newsletter. We are thankful for their years of service and for consistently producing such informative and beautiful newsletters for our section.

NEWSLETTER NOTES



Members of Sexualities Section:

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the newsletter editor for the past three years. But, the time has come to move on to new opportunities. I am hopeful to be able to continue my work with the section as a new member of the council. I hope you consider voting for me when ballots become available in April.

Assistant Professor, Health and
Queer Studies
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In the meantime, you can also find me working as the co-chair for the Sociologists for Trans Justice Advancing Public Understanding Committee, and continuing necessary and vital work on the Board of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood.

If you see me at the August Annual Meeting, don't be a stranger.

In solidarity,
bee



We're on Facebook! You should like us as much as we like you...
<https://www.facebook.com/sociologyofsex/>
Just search: "ASA Section on Sexualities"