Introducing MFP Cohort 36

The American Sociological Association and the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are pleased to introduce the nine new Fellows who comprise MFP Cohort 36. The MFP Advisory Panel met this spring in Washington, DC, to review the highly competitive pool of applications. MFP Cohort 36 consists of PhD candidates with strong research interests in the sociology of mental health and mental illness, race, and ethnicity, and the discipline in general. The new Fellows will officially begin their training on August 1.

They will attend the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where they will take part in a day-long orientation that will include a brief history of the ASA and a series of presentations by sociologists (including several former MFP Fellows) with expertise in mental health, medical sociology, and race and ethnicity. During the remainder of their time in San Francisco, the new Fellows will participate in a number of sessions and workshops and have the opportunity to network with sociologists with similar research interests. They will attend MFP-sponsored events including an all-Fellow meeting on Saturday, August 8 and a special session wrapping up the 35th anniversary year of MFP on Sunday, August 9. They will also be introduced individually and as a group at the MFP Benefit Reception on Sunday, August 9.

The MFP is funded primarily through a T32 training grant provided by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and recent co-funding by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). MFP is also supported by generous contributions from Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS), the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), the Southwestern Sociological Association (SWSA), and ASA Council as well as contributions from numerous individual ASA members. The new Fellows are listed below.

Arturo Baiocchi (NIMH)

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Davis
Graduate Institution: University of Minnesota

Arturo Baiocchi was born in Recife, Brazil, and migrated to the United States when he was six. He received bachelor’s degrees in psychology and history from the University of California-Davis and later received his MA in social sciences from the University of Chicago. Currently, Arturo is a doctoral student in sociology at the University of Minnesota and is broadly interested in mental health, medical sociology, and issues of race and difference. Before pursuing graduate work, Arturo worked as a case manager and counselor for a foster care agency in California. Since coming to Minnesota, Arturo has been working with Doug Hartmann, Chris Uggen, and Donna McAlpine on several ongoing projects. One of these has been a longitudinal study of individuals exiting a variety of institutionalized settings where Arturo is exploring how notions of "good mental health" are communicated to, and in turn taken up by, high-risk groups in different contexts. Arturo is also a student editor for ASA’s Contexts and can be heard as the host of the publication’s biweekly podcast.

Jamie Chang (NIDA)

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-San Diego
Graduate Institution: University of California-San Francisco
Jamie graduated from the University of California-San Diego with degrees in political science and communications, and concentrations in biology and humanities. In 2002, she returned to her hometown of San Francisco and began a seven-year long research career in the department of radiology at the University of California-San Francisco. There she researched MRI of brain tumors and other neurological diseases. In 2005, she completed her master’s degree in political science at San Francisco State University. In 2007, Jamie joined the sociology of health and illness doctoral program at UCSF with an interest in working on homelessness and health care, a major issue in San Francisco. She is currently in the early stages of developing her dissertation on improving health care delivery for homeless women with mental health and/or substance use issues. Jamie is program evaluator of a SAMHSA/CSAT grant funded in 2008 to provide support services to formerly homeless adults with dual diagnosis living in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. She volunteers in homeless communities and has recently completed her pilot project on the health care needs of homeless women. She has also published in the fields of long-term care and developmental disabilities. Jamie is a vegetarian and unabashedly loves PBS, microbrews, cleaning, and potting plants.

**Celeste Campos (NIMH)**

*Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Santa Barbara  
Graduate Institution: University of Iowa*

Celeste was born and raised in North Hollywood, CA. She received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California-Santa Barbara, where she worked primarily on research in social cognition. Celeste then moved to the midwest to study sociology at the University of Iowa, where she received a Dean’s Graduate Fellowship. Her current primary research interests are in the areas of social psychology, mental health, organizations, and technology. She uses a variety of methodological techniques, including lab experiments, survey research, and ethnography. Her current manuscripts in preparation or under review cover topics such as trust in technology, specialist organizations and their environments, the role of social networks in depression, and work-life balance. She is currently preparing to conduct her dissertation research, which will be on doctor-patient trust and its effects on patient mental health. The project will involve a multi-method assessment of how status characteristics, social identity, and social learning influence trust in the doctor-patient relationship. She will be working with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to conduct her research. Celeste also sits on the board of two local feminist organizations.
**René Flores (MSS)**

*Undergraduate Institution:* University of California-Berkeley  
*Graduate Institution:* Princeton University

René was born and raised in Mexico City. He attended the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) until a student strike led him to relocate to San Diego, CA. He received his BA in interdisciplinary studies from UC-Berkeley where, as a Doreen B. Townsend Fellow, he wrote a book chapter on the transformation of the Salvadoran oligarchy from plantation owners into financial tycoons following the country’s civil war, which is forthcoming in a volume published by Duke University Press. For his senior thesis, through the Haas and McNair Scholars Programs, he explored the growing nativist sentiment in northeastern Pennsylvania by conducting fieldwork on several communities that passed anti-immigrant ordinances. Before starting graduate school at Princeton, he worked as a research assistant at El Colegio de México in Mexico City. René has been the recipient of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship and the Merage American Dream Fellowship and was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. René is currently working with Edward Telles on a new multinational project on race and ethnicity in several countries of Latin America. His research interests include race/ethnic relations, economic development, immigration and Latin America.

Outside of his studies, René plays the drums in NAFTA, a folk band composed by Princeton graduate students from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

**ManChui Leung (NIMH)**

*Undergraduate Institution:* Simon Fraser University  
*Graduate Institution:* University of Washington

ManChui Leung is currently a graduate student at the University of Washington where she is studying how immigrant social networks, place, and gender impact mental health outcomes. She was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Vancouver, Canada, where she received her BA with honors in sociology and anthropology at Simon Fraser University. Her interest in medical sociology and health disparities stems from her past 12 years of community health service and immigrant organizing in Canada, the United States, and the Pacific where she held various leadership positions, including Director of the HIV/AIDS Program at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. ManChui received a 2006-07 Price Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her fellowship project focused on the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence with the goal of improving HIV prevention policies for women of color. She has continued her research by conducting a review of promising practices in HIV and violence prevention programs in Asian immigrant and refugee communities. In addition to her graduate studies, she continues to write creative non-fiction and volunteers for local and national Asian, Pacific Islander, and immigrant lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and queer organizations.
San Juanita García (NIMH)

_Undergraduate Institution:_ Sam Houston State University  
_Graduate Institution:_ Texas A&M University

Juanita was born and raised in Houston, TX. She received her BA at Sam Houston State University double majoring in criminal justice and Spanish with a minor in sociology. As an undergraduate, she was fortunate to participate in several activities that enhanced her academic abilities and empowered her to go into graduate studies. Her passion for research was influenced by her participation in the McNair Scholars Program, the Summer Research Opportunity Program, and the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates. She was active as an undergraduate in Kappa Delta Chi Sorority and _El Siguiente Paso_ Mentoring Program. Currently, Juanita is a doctoral student in sociology at Texas A&M University. Her experience as a second-generation Mexican-American growing up in an impoverished community inspired her to do her thesis and dissertation work on issues of mental health, specifically depression, among undocumented Mexican women in the context of increasing nativism. Furthermore, her research will focus on how Mexican-born women perceive anti-immigrant sentiment and how this perception manifests itself into symptoms of depression. She is eager to serve as a role model for other students of color. She has a passion for conducting research that enriches the Latina/o community and other underrepresented groups in an ever-changing society.

Rebecca Romo (SWS)

_Undergraduate Institution:_ California State University-Sacramento  
_Graduate Institution:_ University of California-Santa Barbara

Rebecca is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of California-Santa Barbara under the primary mentorship of Denise Segura. She received her BA in sociology at California State University-Sacramento where she was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Rebecca is completing dissertation research that focuses on multiracial identity in the United States. Specifically, Rebecca’s research explores the identity formation and development of "Blaxican," individuals who are the offspring of black and Mexican or Chicana/o parentage. The interdisciplinary nature of her research connects Chicana/o studies, black studies, and sociology in new and inventive ways. Rebecca’s general research interests include comparative race and ethnic relations, multiraciality, Latina/o sociology, race, gender and justice, and multigathering qualitative methods.

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman (NIMH)

_Undergraduate Institution:_ Cornell University  
_Graduate Institution:_ Duke University
Elizabeth received her BA from Cornell University, where she completed a double major in biology and Spanish/Latin American Studies. After graduating, she worked to promote international education at the University of Tampa, UNC-Charlotte, and the Consulate of Spain. Originally planning to use sociology to highlight racial disparities in education, her research goals have evolved. She received her MA in sociology at Duke University in 2008, where she is currently a PhD student specializing in mental health, race and ethnicity, racialized social systems, and social psychology. During her graduate tenure, Elizabeth has received three Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships and numerous summer grants to support fieldwork on mental health in Brazil. Her work is comparative as it focuses on race-specific anxiety in native and immigrant blacks in the United States and it explores depression in Afro-descended populations in the U.S. and Brazil. She examines whether ethnic identities provide mental health benefits and whether intra-racial ethnic differences can predict differential emotional responses to distributive justice. Her dissertation investigates how families resist and reproduce dominant racial ideologies in ways that orchestrate differential treatment and create significant mental health consequences for adolescent girls. As an extension of this work, she has co-authored with colleagues a forthcoming article in the Journal of Marriage & Family that addresses "colorism" in U.S. families.

Robert Winston Turner II (NIMH)

Undergraduate Institution: James Madison University
Graduate Institution: The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Robert is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. His dissertation, "Fifteen Minutes of Fame: The life and the mind of the NFL athlete," examines how the structural inequalities of the NFL—particularly those of economics and race—impact athletes after leaving the game. The project draws largely on in-depth interviews and observations conducted with 120 present and former NFL athletes and members of the NFL community, highlighting athletes’ labor struggles against management, economic hardship, forced retirement, physical and mental health problems, and family conflicts. Along with receiving a four-year athletic scholarship and earning a degree in communications from James Madison University, Robert played football professionally for three different leagues over a four-year span. In addition to attending graduate school, Robert serves as the director of the Reaching Out Together Foundation, a non-profit organization that works with present and former NFL athletes to encourage academic achievement, health promotion, social responsibility, and general life skills awareness among student athletes from economically disadvantaged communities. Robert was born in Newark, NJ, and attended Piscataway High School in Middlesex County, NJ.

http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/julyaugust09/mfp_0709.html