Dear Sexualities Section Members:

Happy Spring! You are reading what should have been the “Winter Issue” of our section newsletter, but due to my time constraints this has now become the “Spring Issue.” Despite this delay, rest assured that we have been busy working on behalf of the section to organize our 2016 ASA sessions, identify a site in Seattle for our joint reception with the section on the sociology of the body and embodiment, and review nominations for our various section awards. And we are currently in the process of forming the planning committee for our section’s 2017 preconference, which will coincide with our section’s 20th anniversary. I am very appreciative of our elected section council members and the section members who have generously volunteered their time to make it possible for us to carry out all of these various section activities. I especially want to highlight Bethany Coston for serving as our section newsletter editor. It is the behind-the-scenes labor of all of our volunteers that contributes to the strength and visibility our section community in and outside of ASA.

I am certain that many of you are closely keeping up with developments in the recent alarming events unfolding in states such as North Carolina (HB2), Mississippi (HB 1523), and Indiana (HEA 1337).

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Notes from the desk of:
LORENA GARCIA
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.
Publications of interest


Blog post of interest

Daniel Bartholomay, M.S. Lecturer/Ph.D. Student Department of Sociology University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The post discusses and questions contemporary perceptions regarding the relationship between gender and sexuality. Here is a link to the publication if you would like to review it and consider mentioning it in your upcoming newsletter: https://gendersociety.wordpress.com/2016/01/12/my-boyfriends-beef-with-my-drag-queen-crush/#more-2301

Christians under Covers shifts how scholars and popular media talk about religious conservatives and sex. Moving away from debates over homosexuality, premarital sex, and other perceived sexual sins, Kelsy Burke examines Christian sexuality websites to show how some evangelical Christians use digital media to promote the idea that God wants married, heterosexual couples to have satisfying sex lives. These evangelicals maintain their religious beliefs while incorporating feminist and queer language into their talk of sexuality—encouraging sexual knowledge, emphasizing women’s pleasure, and justifying marginal sexual practices within Christian marriages. This illuminating ethnography complicates the boundaries between normal and subversive, empowered and oppressed, and sacred and profane.
We are witnessing the erosion of women’s reproductive rights and LGBTQ rights through the notion of “protection,” such as the legalization of discrimination against LGBTQ individuals to “protect” women and children in public restrooms, as well as “protecting” individuals who practice discrimination on the basis of their religious beliefs. It is in the promotion and signing of such laws that we discern the reach and power of social institutions in our lives and how mechanisms of inequality, such as heteronormativity and patriarchy, are deployed and reproduced within social institutions. There have been various groups, organizations, and businesses that have already denounced these laws and are actively working to challenge them. As sociologists we have the ability to contribute to these efforts in various capacities such as through our research, teaching, and our connections with activists and social movements. And I am positive that many of our section members are already doing their part to contribute to these efforts.

I am immensely encouraged by moments in which folks mobilize to collectively call out inequality and demand social justice. I am still feeling the energy from my participation in the April 1st rally and march that was primarily organized and lead by the Chicago Teacher’s Union as part of its’ one-day strike to protest among several things, city and state education cuts. This “Day of Action” brought together thousands of people, including parents, students, community members, members of other unions, and members of organizations such as Fight for 15, all with the understanding that the various issues that individuals and groups are concerned about are also connected to the issue of educational inequality, such as the defunding of public education in Chicago and the State of Illinois, the closing of Chicago Public Schools and displacement of students and their communities, the strengthening of the school-to-prison pipeline for students of color, police brutality within communities of color, the failure to address undocumented students’ access to higher education, and the inadequate support and inclusivity that many LGBTQ students still confront in their schools. Standing side by side with all those in attendance that day and marching with them on the streets of downtown Chicago during the evening rush hour reminded me of the power we can generate when we work towards coalition building across various issues and identities. I hope that you are also able to find inspiration to keep moving forward with social justice work in your part of the world.

With best wishes to all,
Lorena Garcia
Chair, ASA Sociology of Sexualities Section

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S NOTES**

***If you would like to be featured as a “Graduate Student on the Market,” please send me your name, affiliation, a short description of your work (300 words or less), and picture of yourself.

***We are also welcoming suggestions for newsletter content. If you have an idea for a section/feature (such as pedagogy, publication tips and tricks, etc.), send me an email!

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Just search: "ASA Section on Sexualities"

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