I hope you all enjoy this Spring newsletter, which includes the sessions the RGC section has organized for the August meetings in Las Vegas, as well as a range of RGC member news. I am sure you will all agree that our organizers created wonderful panels, on Global and Transnational Perspectives on Intersectionality (Smitha Radhakrishnan), Immigration, Guestworkers, Arizona, and Beyond, co-sponsored with the Section on Labor and Labor Movements (Belinda Lum and Robyn Rodriguez), Methods of Race/Gender/Class Analysis (Catherine Harinois), Race/Gender/Class and Social Institutions (Shirley A. Jackson), and Race/Gender/Class Perspectives on Navigating the Academy (Carla Davis). I was also deeply impressed by the remarkably high quality of the roundtable submissions – we will have vital sessions there as well! I hope to see many of you there in Las Vegas. Conferences can be tremendously generative experiences, and I am hoping that we all are able to create engaged dialogue with one another during our time there.

This Spring, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2011 Eastern Sociological Society meetings, for which Chris Bose as President had created a remarkable program entitled “Intersectionalities and Complex Inequalities.” In addition to a wonderful program overall, with many papers of interest to Race, Gender, Class scholars – Chris had invited me to serve as a panelist, commenting on the career of Patricia Hill Collins. This plenary was an amazing event – the room was truly packed, and simply more diverse than almost any other sociology conference talk I’ve ever been to. I was also on a panel with four of my heroes – Patricia Hill Collins, Elizabeth Higginbotham, Maxine Baca Zinn, and Chris Bose.

Pat, Elizabeth, Maxine, and Chris have agreed to allow me to print their remarks as part of my first volume of Gender & Society, which I will start editing in May. Their remarks will appear in the February 2012 issue, along with remarks from a range of other gifted intersectional scholars. However, since I won’t publish my own remarks, I’m recycling an edited version of those comments as part of my chair’s message – I hope you enjoy these.

Finally, thanks so much to the many wonderful officers of the section, the many faculty and students serving on our awards committees, all of those who organized and are contributing to our 2011 sessions, to Mignon Moore for putting together a truly terrific slate of candidates for our elections, and to Katrina Bell McDonald for her work on the newsletter! None of this would happen without all of you!

—Joya

Joya’s Tribute to Patricia Hill Collins

Professor Collins’ work is truly influential. Black Feminist Thought has been cited more than 5000 times. Most of her other books and many of her articles have been cited hundreds, some thousands of times as well. Citation counts can mean a lot of different things. In the case of Patricia Hill Collins, it means that she has changed our ways of thinking about the social world. She has changed understandings of sociology, and through that society. And her work has been done not to feather her nest, or not so that people pay homage to her brilliance. Instead, there is a strong, ethical guiding force about doing this work in order to make social change in the real world, which has been incredibly inspiring, and an essential contribution of her work.

I was lucky enough to still be in graduate school when Black Feminist Thought came out. I still have that copy, with the price sticker from my grad school bookstore, with underlined passages and exclamation points in the margins. What the book meant to me was that there were different ways to think, to understand, to theorize—and that there was an importance to recognizing the specific angle of vision provided by black (and for me, brown) women. Her notion of the importance of “visionary pragmatism” has been central to my understanding of what we, what I, am striving to do – as she says, “linking caring, theoretical vision with informed, practical struggle.” To me, this has been her essential contribution – a theme repeated throughout her work, evident in her work long before she formally became a sociologist.

I found Collins’ work around the same time that I discovered Dorothy Smith. Both provided me with an idea that sociology had been done in ways that were wrong, disconnected from the actual experiences of the people it purported to study. Both helped me know that my own perspective – as a South Asian woman, an immigrant kid, brought up in the South – was not something to discard or quiet, but something crucial to my practice of Sociology. Collins shows me how sociology had defined itself by excluding black women/women of color, or viewing them as objects, or as marginal to the discipline – in much the same way that these groups had been excluded in other realms of society. While scary, it was also liberating to understand that pro-
cesses of domination we study in the social world operate in our discipline as well. To hear this in graduate school was particularly significant to me – as it helped light a fire under me about changing the discipline, and the way we go about doing sociology, and believe that doing so might help create social change and social justice in the real world.

Professor Collins’ work gave me a feminist epistemology, which drew different lines around what was intellectual; which recognized the difference between knowledge and wisdom, and the importance of wisdom gained through experience; which celebrated the importance of dialogue and connectedness; and which insisted upon both an ethic of caring and an ethic of personal accountability in the production and validation of knowledge. At the same time, it showed me, through a range of examples, the impossibility of separating race from class from gender, the mutually constitutive nature of oppressions rather than using the pop-bead metaphysics (as Elizabeth Spelman had termed it) of each part of the identity seen fully separable from other parts.

I needed to hear, and needed to believe that perspective matters, and that perspective does not mean bias – but instead, recognizing the important angle of vision given to us in how our race/ethnicity, our gender, our sexuality, our class, our nationalities, come together. As a feminist, who had struggled with feminism’s ability to fully consider and engage with my own experiences, I was so grateful to recognize that my perspective might be rooted in my own post-colonial identity. Pat made clear that music, poetry, fiction, activism, and speeches of women of color and non-Western women were meaningful because they were other ways of articulating a perspective, a way of understanding the world, that could strengthen my own sociological vision – and that these alternative spaces were important sites, places where women of color have intellectually resisted complex oppressions and articulated alternatives visions. I needed to hear, and needed to believe, that instead of becoming an automaton, I could view my emotions, my empathy, my ethics, as important parts of my sociological vision.

And I was lucky – by the time I was in graduate school, a number of important black feminist and postcolonial sociologists had already begun articulating the intersectional perspective. Yet, I did not read any of these thinkers in my graduate courses, including courses in Women’s Studies – I found them through struggle, through careful combing of the literature, through attending every session at conferences that seemed to hint at the possibilities of intersections. Yet, as an assistant professor, I had the profound good luck of being involved with the new Race, Gender, Class section of the American Sociological Association, and today, more than a decade later, I serve as chair to that section. 21st century sociology is such a different place than the sociology I grew up in, and so much of the credit for that goes to the black feminists who pioneered the notion of intersectionality in the 19th and 20th centuries, and whose work was simply too important to be ignored.

Yet even among that broader group of black feminists, Professor Collins’ work played a crucial role. Because, while providing us with trenchant analyses of a range of topics – including families, work, motherhood, images, bodies, sports, music, films, sexuality, black masculinities, youth, globalization – she also was moving forward critical social theory, in ways that were exceptionally important. As Collins argued, black feminist thought has been aimed at developing a theory that can aid in black women’s struggles against oppression. Agency matters, and black women’s resistance is crucial to creating effective social change. Resistance, in Collins’ account – has been interwoven through all of our histories, a message of hope, if there ever was one. This was a crucial move, as it insisted on the use of sociology not only to document oppressions, but to develop the vision needed to create social change.

I’ve been teaching graduate methods courses most years for the last 15. The epistemology that centered me, and has been central to my teaching, was – 15 years ago, a real shocker to most students, and probably many of my colleagues. Yet over time, this epistemology has gradually moved further and further into discipline – certainly not at its center, but recognized and recognizable. While I still experience resistance, it is remarkably easy to find readings for the course that reinforce a range of epistemological positions, and that recognize Collins’ arguments as holding an important place in the discipline. It’s been an amazing shift within the discipline that makes me proud to be a sociologist, and makes me optimistic about our possible futures.
In March, I had the pleasure of attending the Race, Gender, and Class conference in New Orleans, LA. This conference theme for this year was “Is a Progressive Race, Gender, and Class Presidency Possible in the United States?”, and the presentations, discussions, and analyses did not disappoint. The conference began on Thursday, March 10 with a presentation by Ricardo Alan Della Buono and A. Kathryn Stout that examined President Barack Obama’s administration and policy in a post-9/11, post-Katrina society. The discussion continued through Friday and part of Saturday, with presenters discussing topics ranging from drug policy to homelessness to education to immigration. There was also a wide array of participants, with the conference attracting faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students in a range of disciplines and hailing from across the nation.

Ultimately, this was a very informative and interesting conference. Participants engaged in vigorous, spirited discussion about various aspects of the Obama administration. We discussed the constraints and limitations that the office of the presidency places on creating and maintaining progressive change. We talked about the structural and institutional factors that minimize grassroots action. And perhaps most importantly, we addressed the ways that race, class, and gender—and particularly, the ways they intersect—create or contain avenues for progressive advancement in the U.S.

Everyone with whom I spoke enjoyed the conference and found it rewarding and informative. Don’t miss the 2012 Race, Gender, and Class conference in New Orleans for what promises to be a stimulating election-year discussion!
♦ Smitha Radhakrishnan. 2011. Appropriately Indian: Gender and Culture in a New Transnational Class. Duke University Press. Appropriately Indian is an ethnographic analysis of the class of information technology professionals at the symbolic helm of globalizing India. Comprising a small but prestigious segment of India’s labor force, these transnational knowledge workers dominate the country’s economic and cultural scene, as do their notions of what it means to be Indian. By focusing on the ways in which professional women navigate respectable femininity in the context of a globalized workplace, Appropriately Indian explains how this transnational class creates an Indian culture that is self-consciously distinct from Western culture, yet compatible with Western cosmopolitan lifestyles.

♦ Bush, Melanie E. L. Bush. 2011. Understanding Race in a “Post-Racial” World. Second edition. Rowman and Littlefield. Looks at the often-unseen ways racism impacts our lives. The author reveals that even if we talk as though we live in a “post-racial” world after the election of Barack Obama, racism is still very much a fact—or in everyday life. This edition incorporates new data and shows how the everyday thinking of ordinary people contributes to the perpetuation of systemic racialized inequality.


♦ Articles


♦ Awards

♦ Adia Harvey Wingfield’s paper entitled “Caring, Curing, and the Community: Black Masculinity in a Feminized Profession” published in Research in the Sociology of Work (2010, JAI/Elsevier Press) has been chosen as an Outstanding Author Contribution Award Winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2011.

♦ Eric Anthony Grollman won 3rd place in the 2011 North Central Sociological Association graduate student paper award competition for his paper, “Multiple Forms of Discrimination and Health Among Adolescents and Young Adults.”

♦ New Hires

Kristen Barber will be joining as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. (beginning Fall 2011).
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Race, Gender &amp; Class 2011 ASA Sessions, by Topic</th>
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| **Global and Transnational Perspectives on Intersectionality**  
Organized by Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley University |
| Globalizing Moral Sexuality: The Transnational Moral Economy of Women's Work in the Global Anti-Trafficking Movement  
*Elena Shih*, UCLA |
| Traditional vs. Cosmopolitan: Idealized Femininity and Symbolic Boundaries of the Nation in Nigerian Beauty Pageants  
*Oluwakemi M. Balogun*, University of California, Berkeley |
| Chinese Male Peasant Workers and Shifting Masculine Identities in Urban Workspaces  
*Xiadong Lin*, The University of Birmingham; *Mairtin Mac an Ghaill*, Newman University College |
| Global Masculinities Grounded in Vietnam's Contemporary Sex Industry  
*Kimberly Kay Hoang*, University of California, Berkeley |
| **Immigration, Guestworkers, Arizona, and Beyond (co-sponsored with Section on Labor and Labor Movements)**  
Organized by Belinda Lum and Robyn Rodriguez |
| Return to Sender: the Efficacy of Subnational "Attrition through Enforcement" Immigration Initiatives  
*Angela S. Garcia*, University of California, San Diego |
| Immigrants' Social Networks' Value in Global Capital: Insights from Indian IT Workers in the United States  
*Payal Banerjee*, Smith College |
| Guest Worker Racial Images and Flexible Labor Practices in Post-Katrina New Orleans  
*Edwin Lopez*, University of California, Santa Barbara |
| The Facilitation of Unauthorized Migration Attempts: New Evidence from the Arizona-Sonora Border Region  
*Daniel Martinez*, University of Arizona |
| **Methods of Race/Gender/Class Analysis**  
Organized by Catherine Harnois and Joya Misra  
Presider: Catherine Harnois; Discussant: Joya Misra |
| Engendering Racial Perceptions: An Intersectional Analysis of How Social Status Shapes Race  
*Andrew Penner*, University of California, Irvine; *Aliya Saperstein*, University of Oregon |
| Mate Selection in Cyberspace: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation  
*Ken-Hou Lin*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; *Jennifer Hickes Lundquist*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst |
| Moving Forward, Looking Back: Theory and Practice in Intersectional Analysis  
*Shauna A. Morimoto*, University of Arkansas |
| Nativism and Depression Among Undocumented Mexican Immigrant Women: An Intersectionality Perspective  
*San Juanita Edilia Garcia*, Texas A&M University |
| **Race/Gender/Class and Social Institutions**  
Organized by Shirley A. Jackson |
| Sex in the Workplace: Black Women Transit Operators' Struggle with Career Mobility on the Job  
*Katrinell M. Davis*, University of Vermont |
| "That's How It Is Here": Negotiating Gender, Race, and Class in the Projects  
*Rachel Renee Sarabia*, University of California, Santa Barbara |
| Izzy's World: Being African American and Coming of Age in a Small City  
*Rhonda F. Levine*, Colgate University |
| Buying Racial Capital: Skin-Bleaching, Cosmetic Surgery, and the Global Economy  
*Margaret Hunter*, Mills College |
More Race, Gender & Class 2011 ASA Sessions, by Topic

Race/Gender/Class Perspective on Navigating the Academy
Organized by Carla Davis and Erica Morales

Class, Race, Gender and the Elite University: A Noncognitive Assessment of Academic Adjustment.
Megan Theresa Thiele, University of California, Irvine
From Poverty to Privilege: How Class Influences the Experiences of Black Undergraduate Students
Erica Morales, University of California, Los Angeles
Race and Frequency of Interracial Dining Experiences on Students’ Perceptions of the Campus Racial Climate
Maria R. Lowe, Southwestern University; Reginald Anthony Byron, Southwestern University; Griffin Ferry, Southwestern University; Melissa Garcia, Southwestern University

Race, Gender, and Class Roundtable Sessions (one-hour)
Organized by Joya Misra

Table 1: Care, Education, and Networks
Coloring Outside the Lines: How Black Families Identify Within the Homeschooling Movement
Taura Taylor, Georgia State University
Tennille Nicole Allen, Lewis University; Silvia Dominguez, Northeastern University
Standing One’s Ground: Gender, Race, and Class in the Daycare Setting
Adilia E.E. James, University of Chicago

Table 2. Culture and Race, Gender, and Class
Black Fashion Models’ Aesthetic Labor: When the Corporate and the White “Gaze” Intersect
Elizabeth A. Wissinger, City University of New York/BMCC
The Making of Race, Class and Gender in Cemeteries in Rural South Texas
Suzel A. Bozada-Deas, University of Southern California

Table 3. Ethnography and Race, Gender, and Class
Notes from the field: A prelude to Mayoral Chicken and Waffles
Joshua Bender, Columbia University
Chess in Washington Square Park: An Ethnography on Social Interaction in an Urban Public Space
Daron Jabari Howard, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Reflexivity and Environmental Justice Scholarship: A Role For Feminist Methodologies
Alison Hope Alkon, University of the Pacific

Table 4. Executives, Politicians, and Race/Gender/Class
Women Executives and their Representation in Economic Media Coverage (1990-2006)
Laura M Milanes-Reyes, University at Albany

The Intersection of Gender and Minority Status in National Legislatures: The Minority Women Power Index
Melanie M. Hughes, University of Pittsburgh

Table 5. Identity, Interaction & Race, Gender, and Class
Male Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System: A Qualitative Examination of Disproportionate Minority Contact
Rachel Feinstein, Texas A&M University
Junk in the Trunk: Evaluating the Relationship between BMI and Interracial Dating for White Adolescent Females
Kivan Yohan Polimis, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Merchant of Scrap: Biography and Jewish Manhood in America
Jeffrey D. Montez de Oca, Franklin and Marshall College
The Role of Social Location in Shaping Johns’ Perceptions and Reported Treatment of Female Sex Workers
Tara M. Mancini, American University
Table 6. Immigrants from a Race, Gender, and Class Perspective

Non-white, immigrant and looking for work: The case of Punjabis in New York City

Diditi Mitra, Brookdale Community College

Immigration and the Dynamics of Occupational Segregation in European Union Countries, 1992-2005

Christel Kesler, Barnard College

Racist Medicine: Indian physicians’ experiences with racism, and sexism in U.S. medical workplaces

Wasudha Bhatt, University of Texas at Austin; Nestor P. Rodriguez, University of Texas at Austin

Table 7. Media, and Race, Gender, and Class

Racial Events, Media, and Public Discourse on Racism: The Don Imus Case

Jeffrey K. Dowd, Rutgers University

Reframing Shirley Sherrod: The Intersectional Analysis of Black Women Bloggers

Judy Lubin, Howard University

"Colorblind Ideology" and "Controlling Images" Representations of Racial and Gendered Discourses in Online Comments

Leigh-Anne Goins, Michigan State University

Table 8. Race, Gender, & Class and Social Theory

Contextualizing Lynching: Considering Class, Race, and Gender Dynamics

Lisa Garoutte, Loras College

Routes to Class Consciousness Revisited

Jessi Streib, University of Michigan

W. E. B. Du Bois and Race/Class/Gender Stereotyping: Early Insights into the Ultimate Attribution Error

Clayton D. Peoples, University of Nevada, Reno

Table 9. Race, Gender, Class & Policy

"Unfit Mothers": The Effect of the Culture of Poverty on Welfare Reform

Risa Griffin, University of North Carolina

Archives at the Intersection: Public Opinion and Title IX, 1974-2003

Elizabeth Ann Sharrow, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

"Deservingness" and Waiting for Help After Hurricane Katrina

Megan Reid, University of Texas at Austin


Mary Ann Clawson, Wesleyan University

Table 10. Work, Occupations, and Race, Gender, and Class

Does Skin Color Still Matter in Immigrants' Labor Market Assimilation?

Joo Hee Han, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Losing Ground? Examining the Racial Wage Gap between High-, Middle-, and Low-Income Earning Women from 1988-2009

Anna Christine Smedley, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Shannon M. Monnat, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

"They work, work, work": Work-Family Policies & Practices in Nursing Homes

Cassandra Okechukwu, Harvard School of Public Health; Erin Kelly, University of Minnesota; Grace Sembajwe, Harvard School of Public Health; Lisa Berkman, Harvard School of Public Health

STEM Degrees and Occupations among Latinos: An Examination of Race/Ethnic and Gender Variation

Sandra L. Hanson, Catholic University of America
The first order of business was to update the RCG by-laws. It was determined that the current ones don’t reflect the ongoing issues of the section. It was decided that it would be better to have guidelines than to decide the same issues over and over.

Chair’s report (Maxine Leeds Craig): It was reported that time was spent this year writing down all the ways the section did its tasks throughout the year. Attention was paid to such things as guidelines and timelines. Craig sought to systematize these tasks. It was also reported that membership is in the high 800s. This is about a hundred less than last year, but we are still in the 800-1000 range as desired. Members are encouraged to maintain their memberships and to encourage others to join.

The Section partially supported three graduate students who presented their work at RCG sessions.

In response to where the Section money goes, it was reported that are main expenses are the ASA reception, maintenance of webpage, newsletter, student travel, and award plaques. In response to questions about how the Section decides who receives graduate travel money, it was explained that the names of graduate students participating in various sections can be submitted (the names of which can be obtained from session organizers). Emails are then sent to those students stating that the Section has money to give on a first-come, first-serve basis. Money is then split evenly among those students requesting. It was asked whether we should increase the amount of money to graduate students from $500 to $1,000. It was decided that the membership should be surveyed about the matter.

As a reminder, it was stated that we are obligated to have a reception each year. In addition to other benefits, it is also a great networking opportunity. A question was raised as to whether the Section can solicit corporate sponsors for the reception.

Chair-Elect Misra announced the following positions for which people can volunteer:

- The awards committees: Book, article, and graduate student paper award committees (chair plus three members).
- Newsletter editor. (Katrina Bell McDonald is currently serving in this capacity.)
- Discussants and presiders for RGC sessions.
- Local contact in Chicago (now Las Vegas). (Hephahab Strmic-Paul volunteered for this; is this still the case given the move to Las Vegas?)

By-laws

A question was asked as to how we determine who is involved with race, gender, class scholarship. It was suggested that we remove from the by-laws “Candidates should have...”? One member opposed, and three abstained on this vote.

The by-laws were passed unanimously with the amendment.

It was agreed that we increase money for student travel to $1,000 if possible.

As to whether the Section should automatically give money to the graduate student paper awardee, it was decided that it should not be automatic since that student may not actually be presenting.

It was asked whether the Section should increase its dues or solicit donations so that it can allocate more money to students. It was decided that the Secretary/Treasurer will look into this.

By-laws

It was agreed that the Section should allocate a proportional versus set amount to student recipients.

Suggestions for panel topics

The following are suggestions that were made for next year’s panel topics:

- Social conflict
- RGC and navigating the academy
- Social conflict and social media
- Family, mothering and dynamics of RGC
- Multi-racialism
- Social institutions through RGC dynamic
- Environmental justice
- Aging and race, class, gender or life course and rgc
- Immigration
- Criminal justice
- Methods and RGC

The meeting ended with a reminder that the RCG reception will be held from 8:00-10:00 at Truva, 60 Andrew Young International Boulevard.

Respect
fully submitted, Mary Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
Chair: Joya Misra, University of Massachussetts Amherst
Chair-Elect: Mignon Moore, University of California - Los Angeles
Past Chair: Maxine Leeds Craig, University of California - Davis
Secretary-Treasurer: Mary E. Kelly, University of Central Missouri

Council:
Antonia Randolph, University of Delaware (2011)
Elizabeth Bernstein, Barnard College, Columbia University (2011)
Carolina Bank Munoz, Brooklyn College - CUNY (2012)
Shirley Jackson, Southern Connecticut State University (2012)
Adia Harvey, Georgia State University (2013)
Manuel Barajas, California State University - Sacramento (2013)

Committees (Officer and council members are in bold):
• Article Award Committee: Shirley Jackson (chair), Lisa Ruchti, Manuel Barajas
• Book Award Committee: Natalia Sarkisian (chair), Demetrios Semien, Anna Branch, Jillian Powers
• Student Paper Award Committee: Antonia Randolph (chair), Edward Morris, Glenda Flores, Kumiko Nemoto
• Nominations Committee: Mignon Moore (chair), Adia Harvey, Elizabeth Bernstein, Carolina Bank Muñoz
• Publications Committee: Mary Kelly (chair), Joya Misra, Katrina Bell McDonald, Shawn Trivette

Newsletter Editor: Katrina Bell McDonald, Johns Hopkins University
Webmaster: Shawn Trivette, University of Massachussetts Amherst

2011 Annual Meeting