Message from the Chair, France Winddance Twine

Dear Race, Gender and Class Members,

One of my priorities during my first months as your Chair was to relaunch the Race, Gender and Class website which has not been operational since Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina had a devastating impact on the former institutional home of our website. I am pleased to announce that our website has been revised and will be up at the end of the month. Jon Agnone, who is based at the University of Washington in Seattle is our new webmaster. Mr. Agnone has worked tirelessly for the past five months to design our new website and launch it after its demise during Katrina. We are very fortunate that Jon Agnone volunteered for this position. It is my hope that the membership will continue to support Jon in this position.

I would like to introduce Rebecca Scott, our newsletter editor who has also worked very hard on behalf of our membership. Professor Scott, our newsletter editor, has done a fabulous job. Our newsletter will now appear 4 times per year (January, April, July, October). We invite the membership to send us announcements of their new publications (articles or books published within the last 12 months). Please send any material along with a brief description of the publications to scottrr@missouri.edu.

I am looking for volunteers to help organize our evening reception at the ASA in San Francisco. Maxine Craig, the Chair-Elect and I are currently researching restaurants that are ideally located within close proximity of the hotel. If you have any suggestions please send them to me. I welcome your ideas that you have to improve the content of our our newsletter and of our website. Please send all feedback to me (winddance@soc.ucsb.edu) and the Chair-Elect, Maxine Craig (mbercraig@ucdavis.edu).

Thank you for your support. The website will be launched on March 30th and the next edition of the newsletter will be published in June.

France Winddance Twine
Sociology Department
University of California at Santa Barbara
Class of 2008-09,
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University
winddance@soc.ucsb.edu

2009 Section Award Committees

Distinguished Book Award

This award recognizes scholars who have made a distinguished and significant contribution to the development of the integrative field of race, gender, and class through the publication of a book on the “cutting edge” of sociological inquiry. We accept nominations of books published in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Edited collections are not eligible. Nominations may be submitted by the author or by others. Nominations of work written by section members will receive additional consideration by the award committee. To nominate a book, please send a letter

continued on 2
of nomination not exceeding two pages that states why the book makes a significant contribution to the field of race, gender, and class. Letters of nominations will be acknowledged by the Chair with information about where to send 4 copies of the nominated book. Please do not send books to the Chair before receiving a response to the nomination. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2009. Please send nomination letters to the Chair of the Book Award Committee: Juan Battle, jbattle@gc.cuny.edu.

Juan Battle is a Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is a Fulbright Senior Specialist with a focus on race, sexuality, and social justice. He is a recent president of the Association of Black Sociologists and a former Senior Research consultant at the Arcus Foundation. He currently serves on the board of his local YMCA and the board of the scholarship fund of Camp Shohola for Boys. Prof. Battle is currently heading a large Ford Foundation-funded research project examining Black American sexuality. He is also an organizer of Race/Sex/Power: New Movements in Black and Latina/o Sexualities – a national conference recently held in Chicago, IL. He is the organizer of a group of academics and activists dedicated to building and broadening the field examining the intersections of race and sexuality. That project is being sponsored by the Social Science Research Council.

Elizabeth Bernstein is Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Sociology at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is the author of Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity, and the Commerce of Sex (University of Chicago Press 2007) and co-editor of Regulating Sex: the Politics of Intimacy and Identity (Routledge 2005). She is the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Book Award from the Sexualities section of the American Sociological Association. Her research has also been recognized by the Social Science Research Council, the American Association of University Women, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. She is currently working towards the completion of a third book manuscript tentatively titled Creating ‘Modern Day Slavery’: The Traffic in Bodies, Desires, and Social Policies at Century’s End. At Barnard and Columbia, she teaches courses on Gender and Sexuality; Trafficking, Migration, and Sexual Labor; Women’s Activism; and Contemporary Social Theory.

Celine-Marie Pascale is Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University. She received the 2008 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award from the ASA Section on Race, Gender, and Class for her first book Making Sense of Race, Gender and Class: Commonsense, Power and Privilege in the United States (Routledge, 2007). Pascale’s second book Cartographies of Knowledge: Qualitative Research & Social Justice is forthcoming from Sage in 2009. Her research has also been published in journals including Cultural Studies, Critical Methodologies, Race, Gender, and Class, Perspectives on Social Problems, Qualitative Inquiry, Studies in Symbolic Interactions and Cultural Sociology. Pascale serves as Co-President of Research Committee 25, Language and Society, of the International Sociological Association (ISA) and is a former Research & Media Fellow of the Center for Social Media. She also serves as an executive board member of One Common Unity, a grassroots organization dedicated to community building and peace education through media and arts. In 2005, American University awarded her the Multicultural Affairs/International Student Services Award for Distinguished Faculty.

Mary Pattillo is Professor of Sociology and African American Studies and Faculty Affiliate at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. She is the author of Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Class, Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City, and co-editor of Imprisoning America: The Social Effects of Mass Incarceration. Pattillo is a founding board member and active participant in Urban Prep Charter Academy, the first all-boys public charter high school in Chicago.

Distinguished Article Award

This award recognizes scholars who have made a distinguished and significant contribution to the development of the integrative field of race, gender, and class through the publication of a journal article or book chapter on the “cutting edge” of sociological inquiry. We accept nominations of articles and book chapters published in 2007, 2008, or 2009. DEADLINE for nominations is February 1, 2009. Nominations may be submitted by the author or by others. To nominate an article, please do the following:
1) Send a letter of nomination not exceeding two pages that explains why the article makes a significant contribution to the field of race, gender, and class. 2) Provide a complete citation of the work. 3) Send a pdf or electronic copy of the article via email. Please send all information to the Chair of the Article Award Committee, Natalia Sarkisian, by email: natalia@sarkisian.net.

Natasha Sarkisian is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston College. She received her Ph.D. (2005) and M.A. (2001) in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Previously, she earned a B.A. in Sociology from the State Academy of Management in Moscow, Russia. She is also affiliated with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work/Workplace Flexibility. Her research interests include race, gender, and class, family sociology, and quantitative methods.

Karla Hackstaff (Northern Arizona University)

Alton Okinaka (U of Hawaii)

Milagros Pena (U of Florida)

Graduate Student Paper Award

This award is for the best paper in the field of race, gender, and class written by a graduate student. Eligible papers must be unpublished, sole-authored, and must have been written while the author was enrolled as a graduate student in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Papers will be accepted from authors who are currently enrolled or who hold their terminal MA or PhD degree. Eligible papers must be no more than 25 pages (double-spaced not counting references) in length and the references must follow the ASA Style Guide reference format. Nominations may be submitted by the author or by others. To nominate a paper, please send a letter of nomination not exceeding two pages that states why the paper makes a significant contribution to the field of race, gender, and class; send an electronic copy of the paper via email. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2009. Please send all information to Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee: Siobhan Brooks, Siobhan.Brooks@lawrence.edu.

Siobhan Brooks received her Ph.D. in sociology at New School University. Her dissertation entitled, “Race and the Reproduction of Desire: Race, Erotic Capital, and Industry,” examines racial stratification among Black and Latina exotic dancers in New York City and Oakland. She received a dissertation fellowship at UC Santa Barbara and is now currently a post-doctoral fellow at Lawrence University in Appleton Wisconsin. Her dissertation won the SUNY Press Best First Book/Dissertation award in queer studies.

Kumiko Nemoto is an assistant professor of sociology at Western Kentucky University. Her current research topics include Asian American interracial intimacy in the United States, and marriage and work in Japan. Her book Racing Romance: Love, Power, and Desire Among Asian American/White Couples (2009) is forthcoming from Rutgers University Press. She has also published articles in Journal of Asian American Studies, Gender & Society, and Gender Issues.

Demetrius Semien graduated with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Religion from Trinity University in 1996 and with a M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 2000. This December he will earn his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He has worked extensively with ethnographic projects, qualitative methods, and focus group discussions. His dissertation, “Re-Entry Work: Employees and Volunteers Assist Prisoners to Transition into Society” is a descriptive study of efforts made by employees and volunteers in North Carolina to assist incarcerated men to re-enter society. In 2006 and 2007 he presented working papers on his work at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, NC. He recently accepted a tenure-track teaching position at Berea College.

Glenda M. Flores is a graduate student at the University of Southern California. Her research currently focuses on Latinas’ motivations for entering the teaching profession and their workplace experiences in Santa Ana, a Mexican immigrant city. Her paper on that topic won the ASA’s Race, Gender, Class section award and the Latina/o Sociology Section’s Cristina Riegos Award in 2008. For her dissertation, Glenda would like to expand her research on interracial workplace relations and conduct a comparative study of Latina and Asian and Latina
and African American teachers. Her research interests include: race/ethnic relations, gender, education, Latino sociology, and women and work.

Nominations should be sent to committee chairs.

## Member Resources

### Media Teaching Resources for Courses in Race, Gender and Class

Compiled by Rebecca R. Scott from contributions by Race, Gender and Class section members.

**Sexuality and reproductive freedom**


*La Operación.* 1982. Ana Maria Garcia. Library Media Project. (The systematic sterilization of Puerto Rican women as a government sponsored method of population control and economic reform.)


*Tying the Knot.* 2005. Jim De Seve. New Video Group. (The economic consequences of denying equal marriage benefits to same-sex partners.)

*If These Walls Could Talk, Part 2.* 2000. Jane Anderson and Martha Coolidge. HBO (Deals with stigma and denial of civil rights for an older lesbian couple.)

*Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She.* 2006. Anthony Thomas. HBO


*Ma Vie en Rose.* 1999. Alain Berliner. Columbia Tristar

**Work, economic inequality, and immigration**

*Take it From Me.* 2001. Emily Abt. PBS (The struggle of poor women to lift themselves and their children out of poverty.)


*People Like Us: Social Class in America.* 2001. Louis Alvarez. Center for New American Media (PBS) (Somewhat dated, but looks at cultural aspects of class.)

*Waging a Living.* 2005. Roger Weisberg and Pamela Harris. Public Policy Productions (Labor force, the working poor.)

*Born into Brothels.* 2004. Ross Kauffman. Thinkfilm (Chronicles the lives of the children of Indian sex workers.)


*Salt of the Earth.* 1954. Herbert J. Biberman. Alpha Video. (Based on the real events of a strike against the Empire Zinc Mine in New Mexico.)
Continued from 4

http://www.unitedafa.org/res/nh/video/


By Invitation Only. 2006. Rebecca Snedeker. New Day Films. (High society balls and Mardi Gras in New Orleans.)

Flag Wars. 2003. Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras. PBS. (Gentrification in Columbus OH.)

Riding the Rails. 2003. Michael Uys and Lexy Lovell. PBS. (Experiences of “hoboes” during and after the Great Depression.)


Colonialism, neo-colonialism, and globalization


The Canary Effect. 2006. Robin Davey and Yellow Thunder Woman. Bastard Fairy Films (Genocide of Native Americans.)


Life+Debt. 2001. Stephanie Black. New Yorker Video. (Jamaica’s economic history following independence.)

No Logo. 2003. Sut Jhally. Media Education Foundation. (Film version of Naomi Klein’s take on branding and globalization.)


China Blue. 2007. Micha X. Peled. Bullfrog Films (Child labor and human trafficking, economic justice and fair trade.)

Media


Real Women Have Curves. 2002. Patricia Cardoso. HBO


Excerpts from the reality series “The Simple Life.”

Episode of “The Boondocks” about “the N word.”

Excerpts from “The Chappelle Show.”

Youth, family and schools

Raising Cain. 2006. Paul Stern. Powderhouse (Protecting the emotional life of boys.)

A Girl Like Me. 2006. Kiri Davis. Reel Works Teen Filmmaking. (Updated version of the Black doll/white doll experiments.)

Hardwood: A Black Family’s Story. 2005. Hubert Davis National Film Board of Canada (The family. Highly recommended.)

Escuela. 2002. Hannah Weyer. PBS (Women Make Movies). (Schools.)

Resolved. 2007. Greg Whiteley. HBO

http://www.hbo.com/docs/docuseries/resolved/index.html. (Debate teams from different high schools.)
Continued from 5

Declining by Degrees. 2005. John Merrow
(Producer). Learning Matters Inc. PBS
(Higher education and inequality.)

(Seven years with a girls’ basketball team.)

This story starts at 41:05 of broadcast #347
“Matchmakers” (1.18.08). Listen for free or download
for $0.95.

Conflict and violence

The Execution of Wanda Jean. 2002. Liz Garbus and
Rory Kennedy. Moxie Firecracker Films (The story
of the first African American woman to be put to death
in the modern era.)

MACHO. 2000. Lucinda Broadbent. Women Make
Movies. (Violence. In Spanish with subtitles.)

Pounder. California Newsreel.
(Three part series on PBS. The last part, “The House
We Live In,” focuses on the creation of inequality
through government policy. Also a website: http://
www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm)

Dateline NBC News. (White flight, white fears, and
empirical data that doesn’t support these fears.)

Home Video. (Based on eye color experiments of Jane
Elliott) www.janeelliot.com

Postville: When Cultures Collide. 2006. Nikki
Tundel. PBS. (Jewish community in rural Iowa.)

Murder on a Sunday Morning. 2001. Jean-Xavier de
Lestrade. New Video. (Oscar-winning documentarty
on the 2000 trial of a wrongfully accused 15-year-old
African American in Jacksonville FL.)

Renee Tajima-Pena. National Asian American

Telecommunications Association.

Mule Filmworks

Mississippi Burning. 2001. Frederick Zollo. MGM
(Fictional account of the investigators of the
Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner murders in
Mississippi. Can be paired with the University
of Missouri-Kansas City law school web site.)
http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/
price&bowers/price&bowers.htm

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? 1967. Stanley
Kramer. Columbia. (Drama. Looks at race as an issue
among pro-Civil Rights people on the West Coast in 1967.)

Southern Poverty Law Center hate groups maps.
http://www.splcenter.org/intel/map/hate.jsp


Parts of the television series “The Wire.” Especially
seasons 2 and 4.

Environment and health

Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

Media. (Environmental justice. Highland Park, MI)

Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the
Bullfrog Films. (Environmental Justice. Southern
West Virginia coalfields.)

The Age of Aids. 2006. Renata Simone. PBS
Video

“Racial and Ethnic Disparities in US Health Care: A
Chartbook.” The Commonwealth Fund.
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/
publications_show.htm?doc_id=672908
(Additional related materials are available on the
website.)

The Sexuality of Migration provides an innovative study of the experiences of Mexican men who have same sex with men and who have migrated to the United States. Until recently, immigration scholars have left out the experiences of gays and lesbians. In fact, the topic of sexuality has only recently been addressed in the literature on immigration. *The Sexuality of Migration* makes significant connections among sexuality, state institutions, and global economic relations. Cantú situates his analysis within the history of Mexican immigration and offers a broad understanding of diverse migratory experiences ranging from recent gay asylum seekers to an assessment of gay tourism in Mexico. Cantú uses a variety of methods including archival research, interviews, and ethnographic research to explore the range of experiences of Mexican men who have sex with men and the political economy of sexuality and immigration. His primary research site is the greater Los Angeles area, where he interviewed many immigrant men and participated in organizations and community activities alongside his informants. Sure to fill gaps in the field, *The Sexuality of Migration* simultaneously complicates a fixed notion of sexual identity and explores the complex factors that influence immigration and migration experiences.


The United States is known as a “melting pot” yet this mix tends to be volatile and contributes to a long history of oppression, racism, and bigotry. *Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice*, edited by Bonnie Thornton Dill and Ruth Enid Zambrana, looks at the problems of inequality and oppression from new angles and promotes intersectionality as an interpretive tool that can be utilized to better understand the ways in which race, class, gender, ethnicity and other dimensions of difference shape our lives today.


Amanda Elam proposes and tests an alternative view of entrepreneurship based on contemporary sociological theory. The resulting cross-national theory of gender and entrepreneurship specifies the context from which individuals initiate the creation of new businesses. This book examines three distinct
contributes to the study of entrepreneurship. Firstly, it contributes to both sociological and institutional theories of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneur. Secondly, it presents a cross-national comparative framework for the multilevel analysis of entrepreneurship. Finally, this book produces a key multilevel finding with regard to the importance of national gender beliefs for the likelihood of business creation among both men and women. *Gender and Entrepreneurship* will be an invaluable tool for researchers and policymakers interested in testing assumptions about the importance and influence of key national factors on rates of entrepreneurial activity.


Until recently, domestic violence, as it has been referred to, was a problem to be dealt with inside the family. In this groundbreaking work, Hattery’s unique approach provides a detailed theoretical discussion of race, class, and gender-effects on intimate partner violence and a thoughtful discussion of the interactions of these factors.


This is an ethnographic study that examines the dynamics of race, social class, and marriage in contemporary American society specifically with respect to marriages between African Americans and whites. This research attempts to delineate differences between the two black-white interracial marriage pairings, a problem that has not been the subject of much previous social science research. Fifty black-white interracially married couples were interviewed for this study; thirty couples were comprised of African American women with white husbands; twenty couples were comprised of African American men with white wives. The results from the forty-question survey indicated that for these fifty middle class, northern, urban, black-white inter racially married couples, the race and sex of each spouse are important factors in how the marriage is experienced.


Shades of Difference addresses the widespread but little studied phenomenon of colorism—the preference for lighter skin and the ranking of individual worth according to skin tone. Examining the social and cultural significance of skin color in a broad range of societies and historical periods, this insightful collection looks at how skin color affects people’s opportunities in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and North America.


The book focuses on the racial inequalities in South Korea forged by U.S. imperialist dominance (involving Whites, Koreans/Asians, Blacks) and their profound impact on Korean immigrants’ navigation of “race” in the United States. In broad terms, it uses transnational and relationality (race, nation, gender, class) approaches to understand an Asian American group’s bouts with “race” and racism in the context of U.S. empire.


Played by millions of kids, and fueled by the volunteer labor of thousands of adults, youth sports is central to the daily lives of families and communities. Now that girls are playing sports too, does that contribute to greater equality in families, communities and workplaces? Based on seven years of participant observation and interviews with youth soccer, baseball and softball coaches, Michael Messner shows how the gendered belief systems and informal interactions of adults create a division of labor in youth sports—nearly all of the coaches are men, while most of the “team moms” are women. An informal glass ceiling keeps most of the few women coaches from advancing to higher age level teams, while narrow definitions of masculinity squeeze different sorts of men from the youth coaching ranks. The effect on families and on children is “soft essentialism,” an ascendant professional class gender ideology that differently shapes and constrains the choices of boys and girls, men and women. Youth sports is paradoxical, Messner concludes: participation benefits girls and boys, but does not ultimately disrupt gender boundaries or hierarchies; instead, youth sports has become a

Page 8

*continued on 9*
Member Honors

Thomas D. Hall was named to the Edward Myers Dolan Chair in Anthropology at DePauw University for 2007-2008 & 2008-2009.

Member Publications

Continued from 9


Member Book Reviews

Newsletter Editor’s Note:

If you have a new or recent publication that was not included in this edition of the newsletter, please inform the newsletter editor. Section members who would like their new publications listed in the Race, Gender and Class Section Newsletter should email Rebecca Scott at scotttrr@missouri.edu with a complete citation for the publication. Members with recent or forthcoming books should email the citation as well as the publisher’s information to be featured in the newsletter. (MS Word format is preferred.)
The awards ceremony of the section on Race, Gender and Class at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, in Boston, Massachusetts, August 1-4, 2008

Pictured top left Chair-elect Maxine Craig, Graduate student paper award co-winner, Glenda Flores, and outgoing Chair Joane Nagel. Top right, Council member Carla Brailey, Council member and Distinguished book award winner, Celine-Marie Pascale, and Distinguished article award winner Natasha Sarkisian. Bottom left, Graduate student award co-winners Eran Shor and Glenda Flores. Bottom right, Distinguished article award winners Natasha Sarkisian, Mariana Gerena, and Naomi Gerstel.

Race, Gender and Class in the 2008 Presidential Campaign
Special Issue Announcement

Race, Gender & Class, 2008, Vol. 15, Iss. 3/4 is devoted to race, gender and class in the 2008 Presidential campaign, and features an introduction by George L. Amedee, and an afterword by Jean Ait Belkhir.
The History of the Race, Gender, and Class Section of the American Sociological Association, Part I

By Bernice McNair Barnett
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I. Introduction

Now, it has been more than ten years since the organized efforts to establish the Race, Gender, and Class section in the American Sociological Association took place. In the early to mid-1990s, mobilization to establish the RGC section generated enthusiasm, support, and questions about the efficacy, need, and level of interest among sociologists in establishing yet another ASA section. Was there support for a Race, Gender, and Class section given the existence of 35 other sections in the ASA in 1995? Indeed, some of these existing sections already focused on various forms of social inequality. For example, at least five other ASA sections among the then 35 sections existing in the ASA during the 1994-1995 RGC mobilizing year addressed race, gender, or class inequalities: Sex and Gender (section #09) Marxist Sociology (section #14) Racial and Ethnic Minorities (section #21) Asia/Asian America (section #24) Latino/a Sociology (section #29). However, by the 1995-1996 year, sociologists who had been organizing and supporting the movement to establish the RGC section in the ASA emphasized that: (a) a new RGC section would complement and build upon the existing sections, all of which were much needed in the ASA; (b) there was strong interest among many sociologists, including those who held memberships in multiple ASA sections, to establish an additional section that would have an explicit purpose to focus on the multiple, simultaneous, and interacting power relations of inequality along race, gender, and class lines and the particular ways they intersect; and (c) there had been almost three decades since social movements of the 1960s had called for explicit recognition of the multiple dimensions of inequality. Struggles by African Americans, Latinos/as, Asian Americans, Native Americans, women, gays/lesbians, and welfare recipients to resist oppression and discrimination had generated intellectual activism in the academy (Barnett 1993, 1995; Belkhir 1996; Brewer 1993; Feagin and Feagin 1982). The RGC section organizers underscored that this activism, both inside and outside of the academy, had resulted in an emerging body of new research, teaching strategies, and curriculum integration workshops that illustrated the value of explicitly theorizing, researching, analyzing, and teaching the “interlocking,” “simultaneous,” “cumulative,” and “multiple” effects of race, gender, class and other relations of power/privilege and oppression/disprivilege (Andersen 1987; Baca Zinn and Dill 1994; Brewer 1993; Collins 1986; Dill 1983, Gilkes 1988; Glenn 1980; King 1988; Higginbotham and Cannon 1991). Indeed, almost 3 decades of writings by activist intellectuals, especially by women of color and racial ethnic feminists in sociology, philosophy, history, education, literature, and in other disciplines as well as by public intellectuals and social critics from the 1970s to the mid-1990s, had introduced or reoriented academics to the value of understanding social inequalities from an integrative race, gender, and class perspective (Baca Zinn and Dill 1994; Barnett and Belkhir 1997; Brewer 1993; Chow, Wilkinson, and Baca Zinn 1996).

In earlier pre-1960s decades, classical theorist Anna Julia Cooper in the 1890s and modern theorist Gerhard Lenski in the 1950s were pioneers in theorizing the multidimensionality of inequality. In the post-1960s decades, Joe Feagin began his pioneering work analyzing systemic racism, classism, and sexism and new generation of women activist-intellectuals pioneered integrative race, gender, and class studies in the 1970s and 1980s. The scholarship of post-1960s pioneers laid the foundation and rationale for establishing the RGC section in the 1990s. Who or what is a “pioneer”? Elsewhere, I have utilized Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary (1996: 1473) to convey the different shades of meaning of “pioneer” that can be applied in any field: pioneer: 1. a person who is among those who are the...
first to enter or settle a region, thus opening it for occupation and development by others. 2. one who is first or among the earliest in any field of inquiry, enterprise, or progress...3. one of a group of foot soldiers detailed to make roads, dig entrenchments, etc., in advance of the main body. 4. an organism that successfully establishes itself in a barren area, thus starting an ecological cycle of life. 5. one of a series of U.S. space probes that explored the solar system and transmitted scientific information to earth.

The label “pioneer” certainly seems to adequately describe the generation of 1970s and 1980s activist intellectuals who were among the first of contemporary scholars to illustrate their commitment to integrative RGC theoretical analysis; who opened up the field of RGC studies for further development by others; who served as trailblazers and footsoldiers working in the trenches in advance of others, especially when the field of RGC studies was virtually barren and when the environment in academic departments was often hostile and resistant to this “new” line of teaching, research, and theorizing; and who explored, probed, and transmitted information about integrative race, gender, and class analysis, theory, research, and teaching to others. Surely, those who participated in the transformative race, gender, and class workshops at the Memphis State University Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University in the 1980s and 1990s would agree. The Center’s founders, workshop leaders, and visiting collaborators started a new intellectual cycle of life. In addition to the Memphis Center’s pioneering co-founders Bonnie Thornton Dill, Elizabeth Higginbotham, and Lynn Weber, women feminist sociologists who pioneered integrative RGC studies during the 1970s and 1980s included: Margaret L. Andersen, Maxine Baca Zinn, Rose M. Brewer, Ester Ngan-Ling Chow, Patricia Hill Collins, Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, and Deborah King, among other scholars. Before RGC studies became popular in the mid- to late 1990s and before the RGC section was established and operating as an officially approved section in the ASA during the 1997-1998 academic year, these pioneering sociologists blazed trails in introducing and/or reorienting academics to theorizing the intersectionality of race, gender, and class oppression. Similarly, in the 1970s and 1980s, the Combahee River Collective, Gloria Anzaldua, Johnnella Butler, Angela Davis, Darlene Clark Hine, bell hooks, Gloria Hull, June Jordan, Audre Lorde, Patricia Bell Scott, Barbara Smith, and other activist intellectuals in diverse fields made pioneering contributions to the new integrative subfield.

Thus, against the backdrop of three decades of post-1960s activism inside and outside of the academy and new cutting-edge scholarship in sociology and other disciplines, the organized efforts formally to establish a new RGC section in the ASA took place. The 1994-1996 years of organizing were crucial. During this time, new sections-in-formation had to have at least 200 dues paying members, among other requirements. The collective mobilization, which was led by Jean Belkhir and other RGC founding organizers (Belkhir 1996), succeeded in obtaining almost 600 signatures of support, over 300 dues paying members by the end of 1995, and more than 600 dues paying members by Spring of 1996. ASA finally approved the formation of the section and designated the 1996-1997 year of RGC as a “Section-in-Formation” and the 1997-1998 year of RGC as the first year of operation as an “Section”–the 36th section in the ASA! Some of the leaders and organizers of the collective effort to establish the new RGC section in the ASA were also elected as some of the founding officers of the RGC section: Jean Ait Amber Belhír (1st RGC Chair and founding editor of the journal Race, Gender, and Class, initially named Race, Sex, and Class), Norman Dolch (1st RGC Secretary-Treasurer), and founding council members Bernice McNair Barnett, Anna Karpathakis, Beth Kosiak, Alton Okinada, Belinda Robnett, and Beth Vanfossen. Other RGC founding members and supporters will be discussed later in this retrospective-prospective history. Since its official founding and first year of its official operation as a section in 1997-98, the Race, Gender, and Class section has grown tremendously.

Chronologically established as section #36 in the ASA, the membership of the Race, Gender, and Class section has grown to become the 5th largest of the 44 ASA sections.

References

Andersen, Margaret. 1987. Denying Difference. The Continuing Basis for Exclusion of Race and Gender in the Curriculum. Memphis, TN: Center for Research on
Women, Memphis.


Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 1980.”The Dialectics of Wage

Continued from 13

Continued on page 15

**Race, Gender and Class Section Officers, 2008-2009**

**Chair**
 winndance France Twine, University of California - Santa Barbara

**Chair-Elect**
 Maxine Leeds Craig, University of California - Davis

**Past Chair**
 Joanne Nagel, University of Kansas

**Secretary-Treasurer**
 Mary E. Kelly, University of Central Missouri

**Council**
 Elizabeth Bernstein, Barnard College - Columbia University
 Carla Devon Brailey, Howard University
 Erica Chito Childs, CUNY-Hunter College
 Rodney D. Coates, Miami University
 Milagros Peña, University of Florida
 Antonia M. Randolph, University of Delaware

**Newsletter Editor**
 Rebecca R. Scott, University of Missouri

**Webmaster**
 Jon Agnone, University of Washington
The Race, Gender, and Class section Nominations Committee has selected a slate of candidates to run for section offices in the next ASA election. The list of candidates follows, and biographical information for the candidates is available as a PDF on the RGC Section website http://www2.asanet.org/sectionrgc/index.html

**Candidates for Chair - Elect**

Joya Misra  
Associate Professor of Sociology & Public Policy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Celine-Marie Pascale  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, American University

**Candidates for Council**

James V. Fenelon  
Professor of Sociology, California State University, San Bernardino

Shirley A. Jackson  
Associate Professor of Sociology, Southern Connecticut State University

Marla H. Kohlman  
Associate Professor of Sociology, Kenyon College

Carolina Bank Muñoz  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

**Candidates for student representative**

Glenda M. Flores  
Graduate Student, University of Southern California

Saida Grundy  
Graduate Student, University of Michigan
104th ASA Annual Meeting August 8-11, 2009
Hilton San Francisco and Parc 55 Hotel
San Francisco, California

Race, Gender, and Class section sessions:

*Intersections: Race, Gender, Class, Sexuality and the HIV Pandemic (Co-sponsored with Sociologists AIDS Network)*
Organizers: France Winddance Twine, University of California-Santa Barbara and Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Northwestern University

*Masculinities*
Organizer: Kumiko Nemoto, Western Kentucky University

*Race, Space and Inequality: Nation, Migration, and Ethnic Boundaries*
Organizers: Mangala Subramaniam and Beth Williford, Perdue University

*Sociology of Ancestry: Race and Ethnicity*
Organizer: Eviatar Zerubavel, Rutgers University

*The Power of Genealogies: Collective Memories and the Social Reproduction of Racial and Ethnic Communities*
Organizers: Karla B. Hackstaff, University of Northern Arizona, and Angel Parham, Loyola University, New Orleans

See you in San Francisco!