Brokeback Mountain opened this month in theaters all over the country and Christian Right organizations, such as Focus on the Family and the Culture and Family Institute at Concerned Women for America, have made conscious decisions not to campaign against it. Even the Family Research Council, which launched a campaign against the film Kinsey, has decided that it doesn’t want to draw attention to the film. It may appear that anti-gay organizations have finally gotten smart—the more they campaign against queer folks and queer issues, the more attention we get. It may appear that the cultural climate has gotten better for queer folks; however political initiatives against same-sex marriage continues to privilege traditional notions of sexuality. On another political front, recent Medicare cuts will negatively affect thousands of people in the U.S. living with HIV and AIDS. All of this points to the importance work that we, in the Sexualities Section of ASA, do.

We continue to grow; our section membership currently stands at 398, and I’m sure it will break 400 by the 2006 annual meeting, which will be held August 11-14 in Montréal, Canada. The theme “Great Divides: Transgressing Boundaries” should provide numerous opportunities to expand upon important work done in the past by members of our Section. Due to the popularity of last year’s roundtable sessions, Diane Illig of Salisbury University and Julie Hartman of Michigan State University will be organizing a roundtable session this year. In addition council agreed to have an invitational paper session on the Sociology of Sexuality and the program committee is currently working on selecting a slate of speakers. Finally, Joseph O’Shea from Concordia College in Montréal agreed to be the local arrangements chair for the reception committee and the program committee will work with him to arrange an event for all to enjoy.

I wish to thank our past chair, Verta Taylor, for her service to the section and her assistance in my transition from chair-elect to chair. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation for all those who have served the section in elected and non-elected roles. I look forward to an exciting and productive year as chair of the Sexualities Section. As you renew your membership in ASA, don’t forget to recruit others to join us in the Section as we continue to “Transgress Boundaries” in 2006!

Tracy E. Ore
Chair, Sexualities Section
Saint Cloud State University

Have Something to Say?
Send in your brief announcements, 500-word essays, reviews, letters, artworks, and photos for the next issue of Sexualities News to: Dr. Peter Chua, pchua@sjsu.edu, Dept. of Sociology, One Washington Square (0122), San José State University, San José, CA 95912-0122, 408-924-5322 (fax).

Key Dates
January 18, 2006
Open paper submission deadline for the upcoming ASA meeting

June 15, 2006
Submission deadline for the Summer 2006 issue of Sexualities News

July 23-29, 2006
The XIV International Sociological Association World Congress, Durban, South Africa

August 11-14, 2006
101st Annual Meeting of the ASA at Montréal, Quebec, Canada
In the last decade [1990s] or so, the study of sexuality has emerged as a vibrant interdisciplinary field of social analysis. For many years, sexuality was approached as an individual, biological or psychological phenomena. Today, the idea of sexuality as a social fact or construction is the point of departure for much of the most exciting scholarship in the area.

Sections are an important mechanism for getting out information about our specialty area... Section status also affords a variety of institutional supports from the ASA, including funding for information dissemination and a guaranteed number of paper sessions at the annual conference.

In short, we believe it is in the best interests of the discipline of sociology to advance the sociological study of sexuality. One way to promote this goal is to support the... "Sociology of Sexualities" as an ASA section and to encourage you to join... when you renew your membership in the ASA.

In 2005, the administration of the Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Fellowship was moved from the Sex and Gender Section to the Sexualities Section in 2005. The award is given annually to a graduate student who is beginning work on a dissertation in one of the three areas to which Levine devoted his career: (1) sociology of sexualities, (2) sociology of homosexualities, and (3) HIV/AIDS research. The award carries a stipend of $3,000, making it perhaps the single largest amount given to any ASA-sponsored award. Honorable mention receives $500.
New Section Book/Article Award

This award recognizes the outstanding scholarship of an author in the field of sexualities, broadly defined. The award will alternate between a book and an article, beginning with a book award in 2006. Eligible books and articles would be published within a 3-year period prior to the submission date.

New Section Mentorship Program

The Section begins a professional mentor-matching program for its members. The program will pair up more established members of the Section with interested graduate students. For more information, contact council members Sharon Preves (Chair of the Mentorship Program Committee), Julie Hartman, and Tina Fetner.

Winter Newsletter in PDF Format Only, Summer Edition in Paper & PDF Formats

The winter edition of the Section newsletter will be posted only in PDF electronic format to allow more content and to lower mailing expenses. It will be available for download at <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionsex/>. The summer edition of the newsletter will be mailed to members in paper format and made available online.

2006 ASA Sessions

Call for Papers to Sessions Related to Sexualities

REGULAR SESSION TOPICS
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Studies, organized by Barry Adam, University of Windsor
- Sociology of Sexuality, organized by Mimi Schippers, Tulane University

SEX & GENDER SECTION
- Transnationalism in Gender and Sexuality, organized by Shu-Ju Ada Cheng, DePaul University

SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES SECTION
- Open Session Roundtables, organized by Diane Illig, Salisbury University and Julie Hartman, Michigan State University

See the ASA Call for Papers for details. Deadline: Jan. 18, 2006.

Section Listserv

Subscribe to the Sexualities Discussion Listserv.

In addition to the official announcement listserv to which all section members are automatically subscribed, we have an informal discussion listserv to which you may subscribe by sending an e-mail message to Majordomo@listserv.asanet.org.

In the body of the message, type "subscribe sexualities" (without the quotation marks). Leave the subject line blank, and make sure that anything else in the body is removed, such as any signature your e-mail program may automatically insert.

WebRead

Post-Tenure Lavender Blues
Marc Stein, Jan. 7, 2006

In 2000-01, I conducted a survey for the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History (CLGH), an affiliated society of the American Historical Association (AHA), on the graduate school and job market experiences of 44 people who had completed or were in the process of completing Ph.D. dissertations on gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer topics (LGBTQ) in graduate and history-related programs in the United States and Canada. At the time, I was a survivor of five difficult years on the academic job market, the chair of the CLGH, and on the verge of receiving tenure at York University in Toronto, so for a variety of reasons it seemed like a timely project. From my perspective, the results were profoundly depressing, revealing that almost without exception U.S. history departments were not hiring job candidates who had completed LGBTQ history dissertations. For complete essay, click <http://hnn.us/articles/19941.html>.

The Real Truth About Teens and Sex
Sabrina Weill, 2005

So even if a parent is comfortable talking about sex with his or her teen but hasn’t brought it up out of respect for the teen’s privacy, the teen may assume that the parent doesn’t want to talk about it, or that his parent would be angry or uncomfortable if the teen brought it up. And so the communication gap widens. “I’ve always made a comparison between the way we treat driving and the way we treat sex,” says Frank Furstenberg, Ph.D., professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. For complete essay, click <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/09/09/earlyshow/leisure/books/main831562.shtml>.
Call For Papers and Workshop Proposals

Re-Visioning Prostitution Policy: Creating Space for Sex Worker Rights and Challenging Criminalization

July 2006 Las Vegas, Nevada

Deadline for submissions: March 1, 2006
Please send submissions to: lvprost@unlv.nevada.edu

Sponsored by the Desiree Alliance in conjunction with
BAYSWAN, SWOP-USA, COYOTE, Best Practices Policy Project
in collaboration with
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Sociology and
Department of Women's Studies and the Women's Research Institute of Nevada

A coalition of sex workers, social scientists, professional sex educators, health professionals and their supporting networks announce a conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 9-12 2006. You can join the conference organizing group and participate in the process by emailing Stacey Swimme staceyswimme@yahoo.com

This conference will bring together sex workers and sex worker advocates and allies interested in working toward decriminalization of prostitution in the U.S., to provide training/networking resources for advocates, to create spaces for dialogue among workers, supporters, academics and policy makers, to identify workers’ most pressing needs and to collaborate on strategies for social and political change on local, state, and national levels. The focus is to develop strategies and leadership skills for ending the criminalization of sex work and sex workers. The goal is to empower sex workers and their advocates/allies with the knowledge, strength, confidence, and capacity to put these practices into action. We invite paper submissions and proposals for workshops addressing social, cultural, economic, political and strategic issues regarding the decriminalization of prostitution.

Specifically we invite papers addressing:

- Analyses of existing policies surrounding sex work and their social, cultural and economic affects
- Social, cultural, or economic analyses of alternatives to criminalization of sex work internationally
- Analyses of, and experiences with, alternatives to criminalization of sex work including variants of decriminalization and legalization
- Demographic analyses of existing forms of prostitution in the United States
- Workplace issues relevant to sex work, including unionization, professionalization, licensing, health, customer relations, dealing with employers
- Negative impacts of prostitution policies on workers including stigma, stress, fear and impact of arrest, violence, burnout
- Public opinion polls on prostitution and other strategies to develop voter support for alternatives to criminalization
- Strategies for working with property owners, the public, and policy makers to develop political allies
- Alternatives to criminalization, current trends, pitfalls and progress, framing the discussion
- Working with the criminal justice system on alternatives to criminalization
- The effects of punitive policies which target clients (John schools, shaming and billboard campaigns, curb crawler policies, etc.)
- Specific current issues such as mandatory HIV testing, the ‘anti-prostitution loyalty oath’ regarding funding in the context of trafficking and HIV prevention, efforts to increase criminalization of commercial sex in federal law and other issues

We’re also accepting proposals for practical workshops including, but not limited to the following subjects:

- Advocacy and Outreach: How to build local networks of Sex Workers and supporters. How to identify and participate in existing networks. How to
Sex Work Matters: Beyond Divides

March 29-30, 2006
The City University of New York and The New School
New York City

Looking for a place to speak your mind, perform your act or present your work?

The Sex Work Matters: Beyond Divides project has organized a series of events focused exclusively on sex work and its many dimensions.

The project brings together sex workers, artists, activists, academics (and those who fit more than one of those categories) to meet and exchange ideas about sex work at a critical time when debate over sex work appears to be narrowing on many levels. It seeks to explore the theoretical, sociological, political and economic dimensions of sex work in a globalized world. At the same time, it provides a much-needed opportunity for graduate students and activists to enter the debate, present original work and identify areas for collaboration.

We will kick off the event with the “Sex Workers Soiree” on the evening of March 29, organized with $pread magazine.

On March 30, we’ve organized a conference that includes networking opportunities with local groups and organizations, an opening discussion featuring established scholars and activists in the field, panels on art and sex work, activism, economics of sex work and other topics, and a roundtable reception for mixing and defining ideas for further work in research, art and activism.

For more information, contact sexworkmatters@yahoo.com and visit <http://sexworkmatters.net/>.

from pg4 represent the broader voice of a marginalized segment of society. Peer-based outreach.

How to set up Know Your Rights and Advocacy trainings in your region. Court Support. Empowering under-represented communities within the sex industry.

- Fundraising/Grant-writing: How to raise money for projects that aim to decriminalize prostitution. How to get funding for an existing organization. How to get seed money to create an organization.

- Self-Defense Training

- Protecting Our Families: Custody rights, legal guardianship, having an emergency plan, and other family issues.

- Health/Safety Issues for Workers: Drugs, safe-sex, personal choice, mandatory STD screening

- Direct Services: Identifying and serving the needs of our local communities.

- Legal/Political strategies for decriminalization: Grassroots organizing models. Methods of political reform. Strategies for social change.

- Labor Organizing: How unions work, benefits, strategies, how-to, etc.


Please include with your proposal:

- Your name and affiliation (if any)

- Background/Experience: One paragraph summarizing your interest in or experience with the sex industry

- One paragraph summary of research and workshop

- Outline of research and workshop
Recent Articles


Recent Books


Chavkin, Wendy & Ellen see pg7
Gender Lens Series

Edited by Judith Howard (a Sexualities Section member), Barbara Risman and Joey Sprague

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Class Questions

Feminist Answers to Class Questions

by Joan Acker, 2005

Class Questions examines feminist theories of class and intersectionality and proposes a theory of gendered and racialized class processes as deeply embedded in capitalist practices, both historically and today. Acker argues that large work organizations are primary locations in which gendered and racialized class inequalities are created. As neo-liberal market practices reorganize work, gendered and racialized class inequalities are both reorganized and increasing nationally and globally. This book will appeal to readers interested in a feminist discussion of class as a racialized and gendered process intimately tied to the capitalist economic system.

Black Intimacies

A Gender Perspective on Families and Relationships

by Shirley A. Hill, 2005

Hill applies a gender lens to the multiple systems of oppression that have shaped the lives of African American women and men. Using a multi-cultural feminist perspective, Hill examines the ways in which gender has affected experiences of intimacy, family relationships, child rearing, and motherhood for contemporary African Americans. Drawing on ethnographic materials, interviews, and other scholarly research, Hill’s work rethinks the cultural and historical definitions of black identity and personal relationships.

institutional Ethnography

A Sociology for People

by Dorothy Smith, 2005

Smith outlines a method of inquiry that uses everyday experience as a lens to examine social relations and social organization. Concerned with articulating an inclusive sociology that goes beyond looking at a particular group of people from the detached viewpoint of the researcher, this is a method of inquiry for people, incorporating the expert’s research and language into everyday experience to examine social relations and institutions. This sociology from women’s standpoint reveals the present but largely unseen social relations of everyday life.

Feminist Methodologies for Critical Researchers

Bridging Differences

by Joey Sprague, 2005

This original work explores how standard methods can be adapted toward critical ends by thinking carefully about the links between epistemology and methodology. Sprague’s treatment of qualitative and quantitative methods shows how both can be used effectively by progressive researchers. She traces how the social organization of the academy has produced a bias against feminist methodology and proposes that we rethink how we organize our research and our discipline.

Changing Genders,
Changing Families

Tracing the Pace of Change Over Time

by Oriel Sullivan, 2006

Feminists often bemoan how slowly the gender gap in household labor is shrinking. Sociologist Sullivan, however, focuses on the neglected topic of the direction and pace of changing domestic gender practices, from changes in attitudes to quantitative analysis of change in the domestic division of labor cross-nationally. Her theoretical approach connects the interactions and negotiations that individuals engage in on a day-to-day basis to the wider feminist inspired changes in politics and culture. She marshals empirical evidence for a slow but steady and powerful change in gender relations. This work provides evidence for meaningful feminist changes in family life.

In Print (con’t)


Nominations Being Accepted for 2006 Sociology of Sexualities Section Awards

Martin Levine Dissertation Award
Nomination due: April 15, 2006

This award was established to honor the memory of Martin Levine, who died of AIDS in 1993. It provides $3,000 to a graduate student (and $500 to an honorable mention) in the final stages of dissertation research and writing, who is working on those topics to which Levine devoted his career: 1) the sociology of sexualities, 2) the sociology of homosexuality, and 3) HIV/AIDS research. A graduate student needs an approved proposal to qualify; not a completed dissertation. Send five copies of their accepted and approved thesis proposal and a letter of recommendation from their advisor to Michael Kimmel, Department of Sociology, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794.

Simon and Gagnon Award
Nomination due: April 1, 2006

This award commemorates decades of research and writing on sexualities by Professor William Simon (University of Houston) who died on July 21, 2000, and his longtime collaborator, Professor John Gagnon (SUNY-Stony Brook). The Simon and Gagnon Award honors career contributions to the study of sexualities as represented by a body of work or a single book. The recipient of the award will make a presentation to the Sexualities Section at the Annual Meetings of the ASA. To nominate an individual or for more information, contact Verta Taylor, Chair, Department of Sociology, 2834 Ellison Hall, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430.

Graduate Student Paper Award
Nomination due: June 1, 2006

This award is given to a paper authored by a student currently enrolled in a sociology graduate program. A paper may be co-authored by two or more students who would share the award (papers co-authored with faculty are not eligible). The predominant focus of the paper should be sexualities broadly defined. Papers should be manuscript length and no longer than 35 typed, double-spaced pages. Send an original and four copies of the paper to: Denise Bullock, Indiana University East, 268 Middlefork Hall, 2325 Chester Blvd, Richmond, IN 47374-1289, debulloc@indiana.edu.

Sexualities Section Book Award
Nomination due: May 1, 2006

This award is given to recognize the outstanding scholarship of an author in the field of sexualities, broadly defined. The award will alternate between a book and an article, beginning with a book award in 2006. Eligible books and articles would be published within a 3-year period prior to the submission date. Send Nomination to Suzanna Walters, Department of Gender Studies, Indiana University, College of Arts & Sciences, Memorial Hall, East, Room 130, 1021 East Third St, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, walterss@indiana.edu.