The week I write this, Rev. Jerry Falwell has just passed away, giving us cause to reflect on his legacy. Though far from the only man responsible for the development of the religious right in the United States, Falwell played a pivotal role by inspiring massive numbers of conservative evangelical Protestants to end their withdrawal from secular politics and become conservative activists, setting the stage for the later shift in the Republican Party and the extremely divisive political context we have today. Falwell did this by rallying his followers primarily around two sexualities-related issues: homosexuality and abortion. He was able to harness outrage over these issues, raise millions of dollars in donations, and solidify a fledgling conservative social movement. His agenda of socially and legally marginalizing lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, eliminating women’s right to abortion, and reducing teenagers’ access to birth control and to accurate information about sexuality provides the context for much of our section members’ scholarly work on sexualities in the United States. In such a context, it has become crystal clear that our collective endeavor to expand the breadth and depth of knowledge about sexualities is critically important both academically and politically.

In this context, our section membership continues to grow. Last year, we passed the 400 mark for members, and while there is still evidence that as a subfield we continue to be marginalized, we see excellent work in the sociology of sexualities published in top journals and university presses. Looking forward to the ASA meetings, our section has a great set of events put together. The section’s day of business is Sunday, August 12. Our greatly successful section roundtables will continue to provide places for sexualities-related works-in-progress to be discussed. The program also offers a section session on “Politics, Conflict, and Sexualities,” and we will have an Author Meets Critics panel to discuss Gloria González-López’s book, Erotic Journeys, winner of the 2006 Sexualities Section Book Award.

Please mark your calendars for our section reception on Sunday night, August 12, from 7:30-9pm at the recently renovated LGBT Community Center. We are especially proud to partner with the Center for this event. As the central gathering space for activism around lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender, as well as AIDS activism, the LGBT Community Center in New York City is alive with memories of ACT-UP, Queer Nation, SAGE, and dozens of other organizations. In addition, the Center hosts the National Archive of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History, with documents and photos from thousands of LGBT people and organizations, a bounty for sexualities researchers. I look forward to seeing you there!

Tina Fetner
Chair, Sexualities Section
McMaster University

Seeking Newsletter Editor

Peter Chua Completes His Term

By TINA FETNER

On behalf of the entire section, I want to extend our most heartfelt thanks to Peter Chua, who has exceeded all expectations in the position of section newsletter editor. Peter’s professional, well-designed newsletters have been a great benefit to the section, and we wish him well now that his term is coming to an end.

We will be looking for an editor to replace Peter, for whom this newsletter will be the last. Section newsletters are produced twice yearly in the Winter and the Summer. Any one who is interested in this position, or who has questions, is encouraged to get in touch with me by email at tina.fetner@mcmaster.ca.

KEY DATES

August 11-14, 2007
102nd Annual Meeting of the ASA at New York City, NY

December 1, 2007
Submission deadline for the Winter 2008 issue of Sexualities News

January 2008
Open paper submission dateline for the upcoming ASA meeting
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.

Steve Seidman, Gil Zicklin, and Mark Hager

The Purpose

This Section encourages, enhances and fosters 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.

It seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in sociology, the sociology of sexualities, and allied disciplines.

Officers

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Kudos and Announcements!

The Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services: Issues in Practice, Policy & Research invites submission of manuscripts for an upcoming special issue on “Examining the Lives of GLBTQ of Color.” Deadline for submission is July 31, 2007 with a planned publication in 2008. Early submissions are encouraged and appreciated. Inquiries for the special issue should be directed to Chong-suk Han, guest editor, at chan@temple.edu or cwhan@u.washington.edu. Further information about the journal may be obtained at www.haworthpress.com.

The Race, Sex, Power: New Movements in Black & Latina/o Sexualities Conference organizers at the University of Illinois at Chicago are seeking interested participants to submit an abstract (approx. 300 words) for individual papers, panels and roundtables (approx. 4 persons), poster presentations, or visual presentations. Submit abstracts (as well as any queries) to RACESEXPOWER2008@DEPAUL.EDU. The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15, 2007. This April 11-12, 2008 conference brings attention to the “bodies of knowledge”—in their biological, social, cultural, and political forms—to rethink how the relationships between race, sexuality, and power has, and continues to, shape Black and Latina/o sexualities in the U.S. This conference intends to highlight debates, ideas, and practices relating to the meanings assigned to black and brown bodies in the U.S., how black and brown people experience their socially regulated bodies, and how those bodies are positioned vis-à-vis knowledge, truth, politics, and history.

Politics, Conflict and Sexualities

SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES REGULAR SESSION
Sunday August 12, 2007, 12:30-2:10 p.m.
Session Organizer: Karl Bryant (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara) and Jyoti Puri (Simmons College)
Presider: Karl Bryant (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara)

Out to Get Us: Islam, Security, and Queer Sexuality, Ibrahim Abraham (Monash Univ.)
Radicalizing public sphere: Analysis of a case study of Poznan March of Equality, Anna Katarzyna Gruszczynska (Aston Univ.)
Responding to Transgender Smear Tactics: The Political Negotiations of LGBH Activists, Amy L. Stone (Trinity Univ.)
The Social Construction of Sex Trafficking: Ideology and Institutionalization of a Moral Crusade, Ronald Weitzer (George Washington Univ.)

Author Meets Critics: Erotic Journey’s: Mexican Immigrants and Their Sex Lives by Gloria González-López

SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES INVITED SESSION
Sunday August 12, 2007, 2:30-4:10 p.m.
Session Organizer & Presider: Tina Fetner (McMaster University)
Panelists: Adam Isaiah Green (Univ. of Toronto), Michael Kimmel (State Univ. of New York-Stony Brook) and Jyoti Puri (Simmons College)

Sociology of Sexualities

A REGULAR SESSION
Saturday, August 11, 2007, 4:30-6:10 p.m.
Session Organizer and Presider: Laura A. Mamo (Univ. of Maryland)
Discussant: Paisley Currah (CUNY)

Cowboys, Queens, Fags, and Papis: The Heterogeneous Cultural Production of Gay Male Identity, Anthony Christian Ocampo (UCLA)
Discovering and Explaining “Sexual Transgressions:” Sexuality and Gender Constructions Among Latina Mothers and Daughters, Lorena Garcia (Univ. of Illinois, Chicago)
Queer Bodies in Sexed Spaces: The Examination of a Lesbian/Queer Bathhouse, Corie Jo Hammers (Armstrong Atlantic State Univ.)
Reclaiming a Better World: Sex-Gender Systems & Reproductive Restraint in Non-Capitalist Cultural Contexts, Nicole J. Grant (Northern Kentucky Univ.)

102nd ASA ANNUAL MEETING | AUGUST 11-14, 2007 | NEW YORK CITY
CHECK ASANET.ORG FOR UPDATED PROGRAM INFORMATION
2007 Annual Meeting Sessions  (con’t)

Section on Sociology of Sexualities
Refereed Roundtables Session

Sunday August 12, 2007, 10:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

Session Organizers: Alison S. Better (Brandeis University) and Erin Calhoun Davis (Cornell College)

Table 1: Identity Management and Stigma
(Bi)Identities Manuevers: Revealing, Concealing, and Resisting, Andrea D. Miller
(Webster Univ.)
Margins Upon Margins: Managing the Stigma of Race and Sexuality, Chong-suk Han
(Univ. of Washington); Kristopher R Proctor (University of California, Riverside), Kyung-Hee Choi
(Univ. of California, San Francisco)
Talking Back: Lesbian and Gay Responses to the Religious Right, Bernadette Barton
(Morehead State Univ.)
Presider: Julie E. Hartman (Michigan State Univ.)

Table 2: State Relations and Other Structural Factors in Sexuality Research
The Strength of the Nation: Why the U.S. is Panicked about Gay Marriage, Jaime J.
McCaulley (Univ. of Windsor)
Visibility in Anonymity: The Role of Lesbians in the Gentrification of an Urban, Lesbian
Neighborhood, Christopher J Stapel (Univ. of Kentucky)
Presider: Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo (Univ. of California at Santa Barbara)

Table 3: Constructing Identities
Drag Kinging and the Creation of Cybernetworks, Kegan Allée (UC Santa Barbara)
Incidental Androgyny and Symbolic Gender Performance: The Case of SM, Staci
Newmahr (SUNY Stony Brook)
Narrating Masculinity: Gender, Identity Work, and Heterosexual Male Sex Stories, Brian C.
Kelly (Purdue University)
Presider: Alison S. Better (Brandeis University)

Table 4: Framing Sexuality in Social Movements and Popular Culture
Discursive Framing of Teenage Sexuality: Virginity Loss on “Teen Drama” Television
Programs, Maura Flynn Kelly (Univ. of Connecticut)
“Conservative and Gay...Why It’s Okay: Organizational Framing and Identity Conflict Negotiation among Log Cabin Republicans,” Courtney Ellen Muse
(Vanderbilt Univ.)
Dolinsky (Univ. of California Santa Cruz)
Diversity as Instrument: The Management of Difference in a Sexuality-Based Organization, Meghan Duffy (Univ. of California, San Diego)
Presider: Jason Lee Crockett (Univ. of Arizona)

Table 5: Theories of Pleasure and Desire
From Social Learning to Embodiment: Toward a Sociology of Desire, Adam Isaiah
Green (Univ. of Toronto)
The Body & Sexual Pleasure, Lisa J. Byers
(McMaster Univ.)
Why don’t sociologists discuss Sexual Compulsivity? New theoretical lenses for an emerging discourse, Christian Grov (CUNY Graduate Center)
Presider: Heather Laine Talley (Vanderbilt Univ.)

Table 6: Predicting Sexual Satisfaction and Practices
Defining a Lifetime of Purity: Diversity among adolescents who have taken an abstinence pledge, Katherine C. Jones (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst)
(Bowling Green State Univ.)
Correlates of Sexual Satisfaction among Married Couples, Margaret Gassanov & Deniz Yucel (Ohio State Univ.)
Subjective Quality of Life: Do Indicators of Sexuality Function Differently by Gender and Marital Status?, Kristina A. Dzara (Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale)
HIV Risk Practices Sought by Men Who Have Sex with Other Men, and Who Use Internet Websites to Identify Potential Sexual Partners, Hugh Klein (Kensington Research Institute)
Presider: William L. Jeffries (Univ. of Florida)

CHECK ASANET.ORG FOR UPDATED PROGRAM INFORMATION