Hello Sexualities Members!

Perhaps it’s because I’m at that certain point in my career. Perhaps it’s my small-town Midwestern gullibility. Or perhaps I’m just lucky, but now find myself the chair of my university’s sociology department, the chair of the board of our local AIDS non-profit, and the chair of the Sexualities Section. A perfect storm of power? Not quite.

No offense meant to my fellow board members or my departmental colleagues, but chairing the Sexualities Section is by far the most pleasant of these duties. Most of this pleasure derives from the wonderful group of people who surround me in the section. Being temporally sandwiched by former chair Tina Fetner and chair-elect Nancy Fischer makes this job a great deal more pleasant than I imagined when I was elected a year ago. All of the other people with whom I have worked on various committees have been models of efficiency and dedication. And to hear from Tina of the overwhelming response to our recent call for nominations for elections is truly a wonderful sign. So to everyone involved in the section: thank you for the work you have done and that you will continue to do.

ASA Boston is shaping up to be another great set of meetings for the section. I’m extremely happy with the sessions that we have planned. The first open-submission session is “Same-Sex Marriage in Massachusetts and Beyond,” which I hope will build on the fabulous ASA panel that hundreds of us attended in 2004. Now that people have had time to study empirically the impact of recent policies related to same-sex marriage, it will be interesting to see what they have found. Another area where there is growing interest is the role of the body in sexualities studies, so I also look forward to the second open-submission session: “Bodies, Health, and Sexualities,” organized by Steven Epstein. Finally, as we all know, trans studies has had a great effect on our discipline of late. Kristen Schilt and Laurel Westbrook, who are organizing the invited session “Transgender Studies’ Impact on the Sociology of Sexualities and Gender,” promise a provocative panel. And of course let’s not forget my favorite session of the conference: the roundtables, where so much new and interesting work gets debuted. It will be hard to follow last summer’s great reception, but we’re starting to bat around some ideas. Thematically, I think by law it has to involve tea, baked beans, and baseball (thus the idea batting). Whatever we come up with, I promise it will do our section proud.

Here’s to a Great 2008,
Tom Linneman

Key Dates

January 16, 2008, open paper submission deadline for the upcoming ASA meeting.
April 10-13, 2008, Pacific Sociological Association meeting: Portland OR.
August 1-4, 2008, 103rd annual meeting of the ASA, Boston, MA.

NOTE: Make sure to send any announcements regarding the ASA meeting to the newsletter editor by June 15th!

Have Something to Say?
Submit your brief announcements, 500-word essays, reviews, letters, art or photos for the next issue of Sexualities News to: Bayliss J. Camp, bayliss.camp@csus.edu, Dept. of Sociology, CSU Sacramento, 6000 J St., Sacramento, CA 95819  Fax (916) 278-6281
**2007 Simon-Gagnon Award Remarks**

[Note: the recipient of last year’s Simon-Gagnon award, Arlene Stein, graciously agreed to submit her prepared remarks for publication in this edition of *SexualitiesNews*]

**Sociology’s Sexual Revolution: Still Missing?**

Sociological research on sexuality is more vital and lively than ever. We’re examining the linkages between sexuality, migration and economic development. We’re exploring how gender and sexuality intersects with globalization, leading to sex trafficking and prostitution. We’re analyzing the ways GLBT people are redefining processes of family formation. But this is scratching the surface of what is now an incredibly rich field. Maybe I’m biased, but I think that we’re doing some of the most interesting work in sociology.

Nearly twenty-five years ago, during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, and in midst of the rise of the religious right, both of which brought sexual issues into high relief, I began grad school at Berkeley. I remember being struck by the strange paradox that during that heady time, in arguably the most sexually liberal area of the country, and a department known for its left and feminist leanings, there was virtually no mention of sexuality in our curriculum. The scene at the annual sociological meetings held in San Francisco the next year wasn't much better: there were only two papers on the program that dealt with sexual themes—and one was on “diurnal rhythms and human copulation.”

But at Berkeley I happened upon an undergraduate course called “Sexual Diversity and Social Change” taught by a brilliant adjunct lecturer named Jeffrey Escoffier. In that course I was introduced to the work of John Gagnon and William Simon, Michel Foucault, Ken Plummer, Gayle Rubin, and the novel idea that sexuality is socially constructed. This concept was so novel that few faculty members in our department could get their heads around it—and one proceeded to proclaim that if we teach courses about sexual diversity, we’re going to have to teach one on left handed Eskimos. I kid you not!

That professor’s comments about Eskimos were fighting words to me—and it strengthened my resolve to do work in this field. I suppose I was a bit of rebel—wanting to break a few taboos along the way. I was also driven by my own personal quest to make sense of my own desires and their place in the world. For me, the personal, the political, and the professional were deeply intertwined.

It came as little surprise to me that no one was eager to throw money at me to finance my dissertation research—on lesbian identities. And I had fewer job interviews than my Berkeley cohort-mates who had published far less than I. But I had the advantage of doing work in a field that was wide open, and about which I felt passionate. And I did land a tenure track job.

Fast forward fifteen years. Today, sexuality is now a much more legitimate area of study. More and more sociology departments are happy to hire a specialist in sexuality—and some even have two. There was for brief while, a generous pot of money to finance dissertation and postdoc research in the field. That money has regrettably dried up, but not without making an incredible contribution to expanding this field of study. There are also more venues in which to publish our work. One ASA sponsored journal even put Josh Gamson and his fabulous queer family on its cover. Now that’s progress!

But here’s where the story becomes more complicated, the progress more uneven. My sense is that while there is a virtual groundswell of exciting work on sexualities, precious few of our colleagues are paying very much attention to it. While there is greater space for the exploration of “the sexual” within the discipline today than
ever before, sociology has yet to undergo a paradigm shift—a fact that may be as true today as it was thirteen years ago, when Ken Plummer and I lamented sociology’s “missing sexual revolution”.

Perhaps it’s because sociologists are no different from most people: they harbor a great deal of shame about sexuality: about having sexual desires, about speaking about them publicly. Perhaps its jealousy: they’re imagining that those of us who study sexuality have far more interesting sex lives than they do—if only that were true! Maybe it’s because as an object of study, sexuality is inherently slippery: It’s difficult to quantify and objectify— and we know how much sociologists like to objectify and quantify. Maybe it’s due to conservative efforts to limit funding for sexuality research. Or maybe most sociologists are just not very interested…

I suspect it’s due to all of these reasons, and an important additional one: a pervasive and still mostly unexamined heteronormativity. Today, few sociologists would be so bold as to suggest that studying homosexuality is comparable to studying left handed Eskimos. Instead, marginalization occurs more subtly.

As Plummer and I wrote in 1994, “even though a few sociologists have been studying gay/lesbian life for at least 25 years), these concerns continue to inhabit the margins of the discipline… Studies of lesbian/gay life occur almost exclusively within the areas of deviance, gender, or sexuality, and have barely made their mark on the discipline as a whole. Many sociologists tend to labor under the assumption that lesbian/gay concerns are particularistic, and have little relevance to them.”

The belief that lesbian/gay concerns are narrowly particularistic takes different forms in different contexts. Recently, I was asked to respond to a symposium on the state of feminist sociology. A pioneering feminist sociologist made an impassioned defense of intersectionality—the belief that an analysis of the overlapping dimensions of race, class and gender is key to a feminist sociology. However, she was adamant about not adding sexuality to the race-class-gender triad. Defining “sexuality” as a discrete category of identity, she proceeded to reduce it to homosexuality, and conclude that discrimination “based on sexual orientation” pales by comparison to other forms of oppression.

Most of the time, heteronormativity simply goes unmarked and unnoticed. Studies of "the family" still, with very few exceptions, fail to consider the growing number of us who are creating families that don't conform to heterosexual models. Same-sex parents and their children are seen as "other" and therefore of limited value in understanding "the family" —rather than providing a wonderful testing ground for an array of different issues central to family life.

The lack of a thoroughgoing critique of heteronormativity means that even though a growing number of us have been permitted to enter the university gates, once inside, those of us who study queer issues often find ourselves marginalized—particularly if we are openly queer. Our sexual identities can become a “master status,” defining our professional trajectories. (Shall we call it "the Lavender Ceiling"?) While our colleagues value our expertise on “deviant” sexuality, they believe that such knowledge bears little relevance to the pressing issues of the day. The opposite is true: the paucity of queer perspectives weakens sociological explanations as a whole.

Today, sexuality research is a growing, vibrant field. Tremendous progress has been made over the past two decades, to be sure. But progress has been uneven. I am impatient. Maybe it’s my baby boomer sense of entitlement: I want my sexual revolution, and I want it now!

Arlene Stein, Associate Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University
Simon-Gagnon Award Winner
for Career Contributions to the Sociology of Sexuality
August 2007

SexualitiesNews | Winter 2007/8 | 3
Sexualities 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.

The purpose of the Section on the Sociology of Sexualities is to encourage, enhance and foster research, teaching and other professional activities in the sociology of sexuality, for the development of sociology and the benefit of society, through organized meetings, conferences, newsletters, publications, awards, and other means deemed appropriate by the Section Council.

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

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**2008 ASA Annual Meeting Sessions**

**Regular sessions:**
- Social Dimensions of AIDS (Organizer: Victor Agadjanian, Arizona State University)
- Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Studies (Organizer: Brett Stockdill, Northeastern Illinois University)
- Gender (Organizer: Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Colby College)
- Marriage, Civil Unions, and Cohabitation (Organizer: Christine Renee Schwartz, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Masculinities (Organizer: Michael Kimmel, SUNY-Stony Brook)
- Reproduction (Organizer: Drew Halfmann, University of California-Davis)
- Sexualities (Organizer: Rose Weitz, Arizona State University)
- "Transgender Studies' Impact on the Sociology of Sexualities and Gender." (Invited Session: Organizers: Kristen Schilt and Laurel Westbrook.)

**Sexualities Section Sessions:**
- Same Sex Marriage in Massachusetts – and Beyond. Organizers: Thomas J. Linneman, The College of William and Mary and Kathleen Hull, University of Minnesota.
- Bodies, Health and Sexualities. Organizer: Steven G. Epstein, UC-San Diego

**Other Section Sessions of Interest:**
- Producing/Reproducing/Contesting Gendered Bodies. (Organizers: Shari Lee Dworkin, Columbia University and Susan Markens, CUNY-Lehman College)

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**Officers**

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Call for Research Proposals from the Palm Center

Study of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ and violence against women in the military

The Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California (www.palmcenter.org), is commissioning an interdisciplinary study that would examine what, if any, effects the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy has had on the rate of violence against women in the military. Ideally, the study should include at least three sections, including (1) a literature review on the causes of sexual harassment and violence against women in the military; (2) case histories, if they exist, of specific instances of gendered discrimination, harassment, or violence in the military that were caused or facilitated by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (3) a quantitative analysis to assess whether gendered discrimination, harassment, and/or violence is associated with the presence or absence of a gay ban. Such analysis could compare the rate of violence in a foreign military (or multiple military organizations) pre- and post-repeal of a gay ban, or could take other approaches. A fourth section may be included: 4) If a positive correlation is found between the presence of a ban and the rate of violence, the study could include an explanation of why the correlation obtains, perhaps addressing historical paths by which the regulation of sexual orientation sometimes has served as the occasion for controlling gender.

The Palm Center will pay between $10,000 and $20,000 for the completed study based on the scope and feasibility of the project proposal. Interested scholars should email a CV and a brief statement of interest, no more than 2 pages in length, including a detailed description of the aims, rationale, and significance of the project and a proposed timetable. The statement of interest should include a brief description of research methodologies as well as the strengths and limitations of the project and should address how any data-availability challenges will be overcome.

Study of Gay and Lesbian Civilian Contractors in Iraq

The Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California (www.palmcenter.org), seeks to hire a scholar to design and complete a study on the performance and experience of gay and lesbian civilian contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan. More specifically, the ideal study would include the following areas of investigation: (1) Describe the policies of civilian contractor firms concerning gay and lesbian employees. Are gays and lesbians allowed to serve in these firms? Are domestic partner benefits provided? Do regulations govern their interaction with U.S. service members regarding the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy? (2) Include interview-based case studies of gay and lesbian contractors who serve or have served in Iraq, and explain whether they have performed effectively and developed effective working relations with civilian and military colleagues. What is the background and work experience of gay and lesbian contractors? Do they have military service records? (3) Describe any challenges that gay and lesbian contractors have had overseas, as well as challenges their colleagues have had in forging effective bonds with them.

The Palm Center will pay between $8,000 and $12,000 for the completed study based on the scope and feasibility of the project proposal. Interested scholars should email a CV and a brief statement of interest, no more than 2 pages in length, including a detailed description of the aims, rationale, and significance of the project and a proposed timetable. The statement of interest should include a brief description of research methodologies as well as the strengths and limitations of the project and should address how any data-availability challenges will be overcome.

Send materials for either of these proposals to: Indra Lusero, Assistant Director, Palm Center, lusero@palmcenter.ucsb.edu by January 31, 2008.
In Print Articles


Recent Articles (cont.)


Recent Books


Recent Books (cont.)


Kudos!

…to Laura Carpenter (Asst. Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University) for being named Emerging Scholar by the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, for her contributions to sexuality research.

Call for Papers

Spaces for Difference: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Spaces for Difference: An Interdisciplinary Journal is a peer-reviewed, open access, journal that seeks to publish research that expands our understanding of issues relating to race and racism, racial and sexuality/gender ideologies, and social activism. Spaces for Difference represents a conduit for scholars to bridge the traditional disciplines including, but not limited to: Anthropology, Art, Education, English, Ethnic Studies, Film Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, Music, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, and Sociology. As such, we welcome alternative forms of presenting research including, but not limited to, photography and digital media. Space for Difference seeks to: (1) highlight work that challenges the traditional canons and established perspectives and (2) bridge disciplinary work around issues of race and racism, gender and sexuality, social activism, and intersectionalities.

Papers may be submitted online; see our website: http://repositories.cdlib.org/ucsb_ed/spaces/

For more information, e-mail us at: spacesfordifference@sa.ucsb.edu
**Sociology of Sexualities Section Awards Call for Nominations**

**Simon-Gagnon Award**
The Simon and Gagnon Award honors career contributions to the study of sexualities as represented by a body of work or a single book. 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 recipient of the award will make a presentation to the Sexualities Section at a future Annual Meeting of the ASA. Please submit letters of nomination (e-mail preferred) to: Tina Fetner, Department of Sociology, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4M4, Canada, tina.fetner@mcmaster.ca

Deadline for nominations is February 1, 2008.

**Distinguished Book Award**
Submit your nominations for the best book in the Sociology of Sexualities! Nominated books must have been published in the years 2005-2007 calendar years, and may be self-nominated by the author, another scholar or by publishers. A committee of five members appointed to the Book Award Committee will review the nominated books. If you wish to nominate a book, please send a brief nomination letter and arrange for the publisher to send five copies of the book to: Nancy Fischer, Campus Box 116, Dept. of Sociology, Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55454. You may submit the nomination letter either electronically using Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat to fischern@augsburg.edu. Winner(s) will receive the award at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in August 2008.

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2008.

**Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Fellowship**
The Martin Levine Memorial Dissertation 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. It is designed to help students complete their dissertations, and as such the committee evaluates dissertation proposals rather than completed work. Send your proposals to: Michael Kimmel, Department of Sociology, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794

The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2008.

**Best Graduate Student Paper**
Papers are currently being accepted for the 2008 Graduate Student Paper Award. 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 focus of the paper should be sexualities broadly defined. Papers should be manuscript length and no longer than 35 typed, double-spaced pages. Self-nominations will be accepted. Please send a letter of nomination, one hard copy of the paper, and an electronic copy of the paper through email to: Dawne Moon, Dept. of Sociology, 410 Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-1980, dawnem@berkeley.edu

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2008.
ANNOUNCING PhD IN GENDER STUDIES

Arizona State University

About Arizona State University

Located in the Phoenix Metropolitan area, Arizona State University is a comprehensive public research university. The Women and Gender Studies Program at ASU is one of the largest and most vibrant in the United States with twelve core faculty and more than 100 affiliated faculty from other programs. We are an intellectually and culturally diverse community with expertise in sexuality, race, labor, science and technology, health, violence, globalization, visual culture, historical and literary narrative, and social change.

About the PhD in Gender Studies Program

Our PhD in Gender Studies is designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary training in theory and methods needed to create original research and scholarship about gender.

At the core of the program are four required courses:
- Critical Concepts of Gender
- Mapping the Intersections of Gender
- Engendering Methodology
- Research Design.

There are three areas of specialization:
- Justice, Social Change and Sustainability
- Health Science and Technology
- Visual and Narrative Culture

The program will consider students entering with either a BA or an MA/MS.

For more information:
PhD in Gender Studies program: http://wgs.asu.edu/
Admissions to ASU: http://www.asu.edu/graduate/
Applications: http://www.asu.edu/gradapp/

Women and Gender Studies Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
PO Box 874902
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-4892

Application Deadline: January 15