Happy New Year Sexualities Members!

The New Year is often associated with hope, and resolve to improve our lives. Many of us enter this New Year looking forward to the end of the Bush presidency and the inauguration of Barack Obama. The Bush years have been mostly dreadful in the realm of sexual politics, with assaults on reproductive rights, quality sexual education in public schools and gay rights. My own hope for the next year is modest: that surely with this president—elected on the theme of Hope—things cannot get worse. A cautious hope indeed but understandable given the sexual politics of this election.

One of the wonderful moments of the Sexualities Section’s reception this past August was when Verta Taylor (recipient of the Simon & Gagnon Distinguished Career Award) came to the stage and announced she and her partner had been married in California. But now Proposition 8 changed the state constitution to restrict the definition of marriage to a union between a man and a woman. Proposition 8 passed by a narrow margin, and its passage was blamed on the higher voter turnout associated with the Obama election. A sign held up at a local rally in Minneapolis perhaps expressed what a lot of us feel: “I elected the first black president and all I got was this lousy marriage ban.” Pundits were quick to blame high voter turnout amongst African Americans for Prop 8’s passage, but a later poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that voters' economic status and religious convictions played a greater role than race in determining whether they supported the ballot measure. The poll showed that the ban drew its strongest supporters from evangelical Christians, voters who had not attended college, and voters who earned less than $40,000 a year—a worrisome combination for future sexual politics given a recent New York Times article that describes how as economy falls flat, evangelical churches fill up.

We have our work cut out for us in terms of learning how to not just preach to the secular choir. So I believe it is fitting that two of our Sexualities sessions (for which we currently have a call for papers) deal in some way with religion and/or social movements. I look forward to hearing what work our members are conducting on these themes at this summer’s meeting. Also, if you’d like to share your thoughts in a newsletter article on sexual politics, please let us know. I also look forward to soon going to see the film Milk on Harvey Milk—while there is tragedy in this story, I seek inspiration from seeing how activism and persistence can bring about change in sexual politics and politics generally.

Here’s to hoping for positive change in the New Year!

Nancy L. Fischer, Augsburg College, Minneapolis

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Key Dates

**January 14, 2009:** Submission Deadline for the ASA annual meeting!

**January 16, 2009:** Submission deadline for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality conference.

**March 18-20, 2009:** Sport Sexuality and Culture Conference, Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY).

**March 19-22, 2009:** Eastern Sociological Association meeting, Baltimore, MD.

**April 8-11, 2009:** Pacific Sociological Association meeting: San Diego, CA.

**June 5-7:** Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality conference, St. Petersburg, FL.

**June 15, 2009:** submission deadline for the Summer 2009 issue of Sexualities News.

**August 8-11, 2009:** “The New Politics of Community,” the 104th ASA annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.
This Section

In the last decade 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.

Text written by Steve Seidman, Gil Zicklin, and Mark Hager

The Purpose

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.

2009 Pacific Sociological Association Meeting Sessions of Interest

(San Diego, April 8-11 2009)

Embodying Genders and Sexualities: New and Emerging Research
(Danielle Hidalgo, organizer: daniellehidalgo@mac.com)

Latino/Border MSM
(Don Barrett, organizer; dbarrett@csusm.edu)

Methodological Issues in the Study of Sexuality
(Sarah Ilene Stand and Megan Wright, organizers; sstrand@email.arizona.edu or mswright@email.arizona.edu)

Sexualities, Media and Popular Culture
(Jane Ward, organizer; janew@ucr.edu)

Sexuality, Gender and Public Policy
(Jennifer Reich, organizer; jreich@du.edu)

Sociology of Sexualities
(Lihana Gordon, organizer; legordon@csuchico.edu)

Transgender Discrimination and Harassment
(Jodie Dewey, organizer; jodie.dewey@cuchicago.edu)

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

2009 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 in 2009 will make a presentation to the Sexualities Section at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the ASA.

Please submit letters of nomination (e-mail preferred) to: Thomas J. Linneman: tjlinn@wm.edu; or Thomas J. Linneman, Associate Professor and Chair Department of Sociology, The College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Deadline for nominations is Monday, February 2, 2009.

2009 Distinguished Article Award
A prize for the best article in the sociology of sexualities published in the 2006 through 2008 calendar years. Chapters in edited volumes will also be considered. Winner(s) will receive the award at the annual meeting of the ASA in San Francisco in August 2009. Articles/chapters may be self-nominated or nominated by another scholar.

If you wish to nominate an article/chapter, please send a brief nomination letter and a copy of the article to: Beth Schneider, schneider@soc.ucsb.edu; or Beth Schneider, Department of Sociology, University of California Santa Barbara, 2834 Ellison Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430.

Deadline for nominations is Monday, February 2, 2009.

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 Wednesday April 1, 2009.

Best Graduate Student Paper
Papers are currently being accepted for the 2009 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 coauthored 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: Eve Shapiro at eve.shapiro@uconn.edu or Eve Shapiro, Women's Studies Program, Beach Hall U-2181, 354 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT, 06269

The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 2, 2009.
Comment from a Member: What happened? Gay Marriage and Queer Reticence

I feel like I’m having to come out all over again, 35 years after the first time. Just as it was back then, it’s coming out about something that is awfully difficult to talk about given all of the loaded messages around the issue. But, also just as was the case in the early 70’s when it became evident that more and louder voices needed to be heard about sexual variation, it’s time to take a risk again. So, here goes: I don’t want gay marriage, in fact I’d prefer to see the entire legal institution of marriage replaced with something more realistic, and I’m feeling more and more alienated from my sexual culture as the anger about the vote on 8 moves discourse further from queer and closer to heteronormativity. AND, I’m not alone in these feelings. There, I said it.

I’ll start with the back end of my statement so it’ll be clear that I’m not alone in this sentiment. I recently sent, over my campus LGBTQF listserv, a copy of an op-ed from the Los Angeles Times that raised the question of why any group would want access to the institution of marriage when the institution itself is proving unworkable even for heterosexuals. I received multiple thanks from LGB faculty for sending something that expressed their feelings. Similarly, multiple off-campus LGB colleagues and friends have told me that they wish the upset about California proposition 8 (and now about Rick Warren) would go away – that gay marriage isn’t going to do anything for them, and there’s more important needs outstanding in society. But, these same people (like myself), have felt uncomfortable being vocally open with these feelings. I’ll get to this reticence later, first …..

“What’s wrong with marriage?” From the purely personal level, dyadic marriage doesn’t account for or benefit the close and important relationships that make up my family, or the families of many of my friends. For those of us who have extended families, rather than dyadic relationships, how does legalizing marriage help us decide which partner gets medical power of attorney, which should be on our health benefits from work, or which gets our inheritance if we die? It doesn’t -- though a few properly filled out legal papers can fix at least some of that. What I hear more often from friends is that they’re comfortable with what they have, and even those friends in dyadic relationships are concerned that the legal boundaries of marriage may muck what is now working (this latter is a common reason from heterosexuals who aren’t marrying). Of more importance from a sociological perspective is that legal marriage is a form of privileging certain relationships over others -- a form of privilege that goes to what is increasingly becoming a minority. Less than half of adult heterosexuals in California are married at any time and rates of marriage are decreasing. Estimates are even lower of the percentages of self-identified LG’s and same-sex active others who would benefit from marriage. Based on the rich data sources available on California populations, it appears that between 21% and 26% of self-identified gay men or lesbians would utilize gay marriage in the near future, with gay men being less likely to utilize it than lesbians. Self-identified LG’s tend to be middle-class and white; evidence indicates that working-class and minorities are even less likely to self-identity as lesbian or gay or to utilize marriage. In fact, if we look at marriage within all of those who are same-sex active but don’t necessarily identify as gay, available evidence on males suggest that gay marriage is likely to benefit only about 10% of same-sex active men in California. Given the decreasing percentage of heterosexuals who are married and the expected low rates for LG’s, it is highly likely that a large majority of LG’s would be unmarried for most of their lives even if gay marriage did exist – and the benefit of gay marriage for bisexuals and MSM’s is not at all clear. Why, then, isn’t there a louder queer voice challenging the employment, residential, and social status privileges given to the married?

There are challenges to the institution of marriage that are put forth by various scholars. Commentary that questions marriage as a social institution, including suggestions to consider the value of the alternative family structures developed by many gays, have been evident in variations of feminist and queer theory for quite some time. On a parallel political track, there has also been some push for a ‘singles movement’ to battle for the rights of the heterosexual unmarried. However, a quick perusal of recent prominent American academic journals suggests that the greatest volume of related research remains to be on why gay marriage isn’t accepted and how gay couples (parents) are not that different from heterosexual couples (parents), with little attention to alternative family structures or the value of difference. Of course, any push for acceptance of nontraditional relationships always has to battle an environment of marriage-focused political conservatism (even Clinton gave in on marriage as part of welfare-reform.) Despite the regular publication in the national press of empirical data illustrating the continued decline of legal, dyadic, marriage to a minority status, the dominant political discourse for the past decade seems to have been that dyadic marriage is the ultimate goal (as evidenced by Obama’s support for heterosexual marriage and against gay marriage). Unfortunately, I suspect that the battle for gay
Marriage is partly responsible for this, with the GWB/Rove years reifying marriage even further through the use of gay marriage as a way to turn out conservative voters.

Given the willingness of queer scholars and activists to challenge the status quo, why isn’t there a larger and more visible challenge to the political push to mimic the waning heterosexual legal model? Part of the reluctance seems to be just the awkwardness of a simplistic political culture where if you’re against marriage you’re easily seen as siding with the religious right. I suspect, too, that there’s some hangover from AIDS politics and the continued lack of serious discourse on the meaning of sex. I know that when I speak out about how the marriage push is not fitting with much of sexuality, I find myself having to battle an assumption that I’m then speaking for sexual irresponsibility. Cohort also seems to have something to do with it. Many of those who I know who question marriage (gay or otherwise) are older scholars and activists who date back to a sexual liberation era (or have personally experienced in their families the problems with legal relationships), while those most vocal about proposition 8 and gay marriage seem to be predominantly young (including many students). Unfortunately, I know that among some of my friends who also teach, we’re basically not challenging those students -- we’re assuming that they’ll begin to turn as they experience the problems with mimicking Ward & June images of relationships.

Despite these problems, the marriage argument seems to continue to drive far too much of American discourse about sexual minorities and sexual variation. While the precious little resources for political action that we have are being directed towards marriage and against proposition 8 or those who supported it (e.g., Rick Warren), we’re ignoring too much of the work that still needs to be done. We still don’t have legal discrimination protection across the country for all sexual minorities, people are still getting bashed for being or simply appearing to be gay, arrests for sexual exploration are still quite common, and there is almost no support for exploring alternative legal models that acknowledge the reality of emotional relationships. Particularly worrisome is also the likely increase in need for scapegoats as the economy worsens, and the convenient dovetailing of that need with the stigmatization of non-heteronormative sexuality that seems to be a political prerequisite of much of the marriage push.

What does this mean for sexuality scholars? I hope that the points above possibly spur some paths of research, reflection, and presentation on issues such as the value and costs of legalizing gay marriage versus legitimating other forms of sexual and emotional legitimacy, on the broad cultural factors that shape a gay marriage movement that is very often imbued with sexual essentialism and heteronormativity, or on the exclusive and inclusive processes that shape both scholarship and activism around marriage. There are solid scholars out there now who are challenging the direction of sexual movements, but more voices need to be heard and to be heard more publicly. Without additional energy questioning the marriage movement, there is the danger of seeing even more social reification of marriage -- and more de-legitimization of the sexuality that actually happens.

Don Barrett
12/29/08

References:

Don Barrett is an Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University San Marcos, former co-editor (with Richard Serpe) of Sociological Perspectives, and is vice-president elect (2009) of the Pacific Sociological Association. His research is on male same-sex sexuality with a focus on the experiences of working-class men.
Sociologists’ AIDS Network Call for Nominations

2009 Award for Career Contribution to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS

This award honors outstanding contributions to the Sociology of HIV/AIDS. The award may recognize work that has significantly advanced our understanding of social aspects of the pandemic, or that has contributed to prevention, treatment, or policy interventions. Nominees should have pursued substantial research and/or applied work related to HIV/AIDS, and should have worked in the field for at least eight years. Scholars who have been nominated before will be automatically re-considered this year, but nominators should feel free to submit additional materials. Nominations (of yourself or others) should include a statement of up to two pages about the nominee's qualifications and an electronic copy or web link to her/his CV. Nominations (and questions) should be submitted to the committee chair, Sherry Larkins, at slarkins@mindspring.com (attachments in .doc or .pdf format only, please).


2009 Scholarly Activity Award

This award aims to nurture scholarly interest in the sociology of HIV/AIDS by supporting the work of emerging scholars in the field. One applicant will be chosen each year to receive a one-time award of up to $250 and a year of free membership in SAN. All graduate students working on topics in the sociology of HIV/AIDS are eligible to apply. Supportable activities include, but are not limited to, research expenses (incentives, transcription, copying) and conference travel. Applicants should submit the following items to the award committee chair, Jorge Fontdevila (jfontdevila@fullerton.edu): (1) A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor; (2) A project proposal of 2-4 pages, including a description of the research, how your activity contributes to the sociology of AIDS, description of how funds will be used and when the activity will be completed, and (3) A complete budget for your conference travel, research project or other scholarly activity (including other funding applications).


2009 Martin Levine Student Essay Competition

Sociology students are invited to submit an original, 20-page (double-spaced) essay on the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS for the annual student essay competition. The topic is broadly defined and can include any aspect of HIV/AIDS from a sociological perspective. The student must be the first author and must have written most, if not all, of the manuscript. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2009. The winner will receive an award of $100 and a five-year membership to the Sociologists’ AIDS Network. All students who enter the competition will also receive a one year membership to SAN. Papers should be submitted by e-mail to Anne Esacove (esacove@muhlenberg.edu).

Announcements

Call for Papers: Special Edition of Sexualities
"Sexuality and Class"

This special issue seeks to provide a 'return to the material world' (Jackson, 2008; Plummer, 2008), exploring the ways that class gives form and shape to sexual norms, identities and communities, just as sexuality is one lens through which we identify and understand class.

The privileging of contemporary queer transgressions often negates the social positions enabling and constraining such practices – empirical interrogation of this remains limited, with a gap between the 'material' and the 'queer'. Such oversight is not simply a problem for those of us who care about lesbian and gay life: it is also a missed opportunity to better understand hetero/homo normativity, constructed through classed and sexualised resources, signifiers and subjectivities. Notions of intersectionality often centre upon identity, while a focus on inequality, and specifically class and sexual inequality, remain intersectional absences. Inequalities 'invade and structure personal life across the world' restricting and compelling 'choices', set against a limitless 'postmodernisation of intimacies' (Plummer, 2005).

This special issue seeks to explore intersections of class and sexuality, from the material to the queer, from the 'ordinary everyday', to the 'extraordinary' global exclusions. Papers could address the following (and related) themes:
- Classed inclusions and exclusions (eg: 'scene' spaces, sexual citizenship)
- Classing queer, classing hetero/homo-normativity
- 'Compulsory heterosexuality': classed resistances, accommodations and refusals
- Intimate mis/recognitions in establishing 'common' ground: attributions of value, worth, excess
- The 'political economy of sex': the flows and divides between and within low and high income societies - Intersectionality, identity and inequality: class and sexuality as 'spokes' in the 'intersectional wheel'

Deadline: 2nd February 2009

Submissions to Yvette Taylor: Yvette.Taylor@newcastle.ac.uk
School of Geography, Politics and Sociology 5th Floor Claremont Bridge
Building, Newcastle University, NE1 7RU

See author guidelines at http://sexualities.sagepub.com

ASA GLBTQ Caucus

At the ASA Meetings in Boston last year, a general consensus was reached at the Forum on the Status of GLBT persons in Sociology that the ASA GLBTQ Caucus needs to be revived. The Caucus shall serve several purposes, including, but not limited to: networking, mentoring, a site to voice concerns that emerge, and a channel through which to pursue collective action.

If you are interested in joining the GLBTQ Caucus Listserv, please e-mail Tim Ortyl (the listserv manager) at: ORTYL001@gmail.com to request an invitation to join the listserv. You may also request to join the listserv by going to the Google group at which it is being hosted: http://groups.google.com/group/asa-gbltq-caucus. Either way, please submit your name, e-mail address, and institutional affiliation and your request to join the Caucus Listserv will be granted.
ASA Section-in-Formation: Disability in Society

A new Section-in-Formation is in the works at ASA: Disability in Society. We intend to explore a range of issues which will be very familiar to those studying the sociology of sexualities, including ways certain bodies, desires, and behaviors are pathologized. If you are interested in processes of medicalization, discrimination, stigma, social exclusion, prejudice, and social control – or if you are simply interested in the connections between disability and intersex bodies, or the ways in which certain disabled bodies are ‘queered’… this may be the place for you! We are keen to further explore the insights that may arise from studying experiences of disability from a range of perspectives and urge you to join with us. This new Section-in-Formation is a great place to network, engage with other scholars, discuss recent events, and pursue avenues for grants, teaching, research and service. The Disability section is also pleased to be offering FREE membership to 40 graduate students who are current members of ASA who would like to join the section.

We encourage potential members to contact the chairs of the membership committee, Liat Ben Moshe: lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu or Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com.

Forthcoming! The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossing and Mexican Immigrant Men

The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossing and Mexican Immigrant Men by Lionel Cantú, and edited by Nancy A. Naples and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz (New York University Press, February 2009). Sexuality of Migration is an innovative study of the experiences of Mexican men who have sex with men and who have migrated to the United States. 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. The Sexuality of Migration complicates a fixed notion of sexual identity and explores the complex factors that influence immigration and migration experiences.

Lionel Cantú, Jr., was Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, with an affiliation in Latin American/Latino Studies. Nancy Naples is currently Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies, University of Connecticut. Salvador Vidal-Ortiz is Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University.

Kudos!

…to Amanda Udis-Kessler (Director of Institutional Research and Planning, Colorado College) for the publication of her new book Queer Inclusion in the United Methodist Church (Routledge). This study of the United Methodist Church's LGBT inclusion struggle plumbs the depths of the conflict's meaning for LGBT United Methodist and their allies, conservatives, evangelicals and the "moderate middle." Udis-Kessler combines field research, intensive interviewing and analysis of hundreds of documents to consider how the struggle got to be where it is today, and where it might go in the future. Queer Inclusion incorporates different theoretical approaches, blending them into a larger argument that the struggle is driven by a complex set of processes in which sexuality-based inequality, deep-seated personal identities, cultural conflicts about truth and moral authority, and differing responses to the church as an institution intersect with one another. The multilayered nature of these intersections, and the high stakes they raise for those on all sides of the conflict, suggest that the struggle is highly likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

…and to Chris Stapel, a graduate student in sociology at the University of Kentucky, who was recently awarded a Small Research Grant from the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation, Law and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law for his work on the educational and residential aspirations of rural Central Appalachian young people.
Call for Applications: Center for Population Research in LGBT Health.

The National Mentoring and Fellowship Program of the Center for Population Research in LGBT Health.

The Center is seeking applications from pre-doctoral and advanced masters’ students interested in careers in LGBT health research. The program connects students with expert faculty mentors from the national network of faculty of the Center. Mentors are closely matched to students’ research interests and will assist students who are developing or working on a research project in the study of LGBT health or same-sex families/households. An ideal candidate will have an interest in working with a mentor to better incorporate population health research methods and/or concerns in their projects. Post-doctoral training and mentoring opportunities are also available through the Center. Applications for pre-doctoral mentoring are accepted on a rolling basis.

Contact Aimee Van Wagenen (Avanwagenen@fenwayhealth.org) or visit fenwayhealth.org/populationcenter for more information.

Call for Papers: SSSS Eastern and Midcontinent Regions Joint Conference

“The Business of Sex”
June 5-7 2009, St. Petersburg, FL

Deadline for Submissions: January 16, 2009

“Sex sells!” The advertising industry mantra may be extended to include the multi-billion dollar business of sexually explicit materials, services, and aids available in today’s marketplace. Sexual commerce spans both legal and extralegal industries, and consumers of these products and services are highly diverse. Thus, the 2009 SSSS Eastern and Midcontinent Region Joint Conference theme is The Business of Sex. Although submissions from all areas of the scientific study of sexuality are welcomed, we are especially interested in multidisciplinary submissions focused on The Business of Sex. Potential research topics include:

• Commercial sex work across venues
• Sexual tourism/ Sex trafficking
• Bathhouses and sex clubs
• Sex therapy, fertility, and sexual surrogacy
• Pharmaceuticals and sexual health care
• The use of sexuality to market products
• And more!

• Exotic dancing, strip clubs, peep booths / adult arcades / adult films
• Art, sex, adult toys and toy venders/distributors
• Written erotica
• Cybersex: sex and the Internet
• Business/economics of marriage
• History of the commercialization of sex

All submissions must be made electronically to: ssssermr2009@gmail.com
For submission guidelines, please see: http://www.sexscience.org/events/index.php?category_id=497
Upcoming Conference: “Bringing the Body Back In: Toward a Corporeal Social Science”

"Bringing the Body Back In: Toward a Corporeal Social Science,"
April 3-4, 2009 at the University of Arizona.

This conference will be interdisciplinary, joining scholars both on and off campus with an interest in the socially constructed body, and is being organized in conjunction with UA's Sociology and Women’s Studies departments. The conference is funded by the UA Graduate and Professional Student Council's Professional Opportunities Development Fund and the UA SBS Unit Research Activity Funding, awarded to professors Louise Marie Roth and Jennifer Croissant, and graduate students Cindy L. Cain, Sarah Ilene Strand, and Megan S. Wright. Lisa Jean Moore, Martin Weinberg, and Rose Weitz have already accepted our invitation to present. A call for papers will go out in December, and we will invite scholars locally and around the country to participate.

We especially encourage undergraduate students to join us, as we would like to foster mentoring relationships with budding scholars, and roundtable sessions will give students the opportunity to workshop their papers in a relaxed and supportive environment. Graduate students in the Sociology department have offered to host undergraduate and graduate students from out of town so as to offset travel costs.

For more information, please contact Sarah Ilene Strand at sstrand@e-mail.arizona.edu.

Call for Proposals: El Mundo Zurdo, the work and life of Gloria E. Anzaldúa

El Mundo Zurdo: An International Conference on the Work and Life of Gloria E. Anzaldúa
May 16-17, 2009

The Society for the Study of Gloria E. Anzaldúa seeks submission of proposals for papers, panels of 3-4 papers, roundtables, workshops, or performances for its First International Conference on the work and life of Gloria E. Anzaldúa on the fifth anniversary of her passing.

We welcome proposals involving all facets of Anzaldúa's life and work. The following tracks are merely suggested conceptual groupings for panel and performance presentations:

- BORDERS-explorations of border theory, borderlands ethos and other concepts of Anzaldúa's thought focused on this key concept of her work.
- GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES-el mundo zurdo and the atravesados, key to Anzaldúa's thinking and application of her philosophical work.
- EDUCATION-pedagogical concerns surrounding her literary and philosophical works. Some questions that may arise: what are some challenges of teaching Anzaldúa? How does Anzaldúa's thought apply to teaching?
- INTERNATIONAL AND TRANFRONTERA-The effects of globalization and market economies on culture. What is the status of Anzaldúa studies at the international level?
- SPIRITUALITY-Explorations of Anzaldúa's spiritual teachings. How can we heal the earth and ourselves?

Proposals must include: (i) 250-word proposal narrative, and (ii) 100-word abstract suitable for publication in the conference program book. Submissions for Panels must include: (i) proposals and abstracts for each paper and the name, address, phone number(s), e-mail address, and institutional affiliation of each participant, (ii) audio/visual needs, and (iii) contact person's name, address, phone number(s), e-mail address, and institutional affiliation.

All materials must be electronically date-stamped by February 15, 2009. Proposers will be notified of acceptance by March 15, 2009. Questions about the submission process may be sent to: gloria.anzaldua.society@gmail.com
Call for Papers: Asian American Sexualities Conference

The University of Chicago’s Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, and the Lesbian/Gay Studies Project of the Center for Gender Studies invite paper proposals for a symposium to be held on March 7, 2009, and which will become a special issue of 
_Amerasia Journal_, the core journal in the field of Asian American Studies for the last 40 years. This initiative expands upon the journal’s first collection "Dimensions of Desire: Asian American Sexualities" and takes us into the new century. David Eng and Amy Sueyoshi will be our symposium keynote speakers.

We welcome paper proposals on any aspect of sexuality among Asian American subjects or communities, both historically and in the present, from any disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective. Asian American sexuality has long been analyzed as a residual category constituted in relationship to class, race, ethnicity, and gender, or some intersection of these forms of differentiation. Clearly stratification principles operate in the definition of all societies and social groups, but we are especially interested in papers that look at sexuality in and of itself. Potential topics might include the study of transexuality as lived experience, personal identity, or industry, the emergence of lesbian, gay, and queer identities, bisexuality as a symbol and reality, the representation of heterosexuality among Asian Americans, genitals as cultural symbols in the fetishization of Asian Americans, promiscuity and its perils, sex work and the commercialization of sexual tourism, sexuality and migration, sexual pedagogies, the relationship between sex and religious faith, and any other topics where Asian American sexualities is the primary focus of the work.

Proposals can be sent electronically to the following email addresses by January 7, 2009: rgutierrez@uchicago.edu and rleong@ucla.edu. Paper proposals sent U.S. mail must reach us by the same date, with one copy each should be sent to: Ramón A. Gutiérrez, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, 5733 South University Ave, Chicago, Illinois, and Russell Leong, Editor, _Amerasia Journal_, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, Ca. 90095. Paper proposals should not be more than two single-spaced pages and should be accompanied by a short two-page resumé.

All travel and accommodation expenses will be paid by the University of Chicago for those presenters selected for the symposium.
In Print
Recent Articles


and Identity among Young Adults.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 54(1-2): 68-102.


the Soviet Masses


Exploitation in the European Union Trafficking in Women for Sexual Askola, Heli. 2007. Recent Books

Human Behavior


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