Statement by the Chair

Dear Sociology of Sexualities Members:

I hope that everyone is having a restful and productive summer. I wanted to let you know that the section is moving forward. At last count, our membership was up to an impressive 454, which, I believe, is close to if not, an all time high for the section. I should also add that this makes the Sociology of Sexualities section, the 24th largest in ASA, out of a total of 51 sections. Our growing presence in the ASA and in the discipline speaks to the exciting and innovative work that is being done by section members. It also speaks to the increasing focus on the study of sexualities among the next generation of researchers.

In this newsletter, you will find a list of our award winners for this year and our new elected officers. Congratulations to all!!! Please also look for the wonderful column by 2011 Simon and Gagnon award winner Pepper Schwartz.

We have a very exciting program for this summer for ASA, in Las Vegas. You will see a list of section sponsored sessions as well as a list of all other sexualities related sessions in this newsletter. We are also going to have a fabulous reception at the Erotic Heritage Museum on Monday, Aug. 22nd, from 6 - 9pm with food and a cash bar, so please join us.

If you would like to become more involved in the section or just learn more about what we’re doing, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our section business meeting at ASA which will take place on Sunday, Aug. 21st, from 3:30 - 4:10. It is a great way to meet people and become more involved.

Some of you may have noticed that our website is woefully out of date. I am in the process of updating it now and we will be looking for a webmaster to maintain the site once it is up to date. We are already working on compiling lists of past award winners to put on the website as well as past officers for the section. In the meantime, if anyone has any suggestions for links to add or other information that might be useful to have on the website, please email me with your suggestions (Mary.Bernstein@uconn.edu).

I’m very excited to announce our first pre-conference workshop for scholars engaged in the study of sexualities to be held in Denver, Colorado on Aug. 15th - 16th, 2012, right before the start of ASA.

(see page 3 for more details…)
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.

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Key Dates


Don’t forget!: Joint Reception with CBSM Section on Monday Aug. 22nd, from 6-9 p.m., at the Erotic Heritage Museum (eroticheritagemuseumlasvegas.com)


Congratulations to our new officers for 2011-2012!

Chair-Elect:
Elizabeth Bernstein (Barnard/Columbia), ebernste@barnard.edu.

Council Members:
Maura Kelly (Portland State University), maura.kelly@pdx.edu.
Laurel Westbrook (Grand Valley State Univ.), westbrol@gvsu.edu.

Student Representatives:
Trevor Hoppe (University of Michigan), thoppe@umich.edu.
Eric Grollman (Indiana University), egrollma@indiana.edu.

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Officers for 2010-11

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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.

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

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Statement by the Chair (cont.)

For our Pre-Conference Workshop on the Sociology of Sexualities (to be held in Denver, Aug. 15-16th, 2012) Please Consider Organizing and/or Submitting:

- Works in Progress Panels: junior and senior scholars discussing works in progress. Papers will be submitted individually.

- Thematic Workshops: These sessions will focus on subsidiary questions and extensions of major themes, and will consist of discussions based on brief (5 pages maximum) position papers submitted by participants. Thematic session topics will be selected through an open proposal process. Session organizers will then solicit participants, who will post their papers on the conference website at least one week in advance of the conference. Position papers may make reference to ongoing research, but they are not meant to be summaries of completed research. The workshops are meant to foster common investigation of theoretical and methodological approaches across our section members’ specific research topics.

- Dissertation Proposal/Master classes will offer grad students the chance to meet in small groups with faculty working in sexualities research. Dissertation abstracts will be submitted individually.

- Workgroups: These are thematic workgroups where people working in similar areas come together in small groups to discuss issues related to their areas of study. These groups are designed to be networking tools and resources for people who are at universities that do not offer much support for their area of research. Each group must have 2-3 co-organizers who agree to oversee the group and facilitate discussion. Ideas for workgroups will be submitted to the conference organizers.

The topics are open and we encourage everyone to participate. There will be travel and registration scholarships available for graduate students and for others who need them. We will be distributing a formal call for papers at ASA and via the Listserv.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Denver Workshop organizing committee: Juan Battle, Karl Bryant, Laura Carpenter, Jessie Daniels, Steven Epstein, Tey Meadow, Antonio (Jay) Pastrana, David Paternotte, Vrushali Patil, and Kristen Schilt. As chair of the committee, it has been a pleasure to work with such a wonderful team!

I hope to see you in Las Vegas in 2011 and in Denver in 2012!!!

Mary Bernstein, University of Connecticut
Chair, ASA Section on the Sociology of Sexualities

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.
Sociology of Sexualities Section Awards Winners for 2011

2011 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).

2011 Honoree: Pepper Schwartz, Professor of Sociology, University of Washington.

2011 Distinguished Article Award
The ASA Section on Sexualities is pleased to announce the winners of this year’s Distinguished Article Award:


Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Fellowship
The Martin P. 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; the committee therefore evaluates dissertation proposals rather than completed work.

2011 Winner: Timothy A. Ortyl (University of Minnesota) for “Social Marginalization and Patterns of Family Formation.”

2011 Honorable Mention: Tara McKay (UCLA) for “(In)Visible Men: Constructing Men Who Have Sex With Men as a Global HIV Prevention Priority.”

Best Graduate Student Paper
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).

2011 Recipient: Kimberly Kay Hoang (UC-Berkeley) for “‘She’s Not a Low-Class Dirty Girl!’ Sex Work in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.”

Please join in congratulating all of the honorees at the annual reception: Monday, August 22nd, 6:00-9:00pm at the Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 Industrial Road (eroticheritagemuseumlasvegas.com).
2011 ASA Meeting, Sexualities Section Activities

NOTE: Please check the final ASA program schedule for the specific room locations of various sessions. Unless otherwise noted, all sessions take place at Ceasar's Palace.

Saturday, August 20th:

8:30 - 10:10 a.m.: Special Session: Globalization and the Transformation of Sexuality
Panelists: Hector Carrillo (Northwestern), Jyoti Puri (Simmons College), James Farrer (Sophia University), and Amy T. Schalet (U. of Massachusetts at Amherst).
Discussant: Barry D. Adam (University of Windsor).

2:30 – 4:20 p.m.: Section on Sex and Gender Invited Session. Racialized Genders and Sexualities (co-sponsored with Section on Sociology of Sexualities)
Organizer and Discussant: Jyoti Puri (Simmons College).
Jin Haritaworn (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies) “Deadly victimologies: The bio- and necropolitics of hate crimes activism in Germany.”

Sunday, August 21st:

8:30 - 10:10 a.m.: Paper Session: New Directions in Sexualities Research
Organizer and Presider: Mary Bernstein (U. of Connecticut).
Mignon R. Moore (UCLA) and Ronald M. Andersen (UCLA) “Social Support and Health Challenges for Older Black Lesbians and Gay Men.”
Timothy Adam Ortyl (U. of Minnesota) “Heterosexual Subjectivities and Heteronormativity in the Study of Sexualities and Gender.”
Chaitanya Lakkimsetti (U. of Wisconsin-Madison) “Thinking Beyond Civil Society: Reflections on New Directions for Sexuality Research from a Postcolonial Perspective.”
Jennifer A Johnson (Virginia Commonwealth U.) “The political economy of the online commercial pornography industry: A Network Approach.”
Discussant: Eve Ilana Shapiro (Westfield State College).

10:30 – 12:10: Paper Session: Sexualities, Politics, and Social Movements (cosponsored with CBSM Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements)
Organizer: Janice M. Irvine, (U. of Massachusetts).
Benita Roth (Binghamton U.) “Gender and sexuality dynamics in an anti-AIDS organization: An intersectional perspective.”
Ashley Currier (Texas A&M) “Sexual Dissidence as a Decolonization Movement: The Case of Post-Independence Namibia.”
Leila J. Rupp (UC-Santa Barbara) and Verta A. Taylor (UC-Santa Barbara) “The Persistence of Transnational Organizing: The Case of the Homophile Movement.”
Discussant: Nancy E. Whittier (Smith College).
12:30 – 2:10 p.m. Paper Session: Sexualities and Institutions
Organizer and Presider: Steven Epstein (Northwestern).
Sherri L. Grasmuck (Temple U.) and Christina Stewart (Temple U.) “Erotic Traditionalists within Hook-Up Culture: Second-Generation Immigrant and African American Students in a Multicultural University.”
Trevon D. Logan (The Ohio State U.) “Negotiating Intimacy: Gay Men, Safer Sex, and the Market for Male Sex Work.”

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: Refereed Roundtables
Organizers: Maura Kelly (Portland State U.) and Natalie Marie Peluso (Concordia College).

3:30 – 4:10 p.m.: Business Meeting (same room as the roundtable sessions).
Please attend and share your input regarding the coming year for the Sexualities Section.

Monday, August 22nd:
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Joint Reception with the Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 Industrial Road, Las Vegas.

2011 ASA Annual Meeting, Other Sessions of Interest
NOTE: please check the final ASA program for specific room locations.
Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will be held at Caesar’s Palace.

Saturday, August 20th:
8:30 - 10:10 a.m.: Professional Workshop. The Lavendar Vita: GBLT Sociologists on the Job Market.
Paper Session: Section on Sex and Gender Paper Session. Gender Identities/Expressions and Social Conflict (cosponsored with the LGBTQ Caucus).
4:30 – 6:10 p.m.: Section on Sex and Gender Roundtable Sessions (business meeting starts at 5:30 in the same room; reception starts at 6:30).
8 p.m. - ???: Sociologists LGBTQ Caucus Social Gathering (Location TBA)
Sunday, August 21st:

8:30 - 10:10 a.m.: Regular Session. Race and Intimate Relationships.

Regular Session. Social Dimensions of AIDS.


2:30 - 4:10 p.m.: Thematic Session. Race, Class, Gender and Sexual Violence.

Regular Session. Children/Youth/Adolescents I: Sexuality and Race during Adolescence.

Monday, August 22nd:

8:30 - 10:10 a.m.: Thematic Session. Bullying, Harassment, and School Violence.


10:30 - 12:10 p.m.: Regular Session. Sex and Feminism: Mapping Women's Sexual Agency Across Place.

12:30 - 2:10 p.m.: Special Session. Racial and Sexual Politics: Examining Trends and Meanings of Interracial Relationships.

4:30 - 6:10: p.m. Thematic Session: Political Conflicts over Same-Sex Marriage.

Regular Session. Queer Pasts and Futures: Remembering and Reimagining Same Sex Desire, Aesthetics, and Affect.

Section on Sociology of Culture Paper Session. Sexual Cultures in Space and Place.

Tuesday, August 23rd:

8:30 - 10:10 p.m.: Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Working the Strip: Unions, Service Work, and Sex in the 21st Century.

Section on Race, Gender, and Class Paper Session. Global and Transnational Perspectives on Intersectionality.

10:30 – 12:10: Thematic Session. Gender and Human Security

Kudos!

To Julia Ericksen on the upcoming publication (September of 2011) of her new book, *Dance With Me: Ballroom Dance and the Promise of Instant Intimacy* (NYU Press),

and to Eric Grollman, on his receiving a fellowship to attend the 2011 Summer Institute in LGBT Population Health at the Fenway Institute (Boston, MA).
Remarks from the 2011 Simon-Gagnon Award Honoree

“On Winning the Simon-Gagnon Award”

It is hard to express what it feels like to me to win the Simon Gagnon Prize. Bill was my good friend, John is my good friend. That would have been enough of a prize right there! The reason I say that is because Bill and John were my intellectual heroes. Their book, *Sexual Conduct*, was the reason I decided to study sex – and probably the reason I decided to continue to be a sociologist. I suppose, like many other people who read their work, they were the inspiration for understanding the world in a different way.

I remember the passage that changed the paradigm I used to understand reality. It is in the beginning of *Sexual Conduct*. The authors give the following scenario: a man comes into his hotel room, a beautiful woman beckons. Does he jump her? Or does he have to work through a number of competing scenarios (is he in the wrong room? Is he being set up?) before his sexual interest might be allowed to click in? In other words, the social context and social meanings guide, develop and our sexual response. How could it not?

Well this may not sound too radical now, but in a world where biological explanations ruled, almost without question, I found this to be a revelation. Of course our sexuality was socially constructed, of course I needed to understand culture and negotiated meanings between partners, strangers and institutions.

So reading that paragraph began my career-and ultimately meeting Bill and John and having multiple conversations over the years helped form my perspectives, choice of research topics and desire to do research that mattered, that was consequential for society.

Perhaps because of my parents, who encouraged us to have sensitivity towards the maintenance of liberty and equality, and perhaps because as Jews, the memory of extreme prejudice and genocide was raw, my interests in sexuality soon had a practical aspect: I was drawn to issues that concerned personal sexual freedom and social justice. I wanted women to have the same sexual rights as men and I found restriction of the rights and liberty of sexual minorities abhorrent. I wanted to know facts rather than opinions and to be able to rebut stereotypes with research. When I turned from the sociology of law to the study of gender, intimate relationships and sexuality one of my professors at Yale took me into his office and said to me that I was “ruining a perfectly good career.”

I didn’t think so then, and I certainly can contest that now. But there was no doubt that I, and other people of my generation, were building an area of study without knowing if it would ever have credibility in the profession. Over time, that risk reduced, and my department and the University of Washington not only hired me but has supported me even when my work has proved controversial. I am very grateful for that experience – I know it is far from universal.

But it has helped me to see the fruition of my work. The work that Philip Blumstein and I did (and I would never be getting this award today if he had not been my partner in research and analysis for twenty years at UW) on heterosexual, gay and lesbian couples proved foundational for a number of important legal cases. There was a flurry of custody cases in the early 70s: some which pitted heterosexual fathers against women who had left the marriage and had become lesbians but wanted to retain primary custody of the children. Other cases involved kids in foster care who were having same-sex experiences and who were being taken out of custodial homes because of their sexual orientation(s).I did expert testimony on the “normality” of lesbian mothers and the importance of letting them retain custody.

Later on my research gave me standing as an expert witness on trials concerning the methodology used to preserve the blood supply during the early and middle years of the AIDS epidemic. My job in these trials was to show why gay male donors could have wanted to do the right thing and protect the blood supply – but the awkward and un-pretested wording of the intake questionnaires misled them about what constituted a safe situation for blood donation. Later cases included testifying in the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” trial in federal appeals court (an amazing media feeding frenzy) where, at least at the appellate level, we won the right for gay
service men and women to be in the armed forces (It got overturned later). I was also a lead witness for the first of the gay marriage trials in Hawaii and worked with Lambda and the amazing Evan Wolfson to a successful conclusion at the appeals level (which again, was changed by legislative action). Later, I was a part of an appeals court deposition that ultimately made it possible for children to be adopted by gay parents in Arkansas (that may have been overturned as well) and most recently, I worked with the ACLU to help overturn laws in Georgia and Alabama that outlawed vibrators. This last set of depositions went full circle to my concerns over both restriction of personal sexual liberty and discrimination against women’s sexual needs.

Getting a career award is so satisfying because I believe it supports the efforts of other scholars in this area. I think there is so much need to give collegial support because we still are not a “mainline” sociological area in the same way stratification or organizations exist in the discipline. The fact that we have a section of the ASA and a way of honoring each other illustrates how far we have come in creating a career niche within our discipline. Because I believe, deeply, that our work is important to the lives of all people, heterosexual and GLBT, it thrills me to see the institutionalization of our efforts, culminating in the Simon-Gagnon award. In my own way, I hope to continue this tradition by instituting the Pepper Schwartz fellowship in sexuality and relationship studies at the University of Washington. I would welcome your support if your choose to help us endow it—but in any case, I am humbled by your recognition and hope to continue to do work that helps support and give dignity to the sexual lives of everyone in our own country and worldwide.

Pepper Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology, University of Washington

**Open Position**

**Wellesley College**

**Women’s and Gender Studies/Assistant Professor**

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department at Wellesley College invites applications for a tenure-track, beginning assistant professor position in Global Sexuality and Queer Studies to start Fall 2012. We seek a social scientist (or training in a related field) whose research and teaching utilizes qualitative or quantitative methods. The successful candidate will teach a 2/2 load that includes introduction to women’s and gender studies, queer theory, and cross-cultural sexuality, in addition to courses in new faculty member’s specific area. Demonstrated teaching ability, commitment to undergraduate women’s education, and a developed research agenda are expected. Our department is interdisciplinary, has its own faculty, and attracts a large number of Wellesley students to its courses and major/minor.

Candidates must have a received their PhD in hand to begin the position.

Application Address:

A statement of teaching and research interests in the cover letter, CV, a writing sample and three letters of recommendation are required. (The online application will request names/email address so that recommenders or dossier services may submit the letters directly.). Materials should be submitted through the online application system at https://career.wellesley.edu by the closing date of **September 15th** to be considered.

If there are difficulties submitting on line, contact working@wellesley.edu.

For more information on the department, see: http://www.wellesley.edu/WomenSt/
Call for Papers

The Moral Panics of Sexuality
Conference at Arizona State University West Campus
Phoenix, AZ
Friday, October 7, 2011
E-mail proposals & questions by July 15, 2011 to:
moralpanics@gmail.com

We invite proposals for an exciting and provocative conference that will address what we are calling the moral panics of sexuality, or, if you prefer, scary sex. Moral panics of sexuality may include practices, representations, and philosophies held in the imagination as deviant, or more precisely, the source of anxious unease if not full-blown disgust. Accordingly, we invite radical proposals that may alternatively challenge, incite, or provoke moral panic.

Topics may include, but are certainly not limited to: Changing Narratives of Disgust, Deviance, and Normality, Radical Reproductive Politics, Radical Philosophies of Sexuality, Legal Critiques of Sexual Morality, Queer(ing) Performances, Abject and Extreme Sexualities, Locating Sexual Institutions, Medicalized Sexualities, Viral Circulation of Bodies and Sexualities.

Proposals are due July 15th, 2011 and should include a title and abstract of approximately 350-500 words. Please specify whether you would like to be considered for an individual paper (approximately 20 minutes each), or for brief roundtable presentations (5-10 minutes) followed by open discussions with attendees.

Send submissions to moralpanics@gmail.com. Please direct all inquiries to this address and you will receive a prompt response.

The American Panel Survey

The Weidenbaum Center of Washington University in St. Louis announces the creation of The American Panel Survey (TAPS).

TAPS is a panel survey in which a national probability sample of about 2000 panelists will be reinterviewed online each month, beginning in the fall of 2011. Initial plans for TAPS extend surveys for five years. Among the many virtues of the TAPS survey is the accumulation of substantial amounts of information on each respondent, the ability to analyze individual-level change, the possibility of conducting randomized experiments within the survey, including using audio and video interventions – all within the context of a state-of-art, nationally representative sample. A wide variety of social science research – not just limited to law and politics – can be conducted using TAPS.

Scholars are welcome to propose questionnaire modules to be placed on TAPS, including survey experiments. Details on the panel, pricing, and application process are available at http://wc.wustl.edu/node/511.

Inquiries are welcome at taps@wustl.edu.
In Print

Recent Articles


de la Dehesa, Rafael. 2010. *Queering the Public Sphere in Mexico and Brazil: Sexual Rights Movements in Emerging Democracies*. Durham: Duke Univ. Press.


