FROM THE SECTION CHAIR
By Jennifer Pierce
University of Minnesota

Following last year’s success, this Newsletter is our second annual SEX AND GENDER GRADUATE STUDENT SHOWCASE. We had an overwhelming number of responses this year. And, once again, I think you will find not only great work by our student section members, but an incredibly wide range of exciting, creative, and interesting topics. So, take a look!

Looking forward to the ASA in New York City, the summer Newsletter also lists all our section sessions, roundtables, events, and announcements from our section members. As you will see, we have many terrific sessions for our section and they are all on August 11th and August 12th. This year the Council meeting will be at 10:30 on August 11th and will be immediately followed by the Business meeting at 11:25 a.m. Please come to the Business meeting – this is your chance to get involved in the section and to help us come up with ideas for sessions for the 2008 ASA. Also, this year, we will be presenting awards for distinguished book, article, and the Sally Hacker graduate student paper prize at the Reception which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on August 11th. So, do plan to attend our sessions, the Business Meeting, and the Reception. See you all in NYC!

2007 SEX AND GENDER SECTION ELECTION RESULTS

Sex and Gender Chair-Elect: Michael Messner (University of Southern California)

Sex and Gender Council: Patti Giuffre (Texas State University) and Michelle Budig (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Sally Hacker Award Committee: Allison Pugh (University of Virginia)

2007 ASA SECTION EVENTS

Section Business Meeting: Saturday, August 11, 10:30am-12:10pm

Section Reception: Saturday, August 11, 6:30-8:00pm

Caucus on Transnational Approaches to Gender and Sexuality Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussion: Monday, August 13, 6:30-8:00pm

Please note that all the information listed below from the ASA’s Preliminary Online Program. All events are held at the Hilton unless otherwise specified.
SECTION PAPER SESSIONS

Saturday, August 11, 8:30-10:10am

Session: Feminist Analyses of the Workplace

Session Organizers: Kirsten A. Dellinger (University of Mississippi) and Patricia Yancey Martin (Florida State University). Discussant: Patricia Yancey Martin (Florida State University). Presider: Kirsten A. Dellinger (University of Mississippi)

Challenging a Gendered Ideal Worker Norm while Creating a Flexible Work Culture? Erin Kelly (University of Minnesota), Samantha K. Ammons (University of Minnesota), Phyllis Moen (University of Minnesota)

Troubling the Gendered Organization: The Possibilities of Transgender for Workplace Equality. Catherine E. Connell (University of Texas at Austin)

Gender Integration in Israeli Officer Training: Degendering and Regendering the Military. Orna Sasson-Levy (Bar-Ilan University)

“They are testing you all the time”: Negotiating Appropriate Femininities Among Chicana Attorneys. Gladys Garcia Lopez (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara), Denise A. Segura (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara)

Saturday, August 11, 2:30-4:10pm

Invited Session: The Politics of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Academy

Session Organizer and Presider: Jennifer L. Pierce (University of Minnesota)

The Post-Civil Rights Academy and the Institutionalization of Difference. Roderick A Ferguson (University of Minnesota)

For Us, By Us: Lessons From a Faculty-Driven Retention Initiative. Kerry Ann Rockquemore (University of Illinois at Chicago)

You Guys Are Hypersensitive! A Blican's Fight Against Racism in Academia. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (Duke University)

Living the Gender Crisis in Higher Education. Lynn Weber (University of South Carolina)

Sunday, August 12, 8:30-10:10am

Session: Gender, Medicine, and the Body

Session Organizers: Linda M. Blum (University of New Hampshire) and Meika E. Loe (Colgate University)

From "Nature's Way" to Woman's Flaw: The Medical Discourse on Miscarriage, 1876-1940. Roxana Bahar (University of California, Davis)

The Whole Package: Exploring Cosmetic Surgery Tourism. Erynn Masi Casanova (City University of New York-Graduate Center)

Getting by Gatekeepers: Gender Profiling within Psychomedical Institutions among Transsexual Men, Elroi Windsor (Georgia State University)

War, Military Medicine, and the Body: War Traumatics in St Elizabeth's Hospital, 1890-1930. Moira E. O'Neil (Univ of California-Santa Barbara)

Sunday, August 12, 10:30am-12:10pm

Session: Gendered Questions in Law and Public Policy


The Effectiveness of Rape-Law Reform: A Cross-National Study of Policy Implementation. David John Frank (University of California, Irvine), Tara Hardinge (University of California, Irvine), Kassia Ruth Wosick-Correa (University of California, Irvine)


Making Marriage Count in Law and Public Policy: Symbolic Boundaries and Gendered Anxieties. Melanie Ann Heath (Rice University)

SEX & GENDER

GRAD STUDENT SHOWCASE

We had over 60 submissions for the graduate student showcase this year! To help you better navigate all the wonderful work grad students are doing, we created a set of (imperfect and sometimes overlapping) categories to sort the scholarship. Email addresses are provided for all participants to facilitate further conversation. Enjoy!

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Activism, Social Movements, and Social Change

"Revolutionizing Gender Systems in Moments of Contention." Jaime Becker, University of California, Davis, jsbecker@ucdavis.edu
My dissertation is about the effects of large scale moments of contention(such as social movements and revolutions) on gender systems. Empirically, I synthesize the growing body of research being done on this topic by feminist ethnographers. My theoretical contribution is an insistence on and demonstration of the importance of analyzing gender as an institution rather than an individual role.

"Framing and Collective Identities in the Legal Setting: Comparing Interracial Marriage and Same-Sex Marriage." Ruth A. Chananie-Hill, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, chananie@siu.edu
Arguments in the legal setting for and against interracial and same-sex marriage echo each other in a phenomenon scholars refer to as the Loving analogy, after the famous Supreme Court case Loving v. Virginia (1967), which declared existing anti-miscegenation statutes unconstitutional. From the social movement framing perspective, this research illustrates the process of master frame diffusion over time and cases, with proponents relying on the “civil rights” master frame, and opponents...
I am interested in contrasting the political pro-life movement dominated by men with grassroots CPC activism, which is comprised almost exclusively of women. Toward this end, I am conducting ethnographic studies in two CPCs and conducting interview with approximately 30 staff members.

“Engaging Human Rights in a Women of Color Social Movement Organization.” Zakiya Luna, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, zakiyal@umich.edu
This study seeks to understand organizational strategies of a national reproductive health collective that focuses on the experiences of women of color using a human rights framework to advocate for reproductive justice. This research draws on interviews, participant observation, and documents to analyze both the structure of and meaning making within an organization, identifying common motivations for organizational involvement while considering the impacts of intersections of identity.

“Mobilizing Piety: Women, Islam, and the Public Sphere in Indonesia.” Rachel Rinaldo, University of Chicago, rarinald@uchicago.edu
At a time of global religious revival, this dissertation investigates how religion can facilitate women's involvement in the public sphere and how religion is part of the ways women present themselves as legitimate in the public sphere. I explore these questions through an ethnographic study of middle class Muslim and secular women activists in Jakarta, Indonesia. My central argument is that religion, in this case Islam, can enable women’s participation in the public sphere under certain circumstances. Women’s knowledge of religion and use of religious discourses and their self-presentations as religious practitioners are the keys to their legitimacy in the Indonesian public sphere. The women activists in this study represent different strategies of mobilizing religious knowledge and practices as a means of entry to the mainstream public sphere. These engagements are tied to different understandings of Islamic teachings on gender, as well as contrasting conceptions of the relationship between religion and public life. Because these women are involved in the public sphere, where their use of Islamic discourse provides them with legitimacy and the potential to mobilize across class lines, their different political imaginations all have the potential to shape national discourses and policies.

“Transnational Politics of Sex, Gender, and Migration: Analyzing Campaigns Against Sex Trafficking in Women from Russia and Ukraine.” Nadia Shapkina, Georgia State University, shapkina@yahoo.com
This dissertation research analyzes campaigns against sex trafficking of women in Russia and Ukraine. I argue that globalization creates significant changes in the ways nation-states regulate social problems related to gender,
sexuality, and migration. I focus on transnational regulatory politics to analyze anti-trafficking activities of states, non-governmental, and international organizations. I map out these main social actors involved in the transnational anti-trafficking campaigns and social relations among them. I pay special attention to the relations between western and local non-governmental activists and to the role of the states in transnational regulation of such problem as sex trafficking.

"Reproductive Discourses: International Organizations and Questions of Representation."
Trina Smith, University of Minnesota,
smit1603@umn.edu
How do international organizations that devote attention to human reproduction and contraception vary in their discourse and advocacy about reproductive rights? What are the conditions that promote this variance? My dissertation seeks to understand the relationship between an organization’s claims of universality about women’s rights and needs, its inclusiveness of a variety of women around the world, and its activities relating to human reproduction and contraception. In a time of increasing attention to globalization, conflicts over universalistic discourses of gender and human rights, and politicized funding for international organizations, this study examines the reasons why organizations may utilize various claims at the cost of either material outcomes such as funding or non-material outcomes such as representation of women’s diverse voices. I utilize a multi-method approach including participant observation at international events, in-depth interviews with organizations, and content analysis of organizations’ literature and websites to assess organizations’ reproductive rights’ discourse and advocacy. I locate my analysis in the globalization, gender, human rights, and reproduction literatures. Preliminary findings show that legal advocacy and health rights organizations that focus on smaller specific groups tend to be more inclusive of diverse practices and views than research or policy orientated organizations that have a broader focus.

“Becoming Women's Rights Activists: The Lebanese Women's Rights Movement.” Rita Stephan, University of Texas at Austin, rita.stephan@gmail.com
My dissertation attempts to explore the strategies that Lebanese women's rights activists use in advancing their political rights and recognitions. My central argument is that in advancing their movement's goals and strategies, Lebanese women's rights activists leverage support from their nuclear and extended families. Activists' strategies preserve the behavioral norms set by the kinship system by: First, acknowledging the importance of the family institution and finding common grounds between their gender roles and their activism. Second, many activists establish their social capital from being embedded in- rather than detached from-kinship structures. Third, activists find themselves obligated to appeal to kin groups in order to advance women's empowerment regardless of their attitudes towards kinship. Through interviews, participant observations and content analysis, I attempt to highlight the empowering aspect of the kinship structure that offers activists a significant tool kit of trust, solidarity, network and access in their negotiation for rights.

"Growing Up and Rising Up: Teenage Girl Activists and Social Movements in the Americas." Jessica K. Taft, University of California at Santa Barbara,
jtaft@umail.ucsb.edu
Teenage girls are active participants and leaders in a variety of social movements, organizing around a wide range of contemporary political issues. Located at the intersection of the literatures on girlhood, social movements, youth civic engagement, globalization, and transnational feminism, my research illuminates the experiences and perspectives of these uniquely positioned agents of social change. A multi-site, transnational political ethnography, the study is based on in-depth interviews and participant observation with approximately 80 high school aged girl activists in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mexico City, Caracas, Buenos Aires, and Vancouver. I analyze how these teenage girls collectively construct activist identities, claiming political authority for youth and both rejecting and redefining girlhood in the process. In discussing their activist identities, teenage girls argue that their activism should be taken as seriously as the activism of adults. Therefore, I also subject girls’ political practices to a rigorous critical analysis, addressing their emphasis on political education and the collective development of oppositional consciousness, their democratic ideals and distancing from formal political institutions, and the implications of girl activists’ divergent conceptions of the relationship between global and local social problems and struggles. An under-researched group, girl activists call into question highly prevalent images of girls as contented consumers, silent victims, or apathetic cynics and offer new insights into our understandings of girlhood, political action, social movements and democracy in the context of globalization.

“The Japanese Feminist Movement and Right-Wing Resurgence: Framing, Identity, and Visions for the Nation.” Makiko Yamaguchi, University of California-Davis, myamaguchi@ucdavis.edu
My dissertation examines feminist activists in Japan and how their interpretation of their external environment impacts mobilization efforts. In the last seven years, an anti-feminist movement has surfaced, rapidly expanding its influential network in the state, undermining government support for feminist goals such as eradicating gender stereotypes in schools and fostering equal treatment of women in the workplace. What is
more, this anti-feminist movement along with other policy changes simultaneously signal to the feminists the arrival of a larger political and popular backlash towards the right. My field work data (in-depth interviews with feminists and observations) compare feminists in the fields of labor and education in two metropolitan areas of Japan. By paying particular attention to life histories, I demonstrate the world view of the feminists and interrogate how feminists came to define and frame particular gender issues. Triangulating the field work data with content analysis of the media, government transcripts, and anti-feminist publications, I situate the feminists and what they do within the larger context of nation-state building and of explicit debates about the national identity in Japan.

“Understanding Athletic Participation as Feminist Dissent.” Alexa Yesukevich, Cornell University, apy3@cornell.edu

In this project I examine performances of feminist dissent through qualitative interviews with female rugby players. Athletic participation is not the kind of modular contentious behavior, carefully organized by a few movement elites, that is typically associated with a social movement. Yet many of the athletes I have interviewed seem to align themselves with the larger movement for women’s sports and think of their involvement in team contact sports as a form of feminist protest. I use both the political process approach to social movements and Mansbridge’s concept of the everyday activist to ask when and how a female athlete might view playing rugby to be a feminist act. Like the social movement elite, the everyday activist is a rational actor who negotiates political opportunities and threats. I explore ways that, through an informal and relatively private activity such as playing rugby, a woman can place her own life in a larger political context, invoke the support of others like her, and call for change.

Family, Procreation/Reproduction, and Parenthood

“The Quality of Family Relationships, Women’s Empowerment, and Child Health in India.” Keera Allendorf, University of Wisconsin-Madison, kallendo@ssc.wisc.edu

Women’s empowerment has received a great deal of attention as both a means and an end of international development. Education, micro-credit, and land rights have all been promoted as means to help women become the beneficiaries of development. At the same time, these policies and programs are seen as ways to assist women in becoming more powerful agents of development. Empowered women appear better able to secure the well-being of themselves and their families. However, the complexities of the links among empowerment and its determinants and consequences are still not well understood. One element that has not been adequately addressed is the quality of family relationships. Affection, respect, and support from family members are likely to be important sources of women’s empowerment. The quality of family relationships may also moderate the impact of women’s empowerment on maternal and child health. Where husbands and other family members care more about the welfare of women, women’s empowerment may be less important for securing health care. Thus, this dissertation will investigate how the quality of family relations impact both women’s empowerment and maternal and child health. To address this question, the study will analyze survey data and in-depth interviews with women and their family members from rural North India.

“Gay men: Negotiating procreative, family, and father identities.” Dana Berkowitz, University of Florida, dberk@ufl.edu (Joining faculty at Louisiana State University in fall 2007)

This qualitative study explores the social psychology of gay men’s experiences with their procreative consciousness and father identity. Analysis is based on in-depth interviews with 19 openly gay childless men and 22 gay men who have fathered through non-heterosexual means. This research investigates the processes by which gay men construct, negotiate, and experience their procreative, family, and father identities. My findings demonstrate the extent that gay men’s procreative consciousness is shaped within a complex web of institutions and other ruling relations. Gay men’s procreative consciousness evolves throughout their life course as a dynamic phenomenon and is profoundly shaped by adoption and fertility agencies, assumptions and myths about gay men and negotiations with birth mothers, partners, and others. Gay men’s procreative consciousness is situated in a socially constructed historical context that is rapidly changing how gay men think about the possibility of fatherhood. However, gay men’s procreative consciousness has been constructed in a societal context that assumes heterosexuality as normative and privileges heterosexual parenting. The men I interviewed describe how they negotiate gender, sexuality, and real or imagined families within explicit gendered and heterosexual social boundaries. The fathers and childless men alike drew upon traditional ideas about gender, biogenetics, respectability, sexuality, and kinship. Whereas the closet as a strategy of accommodating to heterosexual domination is becoming less salient, this does not necessarily denote that heterosexual domination is a remnant of the past. My conversations with these men show how heterosexual dominance is deeply rooted in the institutions and culture of American society and must be understood as not simply a product of laws or individual prejudice, but institutionalized pervasive dominance. Such findings underscore the need for a comprehensive sociological theory that can capture how gay men’s reproductive decision-making and fathering experiences are
constructed and constricted by institutionalized patriarchal and heterosexual dominance.

“The Ambivalence of Motherhood.” Ivana Brown, Rutgers University, ivanabrown@sociology.rutgers.edu
Building upon feminist theory and research on motherhood and mothering and sociological perspectives on ambivalence, in my dissertation I approach the study of maternal ambivalence from a sociological perspective. I define maternal ambivalence as produced by social conditions defining motherhood and mothers’ relationships towards their role and the identity of a mother, as opposed to locating ambivalence in mothers’ relationships with their children. I examine class and racial/ethnic differences in experience of maternal ambivalence in order to locate existence of ambivalence in social and cultural settings affecting maternal experience. The evidence for my analysis derives from the analysis of maternal data from the Study on Early Child Care, which has been conducted by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development since 1991.

“Mothering Adopted Asian Children: Motherhood Experience in the Social Context.” Jungyun Gill, University of Connecticut, jungyungill@hotmail.com
Inspired by minority women scholars’ studies of motherhood, especially Patricia Hill Collins’ work (1994), I propose shifting the center of theorizing motherhood from biocentric motherhood to non-biological motherhood, in particular adoptive motherhood of Asian children. In this dissertation research, my first major purpose is discovering and understanding white middle class adoptive mothers’ experiences of mothering their children from Asian countries. Through studying mothering experiences, this study attempts to discover how adoptive mothers construct their motherhood and families. The second goal is to find out how adoptive mothers’ experiences are organized by broad social relations through investigating the work of adoption agencies and the impact of adoption policies. In achieving the second goal, I hope to learn how white middle class adoptive mothers’ doing mothering is coordinated with the biological mothers’ giving up their mothering of their children and what the social contexts of this coordination are. In this study I will employ institutional ethnography supplemented by symbolic interactionism. My research will involve interviewing white adoptive mothers of Asian children primarily from South Korea and China. This study also involves interviewing adoption agency workers and adoption social workers in the U.S. and South Korea and examines guidelines, regulations, and policies of adoption agencies as well as relevant government policies.

“What will I do with the placenta? The practice and meaning of home birth in the United States and the

Netherlands.” Rachael B. Kulick, University of Minnesota, kuli0015@umn.edu
This project examines the practice and meaning of contemporary home birth in two very different maternity care systems. In the United States, 99 percent of births take place in hospitals. Home birth is rare and highly controversial. In the Netherlands, on the other hand, 30 percent of births take place at home and home birth is part of mainstream health care. I am currently in the field, following midwives to prenatal appointments, births, and postpartum visits. I am also conducting in-depth interviews with home birth participants. This study of home birth and midwifery in the U.S. (where they were systematically eliminated) and the Netherlands (where they were incorporated and institutionalized) will yield new insight into theories of medicalization and occupational professionalization. It will also improve our understanding of medicine and health care as not merely scientific or objective enterprises, but as cultural products.

"An Exploration of the Effects of Mid to Late-Life Parental Divorce on Intergenerational Relationships: Moving Beyond the Simplified Idea of 'Altered Relationships.'" Joleen Loucks, SUNY-Albany, jl197565@albany.edu
This research project is a qualitative study that involves interviewing adult children of divorce (those whose parents divorced when they were 18 years or older). This study seeks to determine how and why parent-child relationships are impacted by this family transition. Theoretically, the conceptual framework of "intergenerational ambivalence" is being employed to determine if adult children of divorce experience heightened intergenerational ambivalence. Specifically, a central interest of this research is to determine if there are gender differences in whether or not sons and daughters experience heightened intergenerational ambivalence. In addition, the research seeks to understand the different strategies that sons and daughters use to deal with heightened intergenerational ambivalence, if it is experienced. Lastly, I am interested in whether or not adult sibling relationships change after a mid to late-life parental divorce and whether or not there are differences in these changes by gender of siblings.

Gender and Education

“The Effect of Homeschooling on the Lives of Homeschooling Mothers.” Sharon L. Bouma, Purdue University, sharon@bouma-holtrop.com
Scholars have begun to explore the growing homeschooling movement, examining the demographics of homeschooling families, the motivations of the parents, and the academic and social effects of homeschooling on the children. However, few sociologists have studied homeschooling and very few
scholars have focused on homeschooling mothers. We know very little about the collective lives of the women whose individual decisions to homeschool their children are making an increasingly visible social statement. I am using in-depth interviews with homeschooling women to investigate the experiences of homeschooling on the individual lives of the mothers who take on the task. My study is grounded in feminist theory, assuming that structural constraints affect the choices women make, and symbolic interactionism, examining how people make meaning of the world they live in. I will conduct narrative analysis of these data to discover the common strands and patterns in the lives of homeschooling mothers.

“Engineering the Hidden Curriculum: How Women Doctoral Students in Engineering Navigate Belonging.” Shelley K. Erickson, Arizona State University, shelley.erickson@asu.edu
This project explores the experiences of women doctoral students who persist in chemical, civil, electrical and/or mechanical engineering programs through interviews and observations. Despite growth in the past two decades, women remain a marginalized group in engineering and the very low percentage of women and women of color earning doctoral degrees remains a particular concern. This project contributes to theories of graduate student persistence, going beyond the study of aggregate populations by focusing on engineering and by including women of color and female international students. The findings from this project will help educators, administrators and policy analysts gain a broader and deeper understanding of what pushes women out of engineering, the resources women draw on to persevere and what they can do to enhance those resources.

“Women Pursuing Higher Education after “Ending Welfare As We Know It”: Mothers’ Narratives about Poverty, Education, and the Welfare System.” Sheila Katz, Vanderbilt University, sheila.m.katz@Vanderbilt.Edu
Sweeping changes in 1996 to the national welfare system prioritized “work first” policies and decreased educational opportunities for mothers in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The purpose of my dissertation is to understand why some mothers on welfare choose to pursue education as a route out of poverty despite the fact that the opportunity for education and training greatly decreased under TANF. I am conducting in-depth qualitative interviews and focus groups with single mothers on welfare who are enrolled in or recently completed higher educational programs in one California metropolitan area, and a subset who are involved with a welfare and education advocacy organization. This research explores why single mothers on TANF pursue higher educational programs as their welfare-to-work activity, their narratives about their experiences in higher education and the welfare system, and how being involved in a grassroots advocacy organization affects women’s narratives. As some of the most disadvantaged students in higher education, these women can provide a unique perspective on educational choices and social narratives around the role of higher education. The knowledge gained in this study can inform social policies for low-income students, especially policies and initiatives about welfare and access to higher education.

“My research and teaching interests focus on understanding the gendered aspects of the educational labor market. Global educational reform affects teachers’ work, and teaching can be seen globally as a feminine and feminized profession. Based on these two assumptions, my dissertation critically examines the relationship between gender, the work of high school history teachers, and educational reform in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to explain the ways the gendered state is reconstructed in education in a global era. My multi-year qualitative fieldwork was conducted in two distinct public high schools (one urban, one semi-urban) located in different jurisdictions. By centering the study on teachers, using work life history methods and participant observation, my analysis privileges the ways educators interpret and practice policy as a means of understanding large-scale social reform through everyday schooling contexts. Specifically, my dissertation focused on educational reform in Argentina as an important context to explore the confluence of globalization, citizenship, nation building, and the changing nature of teachers’ work. What I found was a re-gendering and re-classing of teachers, the teaching profession, and historical knowledge, which reinforced a history of social inequality and inequity across school communities and national geographies. The restructuring of teachers’ work involves a re-articulation of socio-cultural and historical constructions of gender and class relations at the level of individuals and institutions.

Gender, Law and Politics

“Untitled.” Nicole H.W. Civettini, University of Iowa, nicole-civettini@uiowa.edu
Does the legal recognition of same-sex relationships provide the same benefits for members of same-sex
couples as it does for heterosexual husbands and wives? How do same-sex couples divide household labor, and, should inequalities emerge, what factors explain the division of labor? Marriage provides numerous benefits to heterosexual couples who wed, including improvements in mental health, financial security, and sexual satisfaction. In addition to the benefits, however, marriage also introduces inequalities into heterosexual relationships, most notably in the form of housework disparities. My dissertation research address whether same-sex marriages result in similar outcomes. I will accomplish this through both quantitative and qualitative research techniques. I will administer an internet- and telephone-based survey to approximately 2500 respondents. Results from the survey will improve the state of our knowledge on the topic, as they will (1) establish whether the benefits experienced by different-sex married couples exist for same-sex married couples; (2) provide various control measures to ensure that any differences that emerge are due to the legal status of the relationships and not caused by spurious factors; (3) elucidate which factors do affect the mental health, financial security, sexual satisfaction, and household labor contributions of people in same-sex relationships, should same-sex couples be affected differently by legal recognition than different-sex couples; and (4) test the relative power of various theories to explain the division of household labor in same-sex couples. Follow-up interviews with a sub-sample of approximately 30 survey respondents will allow for clarification of the ways in which legal marriage, a civil union, or a lack of legal recognition has affected their lives.

“Politics at the Intersection: A Cross-National Analysis of Minority Women’s Legislative Representation.” Melanie M. Hughes, Ohio State University. hughes.919@sociology.osu.edu

Researchers, organizations, and activists advocate increased political representation for both women and minority groups. But looking around the world, we know little about how politics at the intersection of these identities impacts the legislative representation of minority women. In this project I collect data on minority women in national legislatures across more than 75 democratic and semi-democratic countries around the world. Then, using a multi-method strategy, I conduct the first large-scale, cross-national investigation of the factors that explain minority women’s political representation across different cultural, structural, and political contexts. Overall, I find that in many countries the separate struggles for the political advancement of women and minority groups translate into few legislative gains for minority women. This research suggests that scholars and activists should consider not only how to empower women and minorities, but also how to advance the political representation of individuals at the intersection of these social categories.

“Bridging the Gap: the Role of Gender Advisers in Implementing United Nations Gender Mainstreaming Policy in Peacekeeping Operations.” Colleen Keaney-Mischel, Northeastern University. c.keaney@neu.edu

This research examines the role of UN gender advisers in the implementation of UN gender mainstreaming policy in its peacekeeping missions. Although the gender advisers play a key facilitative and advisory role in the policy’s implementation, no current research has approached the challenges associated with that role from their perspective. Therefore, one of the primary goals of this dissertation is to examine how the UN gender advisers approach their work and how the realities of life in the peacekeeping missions impact their choices, strategies, and perceptions. From a broader perspective, it also investigates the gendered nature of the UN and its policies in order to uncover how this influences gender mainstreaming efforts in its peacekeeping missions, particularly those by the gender advisers. Using data from content analysis and in-depth interviews, I argue that the UN’s failure to mainstream gender in its peacekeeping missions stems from: 1) the masculinized nature of the UN system and its peacekeeping missions, 2) the marginalization of women’s and gender issues within UN institutional and mission culture and practices, 3) the confusion and/or hostility toward gender initiatives on the part of UN mission staff and members of the local populations where peacekeeping missions are deployed, and 4) the complications posed by a complex, stressful, and fast-paced post/conflict environment in the missions. This research is not only significant for the work of the UN and its peacekeeping missions, but also suggests important lessons for the process of engendering peace and conflict studies in general.

“Learning to Mainstream Gender in Vietnam: Where ‘Equity’ Meets ‘Locality’ in UN Development Policy.” Kristy Kelly, University of Wisconsin, Madison. kekelly@wisc.edu

In the past 30 years, “gender mainstreaming” has emerged within the international policy community as a key policy framework for addressing issues of equity. The aim of this widespread new policy approach has been to integrate women into development programs by making them a part of the overall project design, rather than conceptualizing them as a separate category needing special attention. Yet, local women’s groups in various locations, ranging from Malaysia to China to Uganda to Venezuela, have criticized gender mainstreaming on grounds that it ignores the immediate and pressing needs of women and embeds a Western feminist construct of “gender” and “equity” that is at odds with local needs and interests. To remedy this, international agencies have trained and deployed “gender experts” to teach and explain gender mainstreaming concepts to women’s groups around the world. But the work of these experts raises important questions about what it means to teach
“gender equity” as a goal and as a strategy. I am currently studying the manner and mode in which gender experts deployed by the United Nations to Vietnam explain and engage local Vietnamese women’s groups in discussions of gender equity and how concepts such as “gender,” “equity,” and “mainstreaming” are interpreted, engaged, negotiated and challenged in the process. My research contributes to the growing literature on gender mainstreaming as development policy, the teaching and learning of gender (and in the course of teaching and learning, the (re)making of gender), and the intersection of gendered citizenship and nationalism. It also contributes to a growing social movement literature that seeks to understand opportunities and challenges to the global women’s movement (from which gender mainstreaming has emerged), particularly considering how discursive and material strategies that frame women’s rights as universal human rights work with and against local claims to women’s difference. In this way, I examine the possibility that nationalist discourses and policy frames condition women’s and national women’s groups’ opportunities to organize and make equality claims based on their legal rights as citizens of the nation. As such, this project considers how the values, perspectives, culture, norms, expectations, behavior and policy priorities that gender mainstreaming aims to affect may be undermined by the very actors responsible for implementing those policies.

“The Politics of Teenage Sexualities: Social Regulation, Citizenship and the U.S. State.” Emily S. Mann, University of Maryland, emann@soyc.umd.edu
In the contemporary United States, teenage sexuality is constructed as a social problem, which facilitates its regulation. The state attempts to regulate teenage sexuality through social policy, where it is often conflated with nonmarital teenage pregnancy and parenthood, and encoded with gendered, racialized, classed and heterosexist meanings in both the definition of the “problem” and the remedies designed to ameliorate it. In this dissertation, I use discourse analysis and in-depth interviews to explore how the state defines teenage sexuality as a problem and attempts to regulate teenage sexualities through social policy formation and implementation. Because the state increasingly contracts with nonprofit service organizations to implement social policy, I utilize a case study approach to focus on the practices of youth-serving organizations in Ward 1 of the District of Columbia. By examining how nonprofit service providers negotiate the directives of social policy in the provision of sexual and reproductive healthcare and educational services to the young people of color they serve, I demonstrate that the state-led social regulation of teenage sexualities constitutes a site of sexual citizenship-making. While the state attempts to produce teenage sexual citizens who conform to heteronormative sexual practices, identities and relationships through social policy, nonprofit service providers negotiate these directives with greater nuance and sensitivity. By framing my analysis in these terms, I offer a complex understanding of the contradictory and changing practices by which teenage sexualities are socially regulated by and through the U.S. state.

“The Legal Regulation of Gender Diversity.” Tey Meadow, New York University, teymeadow@nyu.edu
The notion that biological sex is a neat binary into which all human being can be classified underlies virtually every regulatory and administrative scheme in our modern social environment. As a result, law and the state become important sites for the consolidation of gender norms. In this dissertation, I trace the ways in which U.S. law regulates gender diversity, and the interests such regulations purportedly serve. I examine the mobilization of cultural, moral and economic anxieties around fraud and instability to justify curtailing individual gendered identity and behavior by tracing the evolution of legal prohibitions on public crossdressing through to contemporary first amendment claims for freedom of gender expression. I further explore what implications might follow from the increased consolidation of compulsory identity documentation and federal surveillance associated with late modern statehood for individuals whose gender identities or presentations fall outside of the conventional boundaries of the male/female dichotomy.

“‘Population Quality’ and the Marginalization of Children in Reform Era China.” Leslie Wang, University of California, Berkeley, lkwang77@berkeley.edu
Despite its increasing retreat from the public sector and provision of social security for its citizens, since the late 1970s the government of the People’s Republic of China has exerted strong influence on families through wide-ranging family planning policies. The state’s oft-stated goal of imposing such regulations has been not only to lower the population’s quantity, but also to raise “high quality” children who will use their talents to raise China’s position as a global power. Population policies that have rapidly slashed fertility, in combination with sweeping rural economic reforms and a cultural preference for sons, have inadvertently contributed to the marginalization of certain children—particularly girls. The most obvious effects have been an alarmingly skewed sex ratio of infants at birth and the abandonment of countless female and disabled children to state care. My project looks at the effects of these broad-scale demographic changes through twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork in Chinese state-run orphanages. Fieldwork has involved participant observation and interviews with Chinese staff as well as western volunteer groups, who in recent years have begun to collaborate in the care of these children. While abandoned children are some of the most devalued in Chinese society, these groups use their own cultural...
ideologies of gender and children to “re-value” them in a western model. These types of international collaborations highlight the complex cultural and political negotiations occurring within a progressively more interconnected world. Ultimately, my dissertation seeks to use the case of abandoned children in state care to examine the widening gender, economic and social divide occurring within an increasingly globalized Chinese society.

Gender and Sexual Identities and Practices

“Gender and Social Constructionism: What is Lesbian Gender?” Kelley K. Harris, University of Missouri-St. Louis, kkh968@umsl.edu

This thesis responds to a gap in empirical research conducted on gender: while a plethora of research exists on heteronormative gender, surprisingly few articles focus on alternative forms of gender. Thus, this exploratory study is framed by a discussion of male privilege and the naturalization of dichotomous categorizations of sex, gender, and sexuality to reinforce this privilege in contemporary societies. I attempt to close the gap in literature by conducting two surveys on 26 participants. A face-to-face interview was conducted to establish typologies of gender categories used by lesbians in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The interview was immediately followed by a questionnaire designed to measure individual participants’ performance of their gender in their daily lives. Qualitative analysis was utilized to determine the lesbian gender typologies and basic quantitative analysis was used when measuring gender performance.

“Exploring Disclosure Experiences, Patterns, and Trends for Gay Men and Lesbians.” Marni Kahn, Georgia State University, marmialyson@aol.com

This research seeks to explore gay and lesbian disclosure experiences through three areas of sociological inquiry 1) the closet, 2) gender presentation, and 3) the interplay between structure and agency. First and foremost, what exactly is the closet? What are its features? Studying the closet begins with an analysis of how individuals self-identify as gay and lesbian which is inextricably linked to social prescriptions and descriptions of sexuality. This particular research seeks to explore how the outside/social world decides who is gay and lesbian. It will be necessary to understand how and why individual’s self identify as gay and lesbian and how the presentation of self effects coming out. Presentation of self is intertwined with gender presentation. With in a U.S. based context, heterosexual men and women have very different, prescribed social roles and functions, including gender presentation, how are they collapsed, if at all—when intersected with a gay or lesbian identity? Moreover, do gay men and lesbians share common coming out experiences? How does studying a gay or lesbian experience, such as coming out—collapse the

core of sociology, structure and agency? What is the interplay for this particular structure and agency relationship? The research aims to contribute to the discourse of the closet by better understanding coming out experiences as connected to gay and lesbian gender presentation. Furthermore, how does the experience of coming out of the closet contribute to the sociological analysis of social structures and agency?

“Women Without Children; Identity, Choice, Control.” Candace Korasick, University of Missouri, Korasick, cak307@mizzou.edu

Existing literature on women who have no children takes for granted that these women experience childlessness—voluntary or involuntary—as a major component of their identities, and that these two groups of women are quite different. I believe this is an artifact of the research process. Historically, respondents have known they are being interviewed because they have no children and they come prepared to discuss this aspect of their lives. Of nearly 100 "childless" respondents to a Twenty-Statement Test, only 6 made any mention of parenting status. (Most women who had children did list a parenting status.) From that initial survey, I interviewed 24 naive subjects between the ages of 33 and 55, who had been in a long-term heterosexual relationship, but had no children. Most of them do not experience childlessness as a central component of identity. Furthermore, when you allow them to tell the story of their childlessness, as opposed to asking them whether or not they chose it, it becomes difficult to group them as voluntarily or involuntarily childless. But choice is a construct that is not easily avoided. Nearly all my respondents spoke of choice, however, they seemed to really be talking about control. They took control of their bodies, their lives, and even their environments.

*Some respondents were young and unmarried. It is likely that they will have children, so "childless" is loosely used here.

“Race, Gender and Heterosexuality in Campus Party Cultures: The Reproduction and Transformation of Social Identities and Inequalities.” Katherine P. Luke, University of Michigan, kpluke@umich.edu

This dissertation studies the construction and reproduction of social identities and inequalities by exploring the social practices and discourses of race, gender and heterosexuality among white and Chinese-American college students who participate in campus party cultures. Campus party cultures are highly sexualized environments where heavy-drinking, inter and intra-racial heterosexual interactions, “hooking-up” and sexual coercion are all common, and where racial and gender identities and boundaries are explored, performed, surveilled, and regulated. Preliminary analysis of the data from this project suggests that
dominant discourses about race, gender, sexuality and college life are internalized and reproduced through the social, and particularly the sexual, practices of partying.

“Unhooked? A comparative analysis of women exiting prostitution via prostitution-helping programs.” Sharon S. Oselin, University of California, Irvine, soselin@uci.edu
This dissertation seeks to address the lack of research on how women leave prostitution. I use a social psychological lens to analyze the process of role exiting and find three stages: Initial exiting (how and why they first leave prostitution), role distancing, and role embracement/identity change. By comparing women immersed in three distinct prostitution-helping programs, I also examine how organizations shape this process. In sum, this dissertation speaks to literatures on gender, social psychology, criminology and organizations.

“‘Women’s Work?’: A Qualitative Study of the Women Partners of Transgender and Transsexual Men.” Carla A. Pfeffer, University of Michigan, cpfeffer@umich.edu
My dissertation is a qualitative analysis of interview narratives from sixty, self-identified women partners of transgender and transsexual men (i.e. those who are female-to-male/FTM-identified). This narrative analysis explores the following primary themes: 1) Women partners navigating self-identification issues connected to sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation; 2) Intimate labor performed by the women partners of transmen—from household labor to postsurgical aftercare; 3) Discussions of bodies, body image, body dysphoria and sexuality and; 4) Sources of social support and social strain/stigma in the lives of women partners of transmen. This dissertation contributes to, and expands, existing sociological research on: social, and particularly the sexual, practices of partying. This dissertation seeks to address the lack of research on how women leave prostitution. I use a social psychological lens to analyze the process of role exiting and find three stages: Initial exiting (how and why they first leave prostitution), role distancing, and role embracement/identity change. By comparing women immersed in three distinct prostitution-helping programs, I also examine how organizations shape this process. In sum, this dissertation speaks to literatures on gender, social psychology, criminology and organizations.

My dissertation investigates the role of cultural forces and attendant ideologies in determining the current configuration of the field of thought about punishment and its relationship to physical suffering. Very broadly, I locate this research within the sociology of punishment. More specifically, the theoretical platform upon which the analysis is mounted draws upon three previously unrelated literatures: Garland’s (2001) cultural-analytic model; Swidler’s (1986) conceptualization of culture and its role in determining action; and constitutivist legal scholarship. Empirically, I focus on a previously understudied aspect of punishment, “prisoner rape,” framing it as a set of ideas enmeshed in a web of multiple meanings derived from and insinuated in various domains of meaning production. The plethora of meanings attached to “prisoner rape” illuminate a number of ideological conflicts in how punishment and physical suffering are understood, such as the competing values of retribution and rational punishment; physical punishment and legitimacy; vigilantism and the rule of law; and cultural relativism versus legal universalism. To reveal the constitutive features of “prisoner rape,” I focus on discourse about the subject articulated within a variety of social locations from 1964-2006 to produce a complex portrait of the “prisoner rape” as it has been discursively constituted. This in turn, provides an empirical window through which I theorize the current configuration of the field of thought about punishment and physical suffering and consider its broader implications.

Gender and the Body

“To Diet or To Eat (Healthy): Women’s Food Negotiations Across the Life Course.” Abigail Richardson, University of Georgia, abigailr@uga.edu
This dissertation examines how women negotiate culture, local practices, and desire for health in their decisions about dieting and healthy eating. This research also looks at how the interviewed women organize information from both culture and one’s own body into self-constructed narratives, including how they balance concerns about health, appearance, and aging. While dieting and similar practices may look like conformity to the casual observers, these narratives are the key to understanding the potential for agency in such practices. Such a study necessarily focuses on the role of gender, sexism, and aging both in culture and in the consciousness of women. Thus, this research takes a life course approach to understanding women’s decisions and experiences. While focusing on middle-class women, this study does examine the differences between black and white women in how these negotiations occur. The project uses mixed methods, employing a) surveys of 491 adult women, b) focus groups with college-aged women, and c) in-depth interviews with 48 white and black women in three age groups: 25-39, 40-59, and 60-80. By revealing the negotiations and narratives women enact with regard to their weight-related practices, my research sheds new light on the potential for agency within the structure of a sexist and ageist society.

“Attitudes Toward Body Hair and Hair Removal: An Exploration of the Effects of Women’s Social Characteristics.” Bessie Rigakos, Wayne State University, b.rigakos@hotmail.com
Body hair removal is a behavior that is taken for granted by many women in the United States. According to the literature on beauty norms, body hair removal is a major component of gender and societal norms (Weitz, 2004;
norms) that affect whether or not workers are able to
dynamics (gender, social networks, workplace and team
the stability of these boundaries, and sources of
scholarly contributions, my findings will help employers
enact their boundary preferences. Beyond specific
boundaries workers prefer, the boundaries workers have,
change. This ethnographic study examines the
within a large company that is undergoing cultural
boundary management strategies of workers employed
this scholarship and investigate the work-family
around core areas of life. In my dissertation, I build on
physical, behavioral, temporal and cognitive bounds
"Boundary work" scholars find that individuals set
imperative to repair the human face is constructed and
throughout, she examines the sociological significance
of the human face.

Gender and Work

“Boundaries at Work: A study of work-family boundary stability within a large organization.” Samantha K. Ammons, University of Minnesota, amm00003@umn.edu
“Boundary work” scholars find that individuals set
physical, behavioral, temporal and cognitive bounds
around core areas of life. In my dissertation, I build on
this scholarship and investigate the work-family
boundary management strategies of workers employed
within a large company that is undergoing cultural
change. This ethnographic study examines the
boundaries workers prefer, the boundaries workers have,
the stability of these boundaries, and sources of
boundary constraint. I investigate structural and cultural
dynamics (gender, social networks, workplace and team
norms) that affect whether or not workers are able to
enact their boundary preferences. Beyond specific
scholarly contributions, my findings will help employers
foster environments that help workers fulfill their work
and family obligations.

"Gender Inequality and the Division of Housework:
Cross-National Comparisons among China, Japan,
South Korea, and Taiwan." Pi-chun Hsu, Cornell
University, ph79@cornell.edu
In my dissertation, I examine the distributions and the
determinants of housework between married men and
women in the four East Asian countries. More
specifically, this study focuses on comparing cross-
national similarities and discrepancies of housework
among the four East Asian countries.

“The Unequal Division of Domestic Labour: How
Can The State Intervene?” Rhianna Keen, Macquarie
University (Sydney, Australia),
Rhianna.Keen@scmp.mq.edu.au
Despite Australian women’s continued movement
towards equality with men in education and employment,
there has been little corresponding change in the division
of domestic labour between Australian men and women
in heterosexual couples. Despite this lack of change,
many Australian women seek to combine careers with
family responsibilities. In recent years, a body of
literature has emerged in Australia about the difficulties
of employees to manage their work and family
responsibilities. Many Australian social commentators
have advocated the use of social policy to improve the
current family-friendly provisions available to
employees and minimize the career costs to employees
who make use of them. These initiatives are focused on
reducing the time spent in paid employment by both men
and women to reduce the demands on workers and
enable them to effectively balance their work and family
commitments. While the use of family-friendly
provisions works to facilitate the participation of women
(especially mothers) in the workforce and reduce
women’s total ‘double-burden’ of paid and unpaid work,
I argue that they may only have a limited capacity to
promote an equal division of domestic labour. Alongside
improved family-friendly provisions, policy initiatives
need to actively encourage and support male partners to
take up a more equal share of unpaid domestic labour,
rather than simply reducing the paid employment
demands on male and female workers.

“Relationships at Work: Organizations in the
creation of Gendered Social Capital.” Holly Lord,
University of Virginia, hrl5h@cms.mail.virginia.edu
This project examines the role of social capital in
occupational sex segregation. I specifically look at the
field of Computer Science (CS) where women's
underrepresentation remains very low. I examine gender
differences in social capital in CS graduate programs,
such as student-student and student-faculty relationships,
and examine how gender differences in such
relationships affect women students’ persistence in the
field. Most importantly, I examine how departments can affect gendered patterns in social relationships and persistence.

“Life Course Trajectories of Contemporary Indie Rock Musicians: The Impact of Gender, Culture, and Aging on an Informal Career Path.” Michael Ramirez, University of Georgia, michaeldddieramirez@gmail.com
Using interview data from thirty-eight indie rock musicians in Athens, Georgia, I examine the life course and identity development of contemporary musicians. I seek to answer two questions. First, how does gender affect the access to, and participation in, music by young women and men who make serious investments in musical performance during their young adult years? Second, how is gender enacted, represented, recreated, and transformed in the musical worlds, and how do these worlds influence identity development of young women and men? I trace the life course trajectories starting from early childhood that enabled musicians to pursue a career in music in adulthood. I examine ways the identity as a musician developed among men and women. Men most easily adopted the musician identity, while women often developed it later in life or, in some cases, still had not developed a comfortable identity as a musician. In examining gender identity development, I find that both men and women constructed gender identities distinct from traditional conceptions, though in distinct ways for each. I also examine gender stratification in this music scene. While both women and men were aware of the gender disparities in the music scene, they had distinctly gendered rationalizations as to why it exists. This dissertation has implications to life course theory, particularly the transition to early adulthood, and to gender stratification in informal career paths.

“The Relationship between the Gender Composition and the Social Environment of Occupational Settings.” Catherine J. Taylor, Cornell University, cjt23@cornell.edu
My dissertation focuses on the social environments of both men and women who are in non-traditional occupations for their gender – for example, a man who is a nurse or a woman who is an engineer (in Kanter’s (1977) terms “tokens”). In my dissertation I use a mixed methods approach, employing both an analysis of nationally representative survey data and a laboratory experiment. The survey data will document the association between token status, gender, and perceived levels of social exclusion in the workplace. The design of the laboratory experiment will be informed by what previous ethnographies have described as the social conditions of both women and men who are tokens. The experiment will employ both self report and biological measures of stress reactivity to token status in a work group (for both genders) under these social conditions.

“From Reel to Virtual: Women’s Labor Opportunity in the US Adult Film Industry (1957-2005).” Chauntelle Anne Tibbals, University of Texas at Austin, catibbals@aol.com
Consideration of women’s rights and women’s rights expansion has been a predominant project of feminist researchers for decades. This has included women’s rights in the workplace. Women’s rights in the adult film industry workplace, however, have not been sufficiently explored. My work considers the following two research questions. First, have women’s labor rights and opportunities in the United States’ adult film industry changed since the 1950s; if so, how? Second, has the content of adult films changed since the 1950s; if so, how? I am using comparative historical sociology to consider changes that have occurred across three eras of the industry: Reel (1957-1974), Video (1975-1994), and Virtual (1995-2005). My comparative historical considerations will be informed with intensive interview and content analysis data.

“Gender Labor: the performance of masculinity and femininity in childbirth education courses,” Monika J. Ulrich, University of Arizona, mijuulrich2@aol.com
Most future parents receive their only parenting training through childbirth education courses. However, childbirth education courses have been understudied as a potential training ground for the increasingly dichotomous gender roles that develop in parents after the birth of a child. In this research project, I do extensive ethnographic research in hospital, home, and natural childbirth education courses. I find that these courses take one of two general approaches toward fathers: try to include them as equal partners in the birth or assign them a supportive role to the mother. I find
that both approaches tend to reinforce stereotypical gender roles.

Intimate Relationships

“Relationship Maintenance Activities in Identity Renegotiation: An Examination of Male-to-Female Transsexual and Natal Female Couples.” Christine Aramburu Alegria, University of Nevada, Reno, aramburu@unr.edu

This qualitative study utilizes inductive and deductive analytic methods to examine the use of relationship maintenance activities in the process of identity renegotiation in couples that include male-to-female (M2F) individuals and their natal female (NF) partners in which the disclosure of transsexualism occurred after the relationship was established. Symbolic interactionism (Blumer, 1969) sets the foundation for this study, allowing for the examination of the meanings behind relationship maintenance activities as they re-shape identity. Schema theory (Fiske & Taylor, 1991), including relational schema (Baldwin, 1992; 1995; Holmes, 2000), and social exchange and equity theories (Homans, 1950; Thibaut & Kelly, 1959) further inform the study.

“Communicating Meaning through Ritual: Negotiating Culture and Self in Weddings and Commitment Ceremonies.” Emily Fairchild, Indiana University, efairchi@indiana.edu

I use sociology of culture, social psychological, and feminist theories to examine the processes through which individuals interpret, maintain, and alter cultural meanings regarding gender, class, marriage, and family through their participation in commitment ceremonies. The diverse set of eight case studies includes more than 60 interviews with brides, grooms, and wedding guests, as well as survey data, and observations of the ceremonies. A central goal is to understand why, in a cultural context of greater gender equality, do couples perform conventional marriage rituals that have been critiqued as patriarchal. Also, how do couples introduce innovation into this heavily-scripted event? With particular emphasis on gender and class, I bridge the gap between scholars of culture and meaning by investigating the use of culture on an individual level with attention to the processes through which couples balance reliance on “tradition” with a desire to “personalize” their ceremony.

“Doing Engagement: Couples and Commitment to Marriage.” Erica Hunter, University at Albany, eh8199@albany.edu

With the dramatic changes in the past few decades in gender relations and family life, my dissertation seeks to gain a better understanding of contemporary marital engagement. Using in-depth interviews, I will be sampling heterosexual couples who are both entering their first marriages to understand not only how engagement is practiced today, but to also explore how gender shapes how participants view and practice engagement. In addition, this dissertation contributes to the relationship processes literature by helping understand how couples form longer term unions and how these relationship transition experiences are shaped by gender and social class.

“Exploring a culture of intimacy: Individualism and solidarity in heterosexual relationships.” Daniel M. Santore, University at Albany, ds9328@albany.edu

Drawing on varied empirical evidence - of demographic shifts, feminist and other social movements, changing labor force composition, and more – social theorists have speculated about the impact of broad social change in western nations on personal relationships in general, and on romantic bonds in particular. A range of North American (e.g., Bellah, Cancian, Cherlin, Lasch, Stacey) and European (Bauman, Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, Giddens) social thinkers describe the rise of a late-20th century culture of intimacy which carries the promise to generate greater equity and satisfaction in romantic relationships, but which also may indicate a socially corrosive form of self-oriented individualism organizing contemporary relationships. My dissertation project aims to clarify certain terms of this debate. Through qualitative interviews I will provide an empirically-based portrait of what individualism and solidarity mean to women and men who are presently involved in heterosexual relationships. This project delves into the multiple meanings of individuation and connectedness in romantic bonds, assessing the extent to which theoretical understandings of individualism and solidarity mesh with the lived reality of relationships. By making empirical inquiries into ‘relationship philosophies’, as well as leisure activities, friendships, maintenance, financial management, time-use and other concrete matters, I explore the ways in which women and men in relationships articulate seemingly contradictory ideals of solidarity and self-development, obligation and individualization.

“‘Race Has Always Been More Than Just Race’: Gender, Sexuality, and the Negotiation of Race in Interracial Relationships.” Amy C. Steinbugler, Temple University, amys@temple.edu

My dissertation examines how lesbian, gay, and heterosexual Black/White interracial couples negotiate racial difference in their relationship. This research builds upon recent scholarship on interracial couples and families as sites where racial meanings and identities are negotiated by introducing sexuality as a critical mediating force. Using in-depth interviews with each member of 40 interracial couples and ethnographic fieldwork with four couples, I investigate how race, gender and sexuality intersect in everyday experiences of interracial intimacy. I examine the shape and intensity of
these interactions across three spheres—public spaces, interactions between partners, and identity. In navigating public spaces and constructing racial identities vis-à-vis interracial intimacy, heterosexual couples are particularly stigmatized by interraciality, yet they also have access to symbolic and material privileges that buffer its effects. In contrast, for same-sex couples, racial difference interacts with sexuality to further marginalize lesbian and gay interraciality, positioning these couples even farther from normative ideals of romantic intimacy. While sexuality and gender influence the ways in which racial difference emerge in daily life, they have a less pronounced influence on the particular strategies partners employ to negotiate racial difference.

Masculinities and Manhood

“The Dimensions of Masculinity.” Tristan S. Bridges, University of Virginia, tsb5k@cms.mail.virginia.edu
My dissertation research is just getting under way. It aims to assess the significance of different theoretical frameworks for examining gender relations, specifically relations among boys and men. The significance of intra-gender relations varies both between and within cultural contexts, though past and present research often illuminates particular gender identities, strategies, and actions that do not vary as much as others. Sex role research popularized this notion, though it is no longer a significant theoretical position. However, cultural, structural, and relational theories of gender have much to offer a multidimensional analysis of gender relations. Through an analysis of four different groups of boys and men (boy scouts, policemen, bodybuilders, and corporate lawyers), this study utilizes multiple theoretical frameworks as a means of identifying aspects of masculinities that vary to greater and lesser degrees and potentially how this variation is (re)produced both contextually as well as cross-contextually.

“The Southern Rock Music Revival: Identity Work and Rebel Masculinity.” Jason Eastman, Florida State University, jje8932@fsu.edu
My multi-method study of underground southern rockers examines the protest masculinity used by a group of under-educated, under-employed, marginalized, white, working-class men to empower their otherwise disempowered selves. These men signify the self as both strong and independent through their ability to negotiate rural poverty with their hunting, fishing and faming skills—while at the same time they chastise the middle class virtues of family, education, work and religion as metaphorical prisons to which only the weak succumb. Southern rockers construct themselves as dominant over women through their sexual objectification of female bodies, as more powerful than minorities through their display of the confederate flag, and as superior to homosexual men whom they chastise for being effeminate and therefore weak. They also engage in the self-destructive, risk-taking behaviors of drinking and drug use in order to signify their empowered, masculine selves. However, these rebel masculine behaviors can also perpetuate the increasingly marginal status all white, working class men find themselves by reinforcing stereotypes they are sexist, racist, homophobic, unskilled, uneeducated, uncivilized drunks.

Medicine, Science and Technology

“The Postmodern Cultural Clinic: Medicine, Femininity & Foucault.” Mebbie Bell – University of Alberta, mebell@telus.net
This project analyzes the increasing convergence of medicine and feminine aesthetics in contemporary culture. Working from a critical feminist perspective and through Michel Foucault’s analysis of modern medical epistemology in The Birth of the Clinic, I argue that a new spatialization of the clinic is emerging, which simultaneously expands and reinforces medical authority over the female body through a rhetoric of empowerment, identity and health. Medical knowledge blurs with normative femininity, and women’s individual practices of an altered medical gaze produce disciplinary clinical space. Three case studies examine this clinical discourse. First, medical protocols for the inpatient treatment of anorexia nervosa both materialize an explicit territory of the “clinic” and produce a discursive “prison” that disciplines its anorexic “patient/prisoner” through mechanisms of surveillance and routinization. Second, in Oprah Winfrey’s multi-media campaign for women’s embodied empowerment, Winfrey situates herself as an exemplar of weight loss and personal transformation, and produces a televisial clinical space that signifies “fat” as unhealthy, a source of national shame, a symbol of trauma, and the veil women must lift in order to “live their best lives.” Finally, the pro-anorexia movement—an internet-based movement that advocates anorexia as a legitimate lifestyle—generates virtual clinical space that simultaneously manipulates medical discourse and reinscribes its regulatory impulses; its participants’ cyber-exchange invokes a doubled disappearance that reiterates both their disdain in popular culture and their own embodied struggles.

“Institutional Constructions of Risk: An Analysis of Breastfeeding Discourses.” Harmony Newman, Vanderbilt University, harmony.d.newman@vanderbilt.edu
Are “breast is best” arguments an unmitigated good for mothers? Research strongly establishes breastfeeding as the medical gold standard for infant feeding. Yet, even though medical arguments favor breastfeeding for children, its use and duration among mothers is significantly lower than the government’s goal rates. In an effort to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates, public health activists have tried to establish breastfeeding as not only the best feeding option
medically, but also as "the moral gold standard for mothering." It is the moral character of the breastfeeding discourse that is particularly problematic, transforming the context of choice (where mothers weigh the costs and benefits of breastfeeding and make a decision best for her and her child) into a contested political terrain (where women feel that they must breastfeed so as to not seem like a bad mother). Using an analysis of breastfeeding discourses and interviews with mothers, this project will explore how scientists, government agencies and social activists construct and legitimate public health risks, as well as how the intended consumers, in this case mothers, challenge or reaffirm this construction. Specific research questions are aimed at unpacking the relationship between the framing of infant feeding risk and individual-level responses to these messages and exploring how gender ideologies are reinforced through framing formula feeding as a "moral danger." Understanding how social institutions construct risk and the ways in which the target population interprets this construction will illuminate the power dynamic between institutions, discourse, and people's beliefs and behaviors.

"Untitled." Elizabeth Sternke, Purdue University, sternke@purdue.edu
For women who struggle with infertility, the constructs of law, sociocultural expectations and personal control converge as women and their families attempt to overcome biological limitations as well as financial ones. The cost of treatments is exorbitant and insurance coverage for these treatments, particularly InVitro Fertilization, is quite limited (White, McQuillan & Greil, 2006). Due to these reasons, a number of individual women as well as advocacy/support groups (e.g., RESOLVE) for women who are attempting to overcome fertility problems are attempting to secure insurance coverage for infertility treatments via the designation of infertility as a disability. There are currently three federal acts through which they are attempting to have this determination made: 1) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; 2) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 3) the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978. In an effort to address the questions of how and why women are attempting to designate infertility as a disability, I draw on the literature on sex, gender, and but not an actual disability itself. In addition, I claim that infertility constructs both discredited as well as discreditable identities while previous researchers refer to infertility as either a 'secret stigma' (Greil, 1991) or as a stigma that is invisible, or merely discreditable.

"Male Infertility: A Study in the Social Constructions of Gender and Disease." Liberty Walther, University of California, San Diego, lwalther@ucsd.edu
While numerous studies of infertility and assisted reproductive technology have explored the experiences of infertile women, this is the first study to include male reproductive clinics and male infertility specialists in the research design. Liberty has conducted ethnographic observations in male infertility clinics run by the country's leading male infertility experts, and interviewed couples being treated for male infertility. Liberty's dissertation work explores the impact of male infertility on men's notions of masculinity, and considers how couples make decisions for treatment when many treatments for male infertility take place in the female body.

Violence

"An Analysis of Violence Victimization and Women’s Mental and Reproductive Health in Two Internally Displaced Populations." Michael Philip Anastario, Boston College, MANastario@tufts-nemc.org
Mental and reproductive health consequences of violence victimization have been reported in various female populations, however these associations have not been tested among internally displaced persons (IDP's), who already have elevated rates of psychiatric and reproductive health abnormalities. This dissertation examined associations between violence victimization, individual symptoms of depression, and simple reproductive health attributes using data from two probability samples of women: those displaced by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricane season living in FEMA trailer parks in the United States, and those displaced by human conflict living in internal displacement camps in Darfur, Sudan (2005). Using logistic regression models, this study found that in the Gulf Coast sample, women who reported motor dysregulation and/or suicidality were more likely to be victims of any violence. Further, women who used birth control and who exhibited motor dysregulation were more likely than any other subgroup to be victims of any violence. In the Darfur sample, violence victimization data were not available, and secondary physiological indicators of violence (SNDV) were examined. Women who reported anhedonia were more likely to have experienced SNDV. Further, among women with standard depressive symptoms, lack of birth control use elevated the likelihood of SNDV. To determine the prevalence of any lifetime violence victimization in the Darfur sample, logit coefficients derived from the Gulf...
sex and gender news

Coast analyses were used to obtain propensity scores for lifetime victimization in Darfur, suggesting that the prevalence of any lifetime violence victimization in South Darfur is 57%. This study demonstrates that there are clear associations between violence victimization and mental and reproductive health among female IDP’s. The models developed in this study can be used to predict the prevalence of lifetime victimization in IDP populations where victimization screening is not possible. The results of this study will be particularly useful to practitioners working with female IDP’s who may not be permitted to directly screen for victimization.

“Tempest in a Tea Pot: Analysis of Contemporary Witch Hunts in the Tea Plantations of North Bengal (1980-2006).” Soma Chaudhuri, Vanderbilt University, soma.chaudhuri@vanderbilt.edu

Although the panic outbreak of executions of women as witches in Europe and the American colonies, commonly referred to as the early modern witch craze, ended in the 1700s, some women are still being labeled and accused as witches in India and other developing nations. Over the past few decades, local newspapers in India have reported incidents of witch hunting at a fluctuating pace. Though the idea of witch hunts seems shocking to most urban educated Indians, the phenomenon is common among the migrant tribal laborers in the tea plantations of India. My dissertation addresses the social factors responsible for incidents of witch hunts in these plantations. Specifically my dissertation seeks to answer these questions: Who is defined as a “witch” in the community? How does gender play a role in identifying a witch? What characteristics define a credible deviant (in this case the witch)? Are witch hunts a reaction by the community towards individuals who do not adequately follow the “gendered roles”? How does one explain the support of other women in the community towards supporting witch hunts? The data for this study has been collected using archival methods, qualitative methods of interviewing and ethnography. The data consists of 80 hours of interview (with 40 interviewees) and 342 cases of individual incidents of witch hunts from 1980 to 2006.

"Pearl Harbored: Gender, Race and the morphing of collective memories of 9.11 and Pearl Harbor.”
Robert Hollenbaugh, University of Southern California, hollenba@usc.edu

My dissertation investigates how gender, race and nation link the collective memories Americans hold of the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. My research focuses on ‘common sense’ connections between masculinity, civilization, and international violence. Postiging 9/11 in the shadow of Pearl Harbor, an event that enthusiastically launched the nation and US public opinion into World War II, supported the creation of a new ‘war on terror’. Through a systematic examination of media and also personal interviews with US residents, my research discusses how major media outlets have tended to follow this logic, while many individuals are much more critical of these connections. Nevertheless, a relatively stable “moral masculinity” that draws on gender, race and culture is consistently imbedded in descriptions of both 9/11 and Pearl Harbor.

“Differentiating among different types of control and coping strategies in domestic violence in India.” Nivi Menon, Pennsylvania State University, nmenon@pop.psu.edu

My dissertation topic is broadly focused on the subordination and agency of women in the context of family violence. In an effort to bring clarity to the mechanisms of domestic violence across cultural and familial contexts in India, I am examining the relationship between experiences of domestic violence and the different coping strategies used by women in diverse family contexts in the city of Pune, in the Western region of India. My dissertation addresses four primary questions: (1) What are the different types of control that families exert over women in situations of domestic violence? (2) How do the different contexts of domestic violence influence the strategies used by families to control women's economic and social lives? (3) What are the different coping strategies that are used by women to deal with violence in these differing contexts? and (4) How are these coping strategies influenced by the interaction of particular cultural, social, and economic contexts? In order to answer the dissertation questions, I have used a blended methodology of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including structured questionnaires and semi-structured in-depth interviews to create a data structure useful for identifying different types of control contexts in familial violence and the differential effects of these types of domestic violence. I am currently in the process of analyzing the primary data (both quantitative and qualitative) that was collected over a period of six months from January to May, 2006. In addition, I am also analyzing secondary data from the region provided by the Demographic Health Survey that was conducted in 1999.

“Gender, They Wrote: The Construction of Gender through ‘Non-Fiction’ Narratives About Killings.”
Laurel Westbrook, University of California at Berkeley, laurel_westbrook@hotmail.com

Scholars of gender violence have shown that violence, both threatened and actual, is an important part of the current gender system. However, “gender violence”—defined as violence in which gender plays a significant role—is usually studied only as men’s violence against women and only as repressive violence. This narrow conception of gender violence impairs both our ability to understand how the gender system is constructed and perpetuated as well as our ability to develop programs that respond to this violence.
and policies to help prevent gender violence. This project, following the work of Michel Foucault and Judith Butler, takes a poststructuralist approach to the study of gender violence, arguing that to understand and reduce violence we must study the discourses that produce ideas and practices of violence. In this project, I examine this production in the “non-fiction” narratives told about the murder of people labeled as doing gender so as to be seen as a sex they were not labeled as at birth—a group commonly called “transgender.” To this end, I am examining public non-fiction texts produced about these killings in the United States between 1990 and 2005 by four forums that claim the knowledge they distribute is the truth: the media, activists, the criminal justice system, and academia. I collected and analyzed more than 7,000 individual stories about 192 homicides. I gathered these texts from a variety of sources, including search engines for news articles, activist websites, university libraries, and contacting individual police stations and courts for records. The texts include newspaper articles, newsmagazine articles, news radio transcripts, books, academic articles, websites, press releases, documentaries, judicial decisions, court transcripts, and police reports. I am examining the texts using a variety of concepts from textual analysis, including narratives, frames, discourses, and genealogies. An overarching theme that runs through my use of all these approaches is an examination of how claims to the real, the natural, and the true are produced in these stories. All of these aspects of language (narratives, frames, etc.) function to produce an idea of truth within texts, particularly when combined with the claim to objectivity and facticity central to the production of texts in all four forums. These claims to truth enabled a production of ideas about gender, violence, and the relationships between the two as well as a production of gender and violence practices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers

Special Issue of Gender & Society: “Gendered Borderlands” Guest Editors: Patricia Zavella and Denise A. Segura

Gender & Society invites submission of research articles and conceptual essays that explore the social construction of culturally gendered identities and the lived realities of Chicanas/os and Latinas/os in the borderlands. Literally, the borderlands include the geopolitical space around the U.S.-Mexico border characterized by the ongoing movement of people, products and ideas. Gloria Anzaldúa’s theoretical formulation of “borderlands,” however, postulates the existence of spaces that transcend the geopolitical border area where women, men, and children, adapt, resist and innovate to cope with social inequalities based on racial, gender, class and/or sexual differences. These expressions of agency incorporate spiritual transformations and psychic processes of exclusion and identification—of feeling “in between” cultures, languages, or places. Within these spaces, marginalized “others” voice their identities and resistance. All of these social, political, spiritual and emotional transitions transcend geopolitical space.

In the social sciences, borderlands research tends to focus on transnational social formations, how migrants engage in economic, political or socio-cultural activities that transcend national borders and “deterritorialize,” or span international boundaries. Increasingly researchers who use this approach consider multiple sites – “sending” and “receiving” communities – to concretize how deterritorialized processes unfold. Another important approach to borderlands emphasizes the social construction of new, hybridized identities where the fluidities of identities are shaped by multiple processes. Both approaches offer ways to identify some of the changes that historically disenfranchised subjects negotiate.

This special issue of Gender & Society seeks articles that utilize either approach or innovations in the field to analyze structural forces and borderlands subjects’ individual and collective agency or “subjective transnationalism.” Subjective transnationalism refers to individual and collective negotiations for economic and political space in the geographic and psychic borderlands in which they live, work, and play.

Manuscripts are due October 1, 2007. For more details and to read the full CFP, visit: http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/15177_G&S_CFP_06_07.pdf

Editors: Patricia Zavella, Department of Latina/o and Latin American Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, Email: zavella@ucsc.edu and Denise A. Segura, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, Email: segura@soc.ucsb.edu

Call for Papers

Edited Book: Sociology Through Film (Sage)

This edited volume is designed to cover key areas in sociology for undergraduate students, using film as the medium. The assumption is that students will have covered the basics at the introductory level and be prepared to use the sociological tools this volume provides to “unpack” issues of power, race, class, gender, and culture. In selecting readings for this text,
we are using the following criteria: 1) the article will include an overview of the specialty area, including key concepts; 2) the significance of each specialty area will be emphasized (e.g., the dynamics and politics of social class; immigrant experiences in the U.S.); and 3) one or more feature films will be used to illustrate the key concepts and significance of the specialty area. We are especially interested in chapters on the following: culture; class relations; class mobility; immigrant experiences; Hispanic/Latino(a) cultural identities; economy/work

Abstracts of 500 words and a short biography of the author are invited by August 15, 2007. Please send abstracts by email to both editors. Final chapters are to be submitted by December 1, 2007.

Editors: Kathryn Feltey, 248 Olin Hall, Dept. of Sociology, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-1905; felteyk@uakron.edu and Jean-Anne Sutherland, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of North Carolina Wilmington, 601 North College Road, Wilmington, NC, 28403; js23@uakron.edu

Call for Papers

Special Issue of *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*: “Beyond the Numbers: How the Lived Experiences of Women Challenges the “Success” of Welfare Reform”

Over the past 8 years, the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* has hosted a number of special editions since President Clinton “ended welfare as we know it.” Special topics such as *Evaluation of TANF* in 2001, *Coping with Poverty* in 2006, and upcoming ones in 2008 on *Globalization and Social Justice* and in 2009 on *Contemporary Social Welfare History*, bring attention to issues of critical concern within the field, and focus on human well-being in the wake of a society that appears to becoming less caring for those who are most vulnerable: the poor, immigrants, people of color, and single mothers on welfare. In addition, they frame the issues within the broader contexts of socially unjust systems, competitive global markets, and political and legislative processes that have led to policy changes, some positive, many not.

This special edition aims to explore and critically evaluate the lived experiences of women on and post-welfare using historical knowledge and current qualitative and quantitative research data. We intend for it to complement and extend the discussion of the special editions that have come before it and foreground those that will follow it. We imagine, for example, that this edition will provide an important array of articles that will nicely foreground the special edition on contemporary social welfare history that Richard Caputo is editing for 2009. Without doubt, the 1980’s were a pivotal turning point in social welfare history; neo-conservative theorists and policy analysts prevailed under the Reagan administration, paving the way for the fierce attacks on welfare in the 1990s and the eventual passage of the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996.

Specifically, we intend to focus this edition on how the actual experiences of low-income women challenges conventional ideas about the “success” of current welfare “reform” and how we can and must use this information to inform and impact public policy and address the systems of inequality that structure their lives. We are concerned with the celebratory approach that too many policy analysts have adopted in proclaiming the 1996 welfare initiative a “success.” Too many women have disappeared from eligibility programs, a large majority is just barely eking by on low-wage jobs without opportunities to advance into higher wage work, many more move in and out of the low-wage job market with distressing regularity, and over 40% remain poor. Women who had been attending college as a means to escape poverty have dropped out. Some are in prison, others have lost their children, some have taken their own lives. Like many of our colleagues, we are struck and amazed and discouraged by how many researchers consider welfare a “success.” Too few raise concerns about the current dismal state of women on welfare and of those who have left and disappeared. Fewer bring attention to poor women raising families on their own and to the disconnect between their real lives and the statistics that report on their lives. While it is true that welfare numbers are down, those who have been forced off or left are not doing well at all.

This special edition takes as its framework the work by Alice O’Connor in *Poverty Knowledge* wherein she brings attention to the ways in which poverty research has become an industry of sorts, more interested, it sometimes seems, in entrepreneurial gains and less interested in ameliorating poverty. O’Connor references welfare reform, calling it a “triumph of politics and ideology over knowledge.” We aim to bring forth the omitted knowledge that has been gathered by scholars and researchers since 1996. While the reams of data that had been collected over time proved to have little persuasive power over political decision-makers then, our concern is that the preponderance of evidence being produced that celebrates welfare “success” will have considerable influence in maintaining the harsh attitudes of current welfare policy as we know it now. It is to this that we would like this special issue to respond. This special edition provides the opportunity to bring attention to the lived experiences of women who are poor, and those...
We encourage submissions that demonstrate and challenge the proclaimed “success” of welfare reform and reflect the diversity of women’s lived experiences on and beyond welfare. We urge authors to suggest recommendations for crafting welfare and workforce policy that can raise women and their families out of poverty and allow them dignity and respect.

Submission length: 10 – 14 pages
Submission deadline: October 1, 2007
Send submissions in Word doc format to: jsswldmg@smlr.rutgers.edu

Editors: Luisa S. Deprez, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Southern Maine, PO BOX 9300, Portland, Maine 04104, Email: deprez@maine.edu and Mary Gatta, Director, Workforce Policy and Research, Center for Women and Work, 391 George Street, 3rd Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, Email: gatta@rci.rutgers.edu

Call for Abstracts


Over the past decade, racialized representations of Black and Latina/o sexualities as perverse Others have been systematically challenged by scholars and political and cultural activists from myriad disciplinary fields. The steady emergence of new exhibitions, performances, media, writings, virtual communities, and activist groups bear witness to the importance of how Black and Latina/o people love and express themselves sexually.

This conference brings attention to these "bodies of knowledge" - in their biological, social, cultural, and political forms - in order 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.

Bringing together activists, artists, independent scholars, faculty, practitioners, and students from a broad range of disciplines and fields, the conference aims to address issues of sexual desire and pleasure, cultural activism, black-brown dialogues and coalition-building, creating and performing sexual identities, human rights and social justice, and citizenship, among other topics. The conference venue presents a unique opportunity for the participants to examine critically the state of empirically grounded, historicized, and theoretically informed inquiries and practices around Black and Latina/o bodies and sexualities. Equally important in this moment then, is the recognition and scrutiny of how these interventions have made an impact on the fields of African American studies; Latina/o studies; women's and gender studies; sexuality studies; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer studies; as well as mainstream disciplines like literature, sociology, history, public health, psychology, art history, public policy, etc.

Participants from all disciplinary fields and perspectives who wish to engage with these issues are welcome. Through this interdisciplinary forum, the conference seeks to create a diverse intellectual community, to foster healthy debate about the intersections of race and sexuality, and to provide unique opportunities for networking and professional development. In turn, such working relationships can better inform public policy, present and future scholarly agendas, and community needs.

TOPICS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Art, Music, Literature and Censorship
- Black-Brown Dialogues and Coalitions
- Black and Latina/o Sexualities and Prison Culture
- Critical Approaches to Activism
- Cultural Productions and Activism
- Desire, Eroticism, Fantasy and Pornography
- Disability and Desir/Ability
- Family and Kin Relationships
- Geography and Sexual Identities and Practices
- Health and Sexual Decision Making
- Health Care and Health Education
- Human Rights, Sexual Rights, Civil Rights
- (Im)Migration, Diaspora and Transnationalism
- Intersections of Race, Sexuality and Spirituality
- Making and Un/Making of Erotic Black and Latina/o Bodies
- Mass Media Representations of Black and Latina/o Sexualities
- Philosophy
- Psychoanalytical Approaches to Black and Latina/o Sexualities
- Public Sex, Private Sex
- Queer Black and Latina/o Feminisms
- Queering Spaces, Producing Sexualities
- Race, Sex and the State
Interested participants may submit an abstract (approx. 300 words) for: 1) individual papers; 2) panels and roundtables (approx. 4 persons); 3) poster presentations; or 4) visual presentations (film, performance, video, photography displays). If applicable, please include any technology requests, space needs as well as low resolution images of your work, in addition to your abstract.

Please submit abstracts (as well as any queries) to RACESEXPOWER2008@DEPAUL.EDU

The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15, 2007.

Call for Contributions

Edited Volume: Teaching about Family and Gender Violence: A Collection of Instructional Materials

Materials for teaching about:
- Family violence
- Specific forms of family or related violence
- Elder abuse, child abuse, sibling violence, dating violence, child neglect, violence against women, sexual harassment, etc.
- Materials on family violence for other disciplines or courses
- Family, Women’s Studies, Social Work, Social Problems, Criminal Justice, etc.
- Social context of such violence
- Interventions, preventative education, recovery resources
- Course materials and other information
- Syllabi, Course Outlines or Lecture Outlines
- Assignments and Class Exercises
- Handouts and Overheads
- Charts, Graphs, Typologies
- Annotated items to be included on lists of recommended books, videos, internet websites, journal articles that are helpful in teaching these subjects.

Deadline: June 1, 2007

E-Mail an electronic copy (Word or Rich Text Format by e-Mail) to: barbara.keating@mnsu.edu
Or send to: Barbara Keating, Department of Sociology and Corrections, 113 Armstrong Hall, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, Minnesota 56001

For more information call: (507) 345-6839

Call for Papers

Special Issue of Race, Gender and Class: “Race, Gender, Class and Capitalism.” Guest Editors: Fred L. Pincus and Natalie J. Sokoloff

Many fine books and articles talking about the interconnections between race, gender and class often omit discussions of capitalism and are weak on the discussions of class. This is a significant omission since capitalism is the national and global economic system that currently dominates our planet. We would like to bring both capitalism and class back into the discussion in this special issue of RCG.

We invite articles that show how RGC dynamics have been and continue to be influenced by capitalism in the 20th and 21st Centuries. The articles can come from a variety of theoretical perspectives including intersectional, Marxist, feminist, conflict, postmodernist, etc. They can be theoretical or empirical. They can focus on specific institutions (e.g., family, education, criminal justice, etc). They can deal with the United States, another country or they can be transnational. Preference will be given to papers that deal with all three systems of race, gender and class.

Two copies of the completed paper (25 pages maximum) and a disk should be sent to Fred Pincus at Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250. They should be in either Word or Word Perfect format and should follow ASA guidelines. The extended deadline is August 15, 2007 and we anticipate that the issue will be published in early 2008. For questions please contact Fred Pincus (pincus@umbc.edu) or Natalie Sokoloff (nsokolof@jjay.cuny.edu)

Call for Papers

Edited Volume: Advances in Gender Research*
Co-editors Marcia Texler Segal and Vasilikie Demos

We invite papers for Volume 12, ADVANCES IN GENDER RESEARCH to be published in 2008. ADVANCES IN GENDER RESEARCH is a cross-disciplinary and cross-national series addressing a range of issues and concerns associated with gender including the gendered nature of society, gender inequality, the intersection of gender with other dimensions of social life and epistemological problems associated with the study of gender.
Volume 12 will feature papers delivered at such conferences held between 2006 and 2007 as the XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology in Durban, 2006, the American Sociological Association Meeting in Montreal, 2006, the North Central Sociological Association/Midwest Sociological Society Joint Meeting in Chicago, 2007 and the Harriet Martineau Society Meeting in Maynooth, Ireland, 2007, along with other papers examining an advance in gender research.

We are looking for original manuscripts on gender in a wide range of local and global settings and from a variety of feminist frameworks. All manuscripts must be in English and MSWord form. They should follow American Psychological Association (APA) manuscript guidelines. Submission of manuscripts as well as communication with the editors and publisher is electronic via e-mail.

Abstracts of papers for consideration in the volume are due by Monday, July 30, 2007. Submission of completed draft is due by Monday, October 29, 2007. Please send all submissions and communications to the editors via email as listed below.

Editors: Marcia Texler Segal, Professor Emerita, Sociology, Indiana University Southeast, Telephone: 502-458-8741, email: msegal@ius.edu and Vicky Demos, Professor Emerita, Sociology, University of Minnesota, Morris, telephone: 410-546-3979, email: demosvp@umn.edu

*ADVANCES IN GENDER RESEARCH* is an annual series published by Elsevier under the JAI imprint.

**Upcoming Conference**

5th International Carework Conference, August 10, 2007 at CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. Theme: “Is a Caring Society Possible? Mobilizing for Social Change.” Keynotes by Jody Heymann, Ann Crittendon, and MomsRising founders. The conference will bring together scholars and advocates who focus on the caring work of individuals, families, communities, paid caregivers, social service agencies and state bureaucracies. We will take stock of what we now know about the organization of care in the U.S., and begin to develop strategies to effect change at both local and national levels. See [http://www.carework-network.org](http://www.carework-network.org) for more details.

**Job Announcements**

St. Louis University. Saint Louis University, a Catholic, Jesuit institution, dedicated to student learning, research, health care and service, invites applications for a tenured position as Director of the Women’s Studies Program to begin July 1, 2008. This 9-month position is full-time in the program, with tenure residing in an appropriate department. Applicants at the associate and full professor level only should apply. The job ad is online at [http://jobs.slu.edu](http://jobs.slu.edu). For full consideration, apply by Friday, October 5, 2007.

University of Southern California. The Department of Sociology is searching for a tenure-track, assistant professor, to start in fall 2008. We seek applicants with strong research and teaching records or promise of scholarly excellence in the field of international migration and/or immigrant communities. To be considered, a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, samples of written work, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and three letters of recommendation must be received by October 20, 2007. All materials should be addressed to: Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-2539. USC values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity in employment. Women and men, and members of all racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply.

**New Books**


Feminist Waves, Feminist Generations challenges the static figuring of feminist generations that positions the second wave of feminist scholars against a homogenous third wave. Based on life stories from contemporary feminist scholars, this volume emphasizes how feminism develops unevenly over time and across institutions, and ultimately offers a new paradigm for theorizing the intersections between generations and waves of thought. Some of the contributors include: Hokulani Aikau, Lisa Disch, Sara Evans, Rod Ferguson, Peter Hennen, Wendy Leo Moore, Toni McNaron, Jean O’Brien, Jennifer Pierce, Felicity Schaeffer-Grabiels, Janet Spector, and many more.


This book provides a rare glimpse into the world of teenage Witches in the United States, England, and Australia. Although most are white, middle class, and female we meet young people from all walks of life all of who have chosen to become Witches. There has been an increase in the number of young people who become Witches since the 1990s. This has in part been fueled by the media. Although always an aspect of the religion the young more than their elders are involved in the self-
development aspect of the religion, participating in spells and rituals that emphasize self-transformation. But Witchcraft is more than a self-help program; it is a religion, which provides meaning in the face of crisis and the unknown, a sense of self, and a way of interacting with others and the world. Unlike their elders few of the young are either environmentalists or feminists, however, almost all have absorbed from the religion’s reverence for nature and the emphasis on the Goddess an environmental and gender equity attitude. Like practitioners of all religions they believe that theirs is beneficial to them and to world. Contrary to images that sometimes appear in the media of young people being lead into Satanism and harmful behavior or of just practicing spells for personal gain, the young people in this book are shown to be serious about their religion, involved in the world around them, and concerned about how their own action effect others.


Generations of social thinkers have assumed that access to legitimate paid employment and a decline in the ‘double standard’ would eliminate the reasons behind women’s participation in prostitution. Yet in both the developing world and in postindustrial cities of the West, sexual commerce has continued to flourish, diversifying along technological, spatial, and social lines. In this deeply engaging and theoretically provocative study, Elizabeth Bernstein examines the social features that undergird the expansion and diversification of commercialized sex, demonstrating the ways that postindustrial economic and cultural formations have spawned rapid and unforeseen changes in the forms, meanings, and spatial organization of sexual labor.

Drawing upon dynamic and innovative research with sex workers, their clients, and state actors, Bernstein argues that in cities such as San Francisco, Stockholm, and Amsterdam, the nature of what is purchased in commercial sexual encounters is also new. Rather than the expedient exchange of cash for sexual relations, what sex workers are increasingly paid to offer their clients is an erotic experience premised upon the performance of authentic interpersonal connection. As such, contemporary sex markets are emblematic of a cultural moment in which the boundaries between intimacy and commerce—and between public life and private—have been radically redrawn. Not simply a compelling exploration of the changing landscape of sex-work, Temporarily Yours ultimately lays bare the intimate intersections of political economy, desire, and culture.


Corporate globalization has intensified in recent years, taking a terrible toll on the lives of ordinary women in the global North and South. The Wages of Empire: Neoliberal Policies, Repression, and Women’s Poverty investigates the related processes of neoliberal economic restructuring and increased militarization, tracking policy and its enforcement to its impact on low-income women. This interdisciplinary volume provides rich analyses of the oppressive working and living conditions of urban and rural women, rightward shifts in public policies, and women’s resistance to these developments. Much of the recent scholarship on the contemporary empire analyzes it in gender-neutral terms. Instead, this volume contributes to a growing body of feminist literature on globalization, providing haunting and inspiring accounts from across the globe of women’s daily struggles with multinational corporations, structural adjustment programs, armed police, and invading armies.


Chapter Nine on "Organizational Carework and the Women of KYCC and KIWA" discusses the ways in which Korean and Korean American women have contributed to the organizational growth and development of 1.5/2nd generation ethnic organizations in Koreatown by assuming certain caretaker roles and responsibilities, cultivating and personalizing intimate relationships, humanizing the political goals of nonprofit organizations, and developing innovative programs that connect the abstract politics with the lived experiences of clientele.


The social psychology of gender analyzes the ways gender shapes and is shaped by social interaction. This includes the cognitive processes through which gender influences the way we perceive, interpret, and respond to our social world; it also includes the mechanisms through which interaction defines and transmits meaning about gender. The volume emphasizes the importance of understanding gender as a multilevel structure that includes cultural beliefs and distributions of resources at the macro level, patterns of behavior at the interactional level, as well as roles and identities at the micro level. The volume includes papers by major gender scholars from multiple disciplines that work in the general area of
group processes. The authors examine a wide-range of topics including stereotyping, sexism, social networks, emotional and status processes, socialization and religiosity, and they lay out the implications of these processes for women and men (and boys and girls) in families, educational institutions and the workplace. The volume closes with a chapter that draws on a group process approach to explain why gender inequality persists in the face of economic and institutional changes that increasingly de-emphasize difference based on gender.


Based on a number of sources, including interviews with 96 women diagnosed with breast cancer, Julia Ericksen shows how cultural messages about breast cancer—the illness of the decade—shape women’s accounts of their illness and how these accounts are limited by the social structure. Ericksen describes four response patterns. Traditional responders trusted the medical establishment and followed doctors’ orders. Although religious responders obeyed doctors, their faith was in God, not biomedicine. Biomedical experts thought that scientific medicine was the route to a cure but wanted to partner doctors rather than merely follow instructions. Finally, alternative experts also believed in making decisions themselves but were suspicious of biomedicine. Biomedical experts thought that scientific medicine was the route to a cure but wanted to partner doctors rather than merely follow instructions. Finally, alternative experts also believed in making decisions themselves but were suspicious of biomedicine and compromised on treatment. Membership in these groups had profound impacts on women’s theories about why they got cancer; on their treatment decisions once diagnosed; on relationships with friends and family; on issues of body and intimacy; and on the types of activism in which some women became involved. But all women found themselves disturbed by the mutilation caused by cancer surgery and, sometimes, reconstruction. Taking Charge of Breast Cancer explores all these issues and more, adding to our understanding of illness narratives.


This book expands the intellectual exchange between sociologists researching the Holocaust and post-Holocaust life and other scholars working on collective memory, diaspora, and transnationalism. The collection is comprised of two types of essays: primary research examining Holocaust and its aftermath using the analytic tool prominent in recent interdisciplinary scholarship, and commentaries on the how the research contributes to ongoing inquiries in studies of collective memory and guilt, identity, and diaspora and immigration. Many of the authors are gender scholars who demonstrate in their writing how gender matters in Holocaust research. The volume includes essays by Richard Alba, Caryn Aviv, Ethel Brooks, Rachel Einwohner, Yen Le Espiritu, Kathie Friedman, Debra Kaufman, Rhonda Levine, Arlene Stein, Suzanne Vromen, as well as the editors, Judith Gerson and Diane Wolf plus many others.


From beer ads in the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue to four-year-old boys and girls playing soccer; from male athletes’ sexual violence against women to homophobia and racism in sport, Out of Play analyzes connections between gender and sport from the 1980s to the present. The book illuminates a wide range of contemporary issues in popular culture, children’s sports, and women’s and men’s college and professional sports. Each chapter is preceded by a short introduction that lays out the context in which the piece was written. Drawing on his own memories as a former athlete, informal observations of his children’s sports activities, and more formal research such as life-history interviews with athletes and content analyses of sports media, Michael A. Messner presents a multifaceted picture of gender constructed through an array of personalities, institutions, cultural symbols, and everyday interactions.


Overview chapter and 17 studies in four parts covering socio-cultural context, marriage and family, empowerment of the marginalized, and women in new roles.


Facing the polar forces of an epidemic of cesarean sections and epidurals and home-like labor rooms, American birth is in transition. Caught between the most extreme medicalization — best seen in a cesarean section rate of nearly 30 percent — and a rhetoric of women’s “choices” and “the natural,” women and their midwives, doulas, obstetricians, and nurses labor on. Laboring On offers the voices of all of these practitioners, all women trying to help women, as they struggle with this increasingly split vision of birth. Updating Barbara Katz Rothman’s now-classic In Labor, the first feminist sociological analysis of birth in the United States, Laboring On gives a comprehensive picture of the ever-changing American birth practices and often conflicting visions of birth practitioners. The authors deftly weave compelling accounts of birth work, by midwives, doulas, obstetricians, and nurses, into the larger sociohistorical context of health care practices and activism and offer
provocative arguments about the current state of affairs and the future of birth in America.


The Kaleidoscope of Gender is the only text-reader for professors teaching sociology of gender courses with extensive introductions to each chapter. Spade and Valentine integrate cross-national readings and readings based on intersectional analysis throughout the text. This anthology contains timely, accessible articles encouraging students to consider how gender patterns affect everyday life and how they might seek change in their own lives.


This anthology of 62 readings from contemporary scholarly literature, trade books, popular media, as well as contributed articles, examines the many ways in which human sexuality is a socially constructed and regulated behavior, and how it is studied by social scientists.


Drawing upon a rich collection of data from focus groups, interviews and textual sources, Market Dreams conveys the experiences of female managers and factory workers in the Czech Republic as the country moved from socialism to a market democracy. A clear and compelling account, rooted in rigorous sociological research and comparative feminism, Elaine Weiner's book represents a significant advance for the literatures on transition, and on women in Eastern Europe.


This book focuses on the postwar lives of hidden Jewish children in the Netherlands, using a feminist perspective to analyze family reconstruction after genocide. Based on interviews with 70 former hidden children, the book reveals that for many if not most, they felt that their "war began after the war." Employing narrative analysis, the painful and conflicting postwar lives of surviving families are revealed, dispelling any myths about warm, comforting Jewish family life. Equally important is the book's deconstruction of the global myth perpetuated by Anne Frank's story, revealing that the Dutch government and population were indifferent toward their Jewish population if not anti-Semitic both during and especially after the war. A gendered analysis is woven throughout the book when looking at who was hidden and relationships with hiding parents and then biological parents. The author argues that sixty years ago, after the war, Jewish children experienced the complexities of what we now term "the postmodern family." This research forces deep questioning of the entire notion of "family."


This is the first specialty book produced by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. The goal of this book is to dispel myths regarding menopause and provide important information that will enable women to take care of their own health and get the best possible assistance. Member Jean Elson wrote the chapter on "Sudden and Early Menopause."

**New Journal Articles**


**Member Awards**

Jean Elson (University of New Hampshire) was awarded the 2007 UNH Pink Triangle Award for outstanding contributions toward achieving equity and visibility for the UNH GLBT community. She also received a competitive faculty instructional technology grant from UNH.

Doreen E. Martinez (Northern Arizona University) was accepted to the Women of Color Leadership Project through the National Women's Studies Association.

Benita Roth (Binghamton University) received the 2006-2007 Heller-Bernard Fellowship, awarded by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York, for archival research project "Anti-AIDS Activism in Los Angeles from the 1980s to the 2000s: From Streets to Suits." She also received one of the 2006-7 SUNY (State University of New York) Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Elaine Weiner (McGill University) recently received an $86,000 grant for a three-year project titled "Gender Travels and Translations: The European Union, Equal Opportunities and the Czech Republic" from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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### 2006-2007

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**2006-2007**

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