



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS

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NEW SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

We are pleased to announce that Melinda Milligan, Associate Professor, begins her term as Department Chair in Fall 2009. She is taking over after Professor Myrna Goodman's term as chair, from 2005-2009. Professor Milligan notes, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute to the Department by serving as Chair and to

continue the excellent work done by Professor Goodman. Our Department is dedicated to educating and advising our students well. That commitment will continue, even in these challenging times."



The Sociology Department at the 2009 California Sociological Association Conference



The 2009 California Sociological Association meetings were held in Berkeley on November 13 and 14. The

Sociology session. Professor Melinda Milligan organized a session on Emotions and Social Life where she also presented a paper "Place Attachment Revisited." Professor Sheila Katz organized a session on the Sociology of Gender, where she also presented a paper with co-author Anita Rees of the nonprofit organization Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education (LIFETIME) titled "Education Works! Conducting Participatory Action Research with Mothers on Welfare." Lauren Stavish, Senior and Sociology Club President, presented on the Sociology of Education session a paper titled "Obstacles to Women's Post-Baccalaureate Educational Attainment."

SSU Sociology Department was well represented at the meeting. Students and faculty presented papers, organized sessions, and Professor Peter Phillips gave the CSA keynote address on Friday evening, titled "International Truth Emergency and Public Sociology: How Colleges and Universities Can support Media Democracy." Professor Myrna Goodman presented on a panel about the Lower Division Transfer Pattern by Major, a project to assist community college students to prepare for study in the CSU, in which she was the discipline coordinator for Sociology. Professor Kathy Charmaz gave a presentation, "Reflecting on Doing and Teaching Qualitative Analysis" as part of the Reflections on Using Qualitative Methods in



Editors' Note:

Greetings! The Sociology Department is excited to present the third issue of the Department Newsletter. We would like this newsletter to be a place where students past & present can connect, faculty can share their research, and the department can announce news and events. If you are interested in publishing an article, submitting pictures, or including an announcement, please feel free to contact us at: sociology@sonoma.edu.

SOCI 375 OFFERED IN 2010 WINTER INTERSESSION

Classical Sociological Theory will be offered over winter intersession through the Department of Extended Education. Contact Extended Education (707) 664-2394 or Professor James Dean via e-mail: deanja@sonoma.edu with questions.

Sociology 375, 4 Units, GE upper division, category D1, January 5-23, 9:00AM-1:15PM.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB UPDATE



This semester's department social was a great success; the Sociology Club would like to thank everyone for coming. There was a very good turnout of both students and faculty. While enjoying pizza, soda, and vegan rice crispy treats students socialized with each other and with their professors about current events and upcoming classes. It was a nice chance to interact with fellow students and faculty outside of class time. We look forward to our ice cream social next semester.

The Sociology Club is now meeting every week on Thursdays from 12-12:50pm in Stevenson 2083; everyone is welcome. We are currently organizing a fundraiser for the local women's day-shelter, The Living Room, to provide them with toiletries, personal products, clothing, and other daily essentials for women and children. We are also co-sponsoring an event with Professor Peter Phillips called "Beyond the Rhetoric: What Everyone Needs to Know About the Current Realities of the Israeli Occupation and Prospects for a Just Resolution in Israel/Palestine." This event is free to students and will include two speakers with firsthand experience in Israel. It will take place Tuesday December 8th at 7pm, room TBA. We hope to see you there!

2009 C. Wright Mills Award Winner, Erin Garnett

The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce that **Erin Garnett** has received the 2009 C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination. The Mills Award is bestowed annually on the best student paper from the previous academic year (2008-09). Erin's winning paper, "Transgressive Gender Socialization 'Comes Out' in Lesbian- and Gay-Themed Children's Books," was written for Sociology 498 (Senior Seminar, Fall 2008). Congratulations, Erin!



SSU Sociology at the 2009 American Sociological Association Meeting

The SSU Sociology Department was well represented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) meeting in San Francisco this past August. Both Professors Kathy Charmaz and Melinda Milligan started their executive positions in the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI) for 2009-2010. Professor Charmaz is President of SSSI and Professor Milligan is Vice-President of the society. In addition, Professor Charmaz presented a paper, "Assaults on the Life-World: Studying Chronic Illness through Grounded Theory," at the SSSI annual meeting. Professor Milligan also presented a paper, "Balancing Emotions and Logic: Client Experiences with Home Organization Professions," which was co-authored with Randall Precup, a SSU student, at the ASA meeting. Additionally, Dr. Milligan co-organized the ASA's Community and Urban Sociology Roundtables, acted as a discussant on the "Cities, Communities, and Disaster" panel at the ASA, and presided and acted as a discussant on a session titled "Urban Imagery" at SSSI.

Professor Shelia Katz presented a paper at the Sex and Gender Section's Roundtables at the ASA meeting entitled "My Education Means Everything to

Me': CalWORKs Mothers' Rationales for Pursuing Higher Education." Professor James Dean presented a paper, "Thinking Straight: Gender, Race, and (Anti) Homophobias," at the Sexualities Section's Roundtables. In addition, Professor Dean organized the reception for the Sociology of Sexualities section, which was held at the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Historical Society's exhibition space in the Castro.

Lauren Stavish, Sally Casanova Predoctoral Scholar for

Lauren Stavish (Sociology major, WGS minor) was named a Sally Casanova Predoctoral Scholar for 2009-2010. She is the only predoctoral scholar from SSU. The purpose of the predoctoral scholar program is to encourage CSU undergraduates to pursue doctoral studies. The program provides support for research, travel and preparation for graduate school. In September, Stavish participated in a day-long predoctoral orientation and symposium at CSU East Bay along with her faculty sponsor, Cindy Stearns.



FACULTY NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kathy Charmaz

Kathy Charmaz gave a course on grounded theory methods in qualitative research October 20-22 at the School of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark in Odense. Doctoral students in health sciences from all over Denmark were invited to attend. Students in nursing, medicine, public health, and one civil engineer took the course. On October 23rd, Dr. Charmaz delivered an address titled, "Grounded Theory: The Second Generation," to the Danish Nursing Research Society.

Myrna Goodman

Myrna Goodman, Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, was part of a successful team from SSU that was awarded one of 11 saplings from the horse chestnut tree in the courtyard of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. In addition to being the only California site, SSU was the only university to receive a tree. Among others, awardees are the White House, Central High School in Little Rock, the 9/11 Museum and Memorial in NYC and the William Clinton Library in Arkansas. The tree needs to spend time in quarantine and eventually will be planted in the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust and Genocide Memorial located near the Alumni Grove.

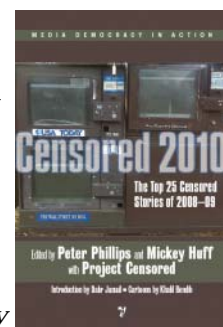


Sheila Katz

Sheila Katz organized and presented on a panel "Hope for Hunger and Homelessness" as part of JUMP's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week at SSU on November 16. Dr. Katz discussed the state of hunger and homelessness in Sonoma County, and recent developments in state and national policy. Panel members included clients, staff, and volunteers from local human services organizations. Participating organizations included the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS), the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Catholic Charities Family Support Center, and the Salvation Army.

Peter Phillips

Peter Phillips turned over the directorship of Project Censored to Dr. Ben Frymer in Liberal Studies in July. Peter's last yearbook "Censored 2010," co-edited with Mickey Huff, was released in September. Peter and Mickey remain active in media research through the Media Freedom Foundation and are actively encouraging other colleges and universities to engage in evaluating and validating independent news stories for web postings year round at: Validated Independent News www.mediafreedominternational.org. Additionally, Peter Blogs at: dailycensored.com and works to support the daily news at www.projectcensored.org



Cindy Stearns

Cindy Stearns has an article forthcoming in the Women's Studies Quarterly special issue on "Mother" being released in December 2009. "Breastfeeding as Work" employs qualitative methods to examine the bodywork of breastfeeding and how it influences the division of labor in families. As part of the launch of this special issue, Dr. Stearns has been invited to present her paper in a panel on reflexive/self-reflective motherhood at the WSQ Mother Symposium at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York in February 2010.

Spring 2010 Highlighted Courses

SOCI 452: Methods Seminar Health Care & Illness

Professor Kathy Charmaz

Method: Qualitative Methods

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a sociological perspective on health and illness.
2. To be able to identify and critique issues in the US health care system.
3. To understand the logic and form of qualitative research methods.
4. To become adept at participating in seminar discussions and giving presentations.
5. To improve writing, critiquing, analyzing, and speaking skills.

6. To know how and when to use qualitative methods.
7. To demonstrate competence in conducting and reporting a qualitative study.

This course will have dual emphases on the area of health and illness and on using qualitative methods to study topics in this area. The seminar format of the course requires students to take an active role in shaping class sessions. We will study the structure of the health care system and the social psychology of health and illness. Through discussion of course readings, we will address such questions

as: What are the implications of the current health care debates and efforts to change the structure of care? Who benefits from the changes and status quo? Why is the US health care system so different from those in other developed nations? Why is US health care set up for acute illness when chronic conditions are so prevalent? What is health? What does experiencing a serious illness mean to people who have them? How does it affect their lives and the lives of those around them? How should American society draw lines between social and individual responsibility for health?

SOCI 436: Methods Seminar Investigative Sociology

Professor Peter Phillips

Method: Qualitative Methods and Comparative Historical Analysis

Course Objectives:

1. The class will focus on the use of sociological research for the development of news stories for popular press publication.
2. Students will assist in the design, research and writing of an comparative-investigatory sociological study on police killings in the United States.
3. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the techniques of research interviewing.

4. Students' ability to take detailed observational field notes will be fully developed.
5. Students will learn to code and analyze data from qualitative interview transcripts.
6. Students will learn to ground their qualitative data in a comparative historical context.
7. Students will write a individual final analysis paper from the data and literature review the class collectively obtains.
8. Students will learn to prepare literature reviews on social justice issues and to summarize sociological research in op-ed pieces and letters to the editor for publication.

The course topic focuses on a comparative study of police killings in the United States. We will look at how many police related deaths occurred in the US during 2007 and ask whether that number is higher than the dataset collected in 1997. What difference can we observe? What interpretations of the events do family members collectively share? Students will conduct a full review of electronic data bases in the US media for a two week period in 2007 to establish the number police killings during that time.

SOCI 443: Methods Seminar Women & Social Policy

Professor Sheila Katz

Method: Focus Groups

Course Objectives:

This course explores the effects of social policies and their implementation on women's lives and analyzes the ideologies shaping these policies, especially how gender intersects with race/ethnicity; class; sexuality; age; and religion to affect policy outcomes. It traces the development of social policy in the U.S. as it pertains to and affects women and gender inequality. For our purposes, social policy includes state and federal law, court decisions, and

pending legislation. We will explore the effects of social welfare programs and policies on women's lives, analyze and critique the ideologies that shape these policies and their implementation, and consider how gender intersects with race/ethnicity, family, age, religion, and place to affect policy outcomes.

The introductory section of the course provides the foundations for discussion of policy issues. In the first third of the semester, we will discuss the changing concepts of sex and gender, and examine the relationship between gender and policy-

making. The bulk of the course is devoted to some of the issues (and relevant policies) that directly affect the lives of women in the contemporary U.S: education, violence against women, reproduction, employment, and poverty/welfare policy. The goal of this course is to help you learn how to evaluate both the stated and hidden effects of public policy on women. In addition, students will learn focus group methodology, including planning, conducting, and analyzing an independent focus group semester-long project.

SPRING 2010: SOCIOLOGY SENIOR SEMINAR TOPICS

Sociology 498: Senior Seminar courses are offered with different topics each semester. Each student designs and completes an independent original research project, including the collection and analysis of primary data.

Three sections will be offered in Spring 2010:

Professor Dean's section will focus on gender and sexualities. The course will use both poststructural theoretical perspectives as well as empirical examples to explore contemporary shifts in masculinities, femininities, heterosexualities, and homosexualities in the United States. Topics will include college men's masculinities, the gender socialization of young boys and girls in elementary school, and the social-historical construction of gay masculinities.

Professor Byrne's section will have an emphasis on the nature of time in social life. The seminar will address social time at all levels of analysis, ranging from the microsocial level of face to face interaction to the macrosocial level of societal and socio-historical phenomena.

Professor Milligan's section will have an emphasis on the built environment, which includes the sociological study of such topics as place attachment, community, public space, architecture, urban design, urban policy, and many others. The course will use an interactionist perspective.

A Selection of Fall 2009 Senior Seminar Abstracts

Sociology 498 is the "capstone" course for sociology majors. It focuses on student completion of independent research projects. Each section has a topical emphasis. Past examples include women and aging, food and society, and gender and politics. Each student designs and completes an original research project, including the collection and analysis of original data. Below are highlighted senior seminar projects from this semester.

Queering the American Dream: How LGBTQ Families are Redefining the Dream

Emma Smales

Method: In-Depth Interviews

My research focuses on queer families and their interpretation of the American Dream. I have chosen to conduct in-depth interviews with queer parents. The nuclear family has long been a major tenet of the American Dream and queer families are actively redefining the definition of family. The question that continues to surface in my research is whether queer families are examples of queering the normal or normalizing the queer?

Obstacles and Identities: The Impact of Gender and Class on Aspiring Women Graduate Students

Lauren Stavish

Method: In-Depth Interviews

Race and social class play a large role in determining available opportunities in education; gendered inequalities compound the effects of socioeconomic inequality within higher education. Through 10 in-depth interviews with aspiring women graduate students, this research seeks to answer these questions: (1) how do women students aspiring to attend graduate school perceive and experience any obstacles to their educational goals? and (2) how does social class impact the decision making process of these women? Analyzing their narrative accounts will allow me to explore the role of gender and class in their educational journey and to examine how women's backgrounds inform their identity as they plan for and apply to graduate school.

Latino Students and the American Dream

Luis Gonzalez

Method: In-Depth Interviews

My research focuses on the way that Latino students view the American dream, how that view is shaped, and if they consider education to be a key factor in achieving the American Dream. I will explore the challenges that Latino students face trying to achieve their goals and the challenges that they see coming ahead.



Senior Seminar Abstracts

I am interested in whether these students see their status as minority students as a factor that brings more challenges. I expect to find that the majority of Latino students consider education to be a key factor to achieve the American Dream but struggle because of lack of opportunities.

“Suffer the Little Children” Matthew 19:14

Morgan Brunslík

Method: In-Depth Interviews

The severity of circumstances bringing children into foster care is escalating with the current economic crisis. Therefore, the permanent status of these children has become much riskier for failure in all areas our culture defines as successful. My topic “Reverse Transitioning” is the period of time foster parents visit children once they have moved to their new permanent home. The intention is to reassure children they have not been abandoned. For my study, I analyze qualitative interviews of foster parents and professionals to discover whether criteria can be identified for transitioning a child into a new home environment with positive outcomes.

AB 540 Students and Educational Opportunities Luis Bravo

Method: In-Depth interviews

Latino students have historically attended college in smaller numbers than those of the general population. However, little attention has been paid to undocumented students and their ability to get a higher education. The obstacles that this population faces are numerous and one of them is paying for college. In California Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540) was passed in 2001 allowing undocumented students that graduated from a California high school the opportunity to pay in-state tuition rather out-of-state tuition. I seek to understand what effect this law (AB 540) has had on them, their education and their future lives.

Seniors Citizens and the American Dream

Anne M. Christie

Method: Focus Groups

My research project will explore how seniors in the North Bay conceptualize the American Dream. In many ways, Americans who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II were viewed as the

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI LISTSERVE

Do you want to keep in touch with other sociology graduates? Let other grads know about your accomplishments and hear about theirs? Learn about possible job opportunities? Then SIGN-UP for the Sociology Alumni Listserv!

<http://www.sonoma.edu/sociology/Alumni.htm>

Are you looking for another way to keep in touch with other sociology alumni? We are looking for alumni updates for upcoming issues of the Sociology Department Newsletter. Send us yours today!

Email us at sociology@sonoma.edu.

'poster-children' of what the American Dream symbolizes. Through talking with today's seniors in focus groups—many of whom were just starting to make their way in the world during the 1940s and 50s—I will explore and better understand what the American Dream represented for these seniors, how their dreams were influenced by the opportunities present during the early part of the 20th century, and how their American Dream might have changed over the course of their lives.

Classing the Dream: The Effects of Socioeconomic Class on the Pursuit of the American Dream Through Higher Education

Jessica Muscatell

Method: Focus Groups

The purpose of this project is to explore the implications of socioeconomic status and class on students' pursuit of the American Dream through higher education. Higher education has become one of the largest social institutions in American society and has been the avenue for upward mobility for many people. In association with the American Dream, higher education, or what one hoped to achieve through higher education, is a primary success factor. The project itself consists of a comparative analysis between high and low socioeconomic status (SES) students as well as their motivation for attending and experiences in higher education.

NOVEMBER IS ADVISING ALERT MONTH!

Course Number	Prerequisites
SOCI 100: Intro to Sociology (3B, 3C)	—
SOCI 100: Sociological Research Methods	SOCI 101
SOCI 101: Sociological Research Methods	SOCI 100 and SOCI 100
SOCI 110: Cultural Theory (3B, 3C)	SOCI 100
SOCI 199: Senior Seminar	SOCI 100, SOCI 101, SOCI 110, SOCI 115, SOCI 116, SOCI 117, SOCI 118, SOCI 119, SOCI 120, SOCI 121, SOCI 122, SOCI 123, SOCI 124, SOCI 125, SOCI 126, SOCI 127, SOCI 128, SOCI 129, SOCI 130, SOCI 131, SOCI 132, SOCI 133, SOCI 134, SOCI 135, SOCI 136, SOCI 137, SOCI 138, SOCI 139, SOCI 140, SOCI 141, SOCI 142, SOCI 143, SOCI 144, SOCI 145, SOCI 146, SOCI 147, SOCI 148, SOCI 149, SOCI 150, SOCI 151, SOCI 152, SOCI 153, SOCI 154, SOCI 155, SOCI 156, SOCI 157, SOCI 158, SOCI 159, SOCI 160, SOCI 161, SOCI 162, SOCI 163, SOCI 164, SOCI 165, SOCI 166, SOCI 167, SOCI 168, SOCI 169, SOCI 170, SOCI 171, SOCI 172, SOCI 173, SOCI 174, SOCI 175, SOCI 176, SOCI 177, SOCI 178, SOCI 179, SOCI 180, SOCI 181, SOCI 182, SOCI 183, SOCI 184, SOCI 185, SOCI 186, SOCI 187, SOCI 188, SOCI 189, SOCI 190, SOCI 191, SOCI 192, SOCI 193, SOCI 194, SOCI 195, SOCI 196, SOCI 197, SOCI 198, SOCI 199
First Year in Class Courses	—
Sociology Electives	—
Senior SOC 199: Required for Graduation	—

Do you have questions about registration?

Do you know where you stand in your progress towards your Sociology degree?

Are you concerned that the California state budget crisis

is going to impact your progress through school?

It's time to see a Sociology Advisor!

Sociology Department faculty have office hours available throughout the week to advise students about progress towards their degrees, discuss registration options for spring semester, and make a graduation plan!

The Sociology Department office is located on the second floor of Stevenson Hall in Stevenson 2084. Feel free to stop by or call us at (707) 664-2561.

See a Sociology Department Advisor every semester to ensure that you are making progress towards your sociology degree!



The Sociology Department has a New Website!

The Sociology Department is pleased to announce the new department website!

Are you looking for the most up to date information about the Sociology Major?

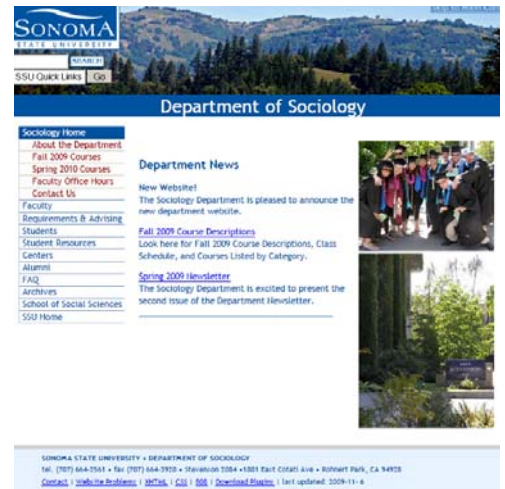
Would you like to find out about department events?

The new website is the place to go!

Go to www.sonoma.edu/sociology for:

- Department News and Announcements
- Course descriptions written by the faculty teaching the class
- In-depth faculty information including, photos, research interests, publications, and classes taught.
- Sociology student accomplishments including awards, conference presentations, and photos.
- In-depth advising information including advising hours, and major requirements
- Resource links to useful research websites and information about graduate school.

Please send feedback about the new website to: Katie Musick, (707) 664-2934 or musick@sonoma.edu.



Sociology Newsletter Team

Editor: Katie Musick

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Contributing Writers: Noel Byrne, Kathy Charmaz, James Dean, Myrna Goodman, Sheila Katz, Melinda Milligan, Peter Phillips, Lauren Stavish, and Cindy Stearns.

Special thanks to the students who contributed their senior seminar abstracts. Without your help and enthusiasm this Newsletter would not be possible.

The Sociology Newsletter is published once a semester and is available online at: www.sonoma.edu/sociology.