



# *Sexualities News*

Newsletter of the Sociology of Sexualities Section of the  
American Sociological Association

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

We seem always to be in turbulent times in the area of sexuality. With the culture wars having no end in sight, as Massachusetts contends with some 38 DOMA states, we are sure to continue to have fertile ground for sociological analysis. This year's theme for the open session, nation and sexuality, is meant to provide a forum for some of the work which is (hopefully) happening to make sense of it all. And we've kept the open roundtable format for our other allocated session to provide as many opportunities as possible to showcase the work-in-progress of section members.

The Sexualities section is fortunately a section showing considerable vitality. How can undergraduate (and graduate) institutions fail to offer courses in sexuality as they are perennially popular and address critical issues of our times? And though we are clearly starting from behind, when compared to the many more established sections of ASA, we can't help but make a mark on the discipline, and yes, job opportunities have to follow to meet student demand.

San Francisco is always a popular city to meet in, so our sessions are likely to be even better attended in 2004 than ever. See you there!

*-Barry Adam, University of Windsor*

## **Section Membership: Achievements & Opportunities**

According to this year's ASA census of its sections, Sociology of Sexualities is coming in with a healthy membership of 343. The fact that half of our members are in the student category suggests that sexualities must be a growth area in the discipline. I would especially like to welcome new members. While 343 is the highest membership number reached to date, please let other people know about the section who may be interested.

*See Section Membership, page 3*

**Visit the Sociology of Sexualities website at:  
<http://www.asanet.org/sectionsex/index.html>**

## MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

**WEATHERING CHANGE: Gays and Lesbians, Christian Conservatives, and Everyday Hostilities** by Thomas J. Linneman, New York University Press 272 pages, \$19.00

This book tells a tale of two Northwestern cities: Seattle, well known nationally for its liberalism, and Spokane, its conservative cousin to the east. *Weathering Change* characterizes the ways these liberal and conservative environments translate into hostility and hospitality for the Christian conservatives, gay men, and lesbians who live within them. Linneman gives us a firsthand account of how people from both groups think about social change in relation to the media, the public, the government, their communities, and their opposition. Indeed, we gain much needed insight into why Christian conservatives view the progress of the gay and lesbian movement as such a threat.

“Perceptions of political climates and the impact of these perceptions on social change are at the heart of Thomas Linneman's fascinating study of Christian conservatives and lesbians/gays. Using surveys, in-depth interviews, and content analyses of newspapers, he uncovers another side of social movements, namely, the role of social contexts in creating narratives about unique worlds that push people to mobilize against oppression. He persuasively describes how Christian conservatives and lesbians/gays in two very different cities organize, perceive, and make sense of their lives and explains how their intersecting views contribute to the development of social activism.”—Peter M. Nardi, author of *Gay Men's Friendships: Invincible Communities*

**RACE, ETHNICITY, AND SEXUALITY: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers.** Joane Nagel (2003) Oxford University Press. 308pp.

What's sex got to do with race? With ethnicity? With nationalism? What do race, ethnicity, and nationalism have to do with sex? *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality* addresses these questions, exploring the intimate intersections

and forbidden frontiers where ethnicity and sexuality meet face-to-face. Through numerous examples from the U.S. and beyond—and from the past and the present—the book illustrates the power of sex to shape ideas and feelings about race, ethnicity, and the nation. It shows how sexual images, fears, and desires help form racial, ethnic, and national stereotypes, differences, and conflicts; how ethnicity and sexuality join hands to fashion new, hybrid identities, communities, and cultures; how the volatile mixture of race and sex can spark ethnic violence; and how ethnosexual encounters can simultaneously resist and reinforce racial, ethnic, and national boundaries. Using a variety of styles of inquiry and interpretation from the social sciences and the humanities this book presents images, poetry, fieldwork, Internet postings, interviews, literature, ethnographies, historical texts, archival documents, biographies, census data, journals, and personal accounts to show how sex is raced and race is sexed.

**DRAG QUEENS AT THE 801 CABARET** Leila J. Rupp and Verta Taylor, University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-73158-8.

This is the story of an evening at the 801 Cabaret in Key West, Florida, where a troupe of full-time drag queens performs every night of the year. Drag is intriguing—lately it seems that everywhere one turns, men are donning women's clothes. But it is more than intriguing: drag raises questions about the stability of the categories "woman" and "man," "feminine" and "masculine," "heterosexual" and "homosexual."

Does drag challenge the concept of female and male as distinct, opposite, and non-overlapping categories? Or does it confirm traditional notions of femininity and masculinity? We explore the meaning of drag through in-depth interviews with drag queens, observation of performances, and—what no one has undertaken before—focus groups with members

*See 801 Cabaret, page 4*

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Sexualities Section**

**Graduate Student Paper Award**

This award is given to a paper authored by a student currently enrolled in a sociology graduate program. A paper may be co-authored by two or more students who would share the award (papers co-authored with faculty are not eligible). The predominant focus of the paper should be sexualities broadly defined. Papers should be manuscript length and no longer than 35 typed, double-spaced pages. An original and four copies of the paper should be sent by June 1st, 2004 to Dr. Wendy Chapkis, Department of Sociology, University of Southern Maine, 96 Falmouth St., P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300.



**New Approaches in Sociology:**

**Studies in Social Inequality,**

**Social Change, and Social Justice**



Routledge is currently seeking manuscripts for inclusion in its BRAND NEW dissertation series, "New Approaches in Sociology," a series that provides a forum for the publication of rich, in-depth case studies and qualitative analyses, with particular focus on gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, disability, and the ways these themes intersect to highlight and analyze the social. Given the broad scope of potential topics that lend themselves to sociological investigation, this series will necessarily limit its scope to concentrate on research that advances theoretical, methodological, and practical understanding of inequality and social justice. Our series aims to emphasize the contributions of outstanding new scholars to the field.

We invite you to submit a copy of your manuscript to the Routledge address below

or to the series editor, along with a CV and an abstract of the dissertation:

<p><b>Series Editor:</b> Nancy Naples Department of Sociology University of Connecticut 344 Mansfield Road, Unit 2068 Storrs, CT 06269-2068</p> <p><b>Routledge Editor:</b> Kimberly Guinta Routledge 29 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10001-2299</p>
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**Section Membership, from page 1**

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Attrition and inadvertence always work against membership sustainability, and 300 is the minimum we have to maintain if we are to continue receiving two sessions at the annual meeting.

If you would like to join the section's (relatively low volume) listserv, and are not already a member of it, just go to our webpage at <http://www.asanet.org/sectionsex/> and click on listserv. Feel free to let us know about your dissertation work, recent publications, conferences, or opportunities relevant to the section. -Barry Adam, Chair

**POST DOC POSITION**

**National Research Service Award**

*Mental Health and Adjustment in the Life Course.* The University of Minnesota is pleased to announce a postdoctoral position, a National Research Service Award, sponsored by the NIMH, on the psychosocial determinants of mental health and adjustment, with emphasis on childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood. Full-time, 12-month research training is provided. The appointment is for 2 years maximum, subject to review at the end of the first year. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes the changing social contexts of development; life course trajectories of mental health and behavioral adaptation; longitudinal assessment and analysis; at-risk populations;

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**Post Doc Position**, *continued*

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and social policy. A series of core seminars and a research apprenticeship are key program elements. This interdisciplinary program includes core faculty members from the Department of Sociology; the Institute of Child Development; and the School of Public Health's doctoral program in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration. U.S. citizens or residents are eligible. The award provides an annual stipend in accordance with NRSA guidelines, tuition, fees and medical insurance. Postdoctoral candidates, who have received a Ph.D. in a social science discipline or an equivalent terminal degree, such as an M.D., public health, or nursing degree by June 2004, should provide a letter describing current research interests, a complete vita, university transcript, three letters of recommendation, and samples of written work. For full consideration, send postdoctoral application materials to Professor Jeylan Mortimer at the Life Course Center, Department of Sociology, 1014 Social Sciences Building, 267-19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, for admittance in June 2004 or thereafter. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2003. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

**801 Cabaret**, *from page 2*

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of the diverse audiences who come to drag shows in a tourist town to find out why they come and what they experience there. Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret takes you through a night with the drag queens, from the process of getting dressed to the final curtain call. In the process it delves into a whole raft of issues, from what we call "drag queenness" as a gender category outside femininity or masculinity to the role of drag queens as both celebrities and outcasts in the Key West community to the work life of drag queens to the performance of protest to the complex construction of collective identity to drag as an important strategy of the

gay and lesbian movement. Not since Esther Newton's classic 1972 book, *Mother Camp*, has anyone written the kind of in-depth ethnography of the world of drag queens that we present. Weaving together the life stories of the drag queens, their costumes and music and talk during their performances, their interactions with each other and their audiences and community, and the reactions of gay and lesbian and heterosexual spectators to what they see and hear and feel, we clothe the theoretical bones of the scholarship on gender and sexuality in the finery of actual drag queen life. We suggest that drag is an important tactic of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement and we find that drag performances can serve as a catalyst for changes in values, ideas, and identities in twenty-first-century American society.

**3rd ANNUAL NSRC SUMMER  
INSTITUTE ON SEXUALITY,  
SOCIETY, & HEALTH**

SAN FRANCISCO .  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**June 28-July 22, 2004** Registration Deadline:

June 4, 2004 *Early registration is highly*

*recommended—space is limited. Gilbert Herdt,*

*Director—Joy O'Donnell, Coordinator* An SFSU

National Sexuality Resource Center and Human

Sexuality Studies Program sponsored event in

cooperation with the College of Extended Learning.

**For further information:** Please contact Joy

O'Donnell, NSRC Summer Institute Coordinator at  
hmsxsi@sfsu.edu 415-437-5113

<http://hmsx.sfsu.edu/summerinstitute>

**Institute Program includes:**

☞ 6 semester units/CEUs also available

☞ On-campus housing opportunities

☞ On-line networking forum for participants

☞ Limited number of scholarships for eligible low-income professionals

☞ Certificates of completion

☞ Special events and lectures

**2004 Featured Faculty:**

Hector Carrillo, Christopher Carrington, Sonia

Correa, Rafael Diaz, Jessica Fields, David Halperin,

Gilbert Herdt, Gregory Herek, Caitlin Ryan, Lydia

Sausa, Niels Teunis, Deborah Tolman, and Theo van

der Meer