
sex and gender news

June 2009

FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

By Michael A. Messner

University of Southern California

This Summer edition of our newsletter includes the usual announcements, as well as a film review from Kristen Schilt. We also feature our fourth annual "Sex and Gender Graduate Student Showcase." I find it inspiring to see the range and quality of our graduate students' work. As you read, I believe you will agree that this work bodes well for the future of feminist sociology.

The newsletter also anticipates the upcoming ASA meetings in San Francisco. One of our section's featured sessions is a forum on the global implications of the work of Raewyn Connell. To whet your appetites, I have written a short piece here on Connell, and on the session. The meetings will also include a fine array of section-sponsored sessions, which are outlined in this newsletter, in addition to the usual business and social events. Please join us—especially on sex and gender section day, Monday, August 10—for our section business meeting (10:30 am to 12:10, Parc 55 Hotel), and for our evening reception, (6:30 pm to 8:10 pm in the Parc 55 Hotel). At the reception, we will meet and greet, drink and eat, and celebrate the excellence of our members' work with our annual book, article, and Sally Hacker student paper awards. Along with incoming section chair Nancy Naples, I invite you to join us for this celebration.

As this will be my final Newsletter message as section Chair, I want to thank our Newsletter Editor Valerie Chepp, Website coordinator Ashley Finley, and USC graduate student Kristen Barber, who has assisted me in coordinating our bi-weekly listserv messages. Together, Valerie, Ashley and Kristen have made my job easy.

Next Issue

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2009 SEX AND GENDER SECTION ELECTION RESULTS

Sex and Gender Chair-Elect (2010-2011):

Jyoti Puri, Simmons College

Sex and Gender Council (2009-2011):

Mindy Stomblor, Georgia State University
Jessica Fields, San Francisco State University

Sally Hacker Award Committee (2009-2011):

Shari L. Dworkin, Univ. of California - San Francisco
Adia Harvey Wingfield, Georgia State University

SEX & GENDER SECTION EVENTS

2009 ASA Meetings, San Francisco, CA

Please note that all the information listed below is from the ASA's Preliminary Online Program. All sessions are at the Parc 55 Hotel, with exception of the session co-sponsored with the Economic Sociology Section.

Section Reception & Awards: Monday, August 10,
6:30pm - 8:10pm, Parc 55 Hotel

Section Business Meeting: Monday, August 10,
10:30am -12:10pm, Parc 55 Hotel

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PAPER SESSIONS

I. INVITED SESSIONS:

Monday, August 10, 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Invited Session: Gender & Power in Global Perspective: A Forum on the Work of Raewyn Connell

Session Organizer and Presider: Michael A. Messner (Univ. of Southern California)

Panelist: Joan R. Acker (University of Oregon)

Panelist: Patricia Yancey Martin (Florida State University)

Panelist: Raka Ray (University of California-Berkeley)

Critic: Raewyn Connell (University of Sydney)

Abstract:

For more than two decades, the work of Australian sociologist Raewyn Connell has been at the forefront of gender scholarship. Drawing from her own empirical work and that of others, Connell introduced concepts that capture gender's multiplicity and dynamism in life histories, institutional gender regimes and societal gender orders. In recent years, Connell has turned her attention to examining dynamics of the global gender order. In this session, a distinguished group of invited gender scholars will take Connell's work as a point of departure for discussing their own strategies for thinking about gender and power in global or transnational perspective.

Tuesday, August 11, 10:30am - 12:10pm

Invited Session: Sexualities, Gender and the State (Co-sponsored with the Section on Sociology of Sexualities)

Session Organizers: Kristen Schilt (University of Chicago) and Tey Meadow (New York University)

Presider: Judith Stacey (New York University)

***Sexual States: Theorizing the Conjunctions of Sexuality and State** Jyoti Puri (Simmons College)

***Homosexuality 'Never Happened before Independence': Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia** Ashley Currier (Texas AM University)

***The State of Sex: Cultural Logics of Legal Gender Classifications** Tey Meadow (New York University)

***A Queer State of Affairs: Relationship Recognition Policies in Comparative Perspective** Mary Bernstein (University of Connecticut), Nancy A. Naples (University of Connecticut)

Discussant: Judith Stacey (New York University)

Abstract:

While feminist research on the connections between gender ideologies and state regulation enjoys a long and complex history, only in recent years have scholars looked systematically at the ways in which sexuality, sexual norms and heteronormativity interact with and reinforce modern statehood. The papers in this session interrogate connections between popular and scientific concepts of gender and sexuality, and the practical ways states use them to make policy, and to make citizens.

II. OPEN SUBMISSIONS SESSIONS:

Sunday, August 9, 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Section Session: Gender, the Economy, and Work (Co-sponsored with the Section on Economic Sociology)

Session Organizer and Presider: Mary Blair-Loy (Univ. California-San Diego)

***Economic Sociology vs. Real Life: The Case of Grocery Shopping** Shelley L. Koch (University of Kansas), Joey Sprague (University of Kansas)

***Gender Deviance and Household Work: The Role of Occupation** Daniel J. Schneider (Princeton University)

***Gender, Job Segregation, and Non-Searching for Jobs** Julie A. Kmec (Washington State University), Steve McDonald (North Carolina State University), Lindsey Blair Trimble (Washington State University)

***Marrying in a Growing Unequal Society: A Multilevel Model of Marriage Trends 1970-2002** Lijun Yang (The University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant: Viviana A. Zelizer (Princeton University)

Monday, August 10, 8:30am - 10:10am

Section Session: Gender and New Immigrant Communities

Session Organizer: Stephanie J. Nawyn (Michigan State University)

Presider: Lata Murti (University of Southern California)

***Mothering on a New Frontier: Constructions of Latina Motherhood in a New Migrant Destination** Leah Caroline Schmalzbauer (Montana State University)

***Sexual Migrants: Transnational Social Networks and the Intersections of Multiple Identities** James Paul Thing (University of Southern California)

***Post-9/11 Politics and the Political Representation of Muslim Women in the West** Melanie M. Hughes (University of Pittsburgh)

***Gender, Religion, and Ethnicity: Intersections and Boundaries in Immigrant Integration Policy Debates** Anna C. Korteweg (University of Toronto)

Discussant: Lata Murti (University of Southern California)

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

Section Session: Gender, Bodies and Health: Negotiating and Contesting the “Healthy” Body

Session Organizer: Shari Lee Dworkin (University of California-San Francisco)

Presider: Shari Lee Dworkin (University of California-San Francisco)

***Embodied Politics and Women of the Global South: South African HIV Activism as Feminist Politics** Elina Oinas (Nordic Africa Institute), Katarina Jungar (Abo Akademi University)

***Not a Pretty Girl: Facial Feminization and the Theory of Facial Sex Difference** Heather Laine Talley (Vanderbilt University)

***From Cure-all to Carcinogen: How Menopausal Women Experienced the Rise and Fall of Hormone Drugs** Julie A. Winterich (Wake Forest University)

***Gender Differences in Self-Rated Health: Evidence of a New Health Paradox?** Leah S. Rohlfesen (St. Lawrence University)

Tuesday, August 11, 10:30am - 12:10pm

Section Session: Movements and Identities: Transnational Feminist Perspectives

Session Organizers: Orit Avishai (Fordham University) and Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Presider: Jennifer Bea Rogers (University of California-Santa Barbara)

***Muslim Women at the Intersection of Gender and Communal Politics in India** Sonalde Desai (University of Maryland-College Park), Gheda Temsah (University of Maryland-College Park)

***Disrupting National Symbology: Women’s Bodies and Feminist Hybridities in the Public/Political Spaces of Pakistan** Moon Charania (Georgia State University)

***Dynamics of Movements, Islamist and Feminist Struggles over Family Law Reform in Morocco** Zakia Salime (Michigan State University)

***Engendering Morality: Women, Islam, and the Nation-State in Indonesia** Rachel A. Rinaldo (National University of Singapore)

Discussant: Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Tuesday, August 11, 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Section Session: Living the Intersection of Race and Gender

Session Organizers and Presiders: Belinda Robnett (University of California-Irvine) and Rebecca E. Klatch (University of California)

***Intersectionality, Quotas, and Minority Women's Political Representation Worldwide** Melanie M. Hughes (University of Pittsburgh)

***Performing Bodies: Women Faculty Negotiating Academic Governance** Corinne Castro (Temple University)

***The Power of Blood & Chromosomes: Legal Criteria for Race and Gender in “Fraud” Cases** Kristen Schilt (University of Chicago), Jenifer L Bratter (Rice University)

***“Not This Big, Huge, Racial-type Thing, But:” Mothering Children of Color with Social-Emotional-Behavioral Disabilities.** Linda M. Blum (University of New Hampshire)

Discussant: Christina Nichole Baker (Sonoma State University)

REFERREED ROUNDTABLES

Details for each roundtable’s presenters and presiders are available at ASA’s [Preliminary Online Program](#).

Monday, August 10, 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Organizer: Jennifer A. Reich (University of Denver)

Table 1: Section on Sex & Gender Roundtable Session

Table 2: Gender and Migration

Table 3: Gender and Mothering

Table 4: Gender and Sexuality

Table 5: Gender and Social Movements

Table 6: Gender and Violence

Table 7: Gender and Work

Table 8: Gender, Culture, and Consumption

Table 9: Gender, Race, and Discrimination

Table 10: Gender, Sex Work, and Trafficking

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Family Life

Table 12: Gender, Sexuality, and Sport

Table 13: Theories and Methods of Gender Research

Table 14: Sexuality, Imagery, and Identity

Table 15: Gender, Sexuality, and the Marked Body

Table 16: Theorizing Gender, Feminism, and the Body

Table 17: Challenging Gender

Special Forum on the Work of Raewyn Connell at the ASA: Gender and Power in Global Perspective.

Michael A. Messner
University of Southern California

A highlight of this year's meetings will be an exciting forum on the work of Australian sociologist Raewyn Connell. In this session, a distinguished group of invited gender scholars—Joan Acker, Raka Ray, and Patricia Yancey Martin—will take Connell's work as a point of departure for discussing their own strategies for thinking about gender and power in global or transnational perspective. Raewyn Connell will then offer her own comments, and dialogue with Acker, Ray, and Martin.

For more than two decades Raewyn Connell's work has been at the forefront of gender scholarship. Beginning with several highly influential essays, and then blossoming into the groundbreaking book *Gender & Power* (1987), Connell was among the first sociologists to develop a multi-level theorization of gender. Many scholars in the early 1980s—particularly feminist women of color—had challenged the ahistorical and simplistic categorical thinking of 1970s sex role theory. Connell's work introduced a theoretical language for thinking about gender as multiple, created through "configurations of practice." The idea that hegemonic masculinities are created in relation to marginalized and subordinated masculinities, as well as in relation to femininities, gave scholars conceptual leverage for understanding how relations of race, class, gender and sexual orientation intersect in daily lives and institutions.

Connell's life history research, evidenced particularly in her book *Masculinities* (1995) captured gender's multiplicity and dynamism. Perhaps a less celebrated, but equally important contribution of Connell's work has been her idea of "theorized life histories," a method of examining gender and sexual trajectories within shifting institutional gender regimes and larger societal gender orders. In all of this work, Connell's brilliant melding of different theoretical traditions—Gramscian Marxism,

depth psychology, Sartrean existentialism, and various threads of feminist theories—has provided fresh points of departure that gender scholars around the globe have found challenging, and ultimately very useful.

In recent years, based in Australia and traveling to Latin America, Africa, southern Asia, and working with UNESCO and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Connell has addressed global dynamics in gender relations and social science. Her book *Southern Theory* (2007) challenges sociologists of the global north to re-think how our domain assumptions are shaped by our location in the global metropole (part of the privilege of which includes our common ignorance of research and theoretical developments emanating from the global south). A central part of this work, for Connell, has been to extend her thinking about gender to examine the current construction of trans-national business masculinities in the neo-liberal world order. In the new edition of her book *Gender* (2009) Connell discusses how national gender orders interact, and begins to theorize "gender politics on a world scale."

(Colleagues may be aware that Raewyn Connell, who previously published as "R.W. Connell", has made a gender transition, with the support of family, workmates and friends, and the reluctant permission of the patriarchal state.)

Join us at the ASA meetings for a lively discussion of gender and power in global perspective, with Raewyn Connell.

"No Dumb Questions" A Film Review

Kristen Schilt
University of Chicago

When I first started teaching Transgender Studies courses at UCLA, I incorporated guest speakers as much as possible. As Los Angeles is home to many great scholars working in the area of Transgender Studies, I wanted my students to take advantage of this unique opportunity to engage with people who were breaking theoretical and empirical ground in this arena. I abandoned the speaker series, however, when I realized that no matter how academic the presentation, my students were interested in only two questions – had this scholar undergone genital surgery, and what was her or his current sexual orientation. Watching "No Dumb Questions," I was struck with the overlap between the questions I fielded in sociology classrooms – questions I had initially dismissed as juvenile and irritating – and

those of 3 young girls grappling with the news that their Uncle Bill is becoming their Aunt Barbara. Like my students, the girls are struggling with how to locate someone in terms of gender and sexuality in a binary, heteronormative system that is supposed to be fixed, innate, and inflexible. This overlap makes the film a brilliant teaching tool in gender and sexualities classrooms, as it provides thoughtful answers to these questions – answers that can be important steps toward cisgender people gaining an understanding of transgender lives – and shows the positive impact of teaching about acceptance of diversity and difference.

The film starts with the girls – Abby (age 6), Olivia (age 9) and Chelsea (age 11) – offering their first set of reactions to the news about Aunt Barbara. The parents note that Aunt Barbara has informed them all that there is no such thing as a “dumb question”; the girls are free to ask anything that comes to their minds. And they do. They ask if Aunt Barbara will have a penis. They ask what bathroom she will use. They ask if she will be pretty. They ask if she will be gay. And, they ask if she will be the same inside as Uncle Bill. That Abby, the youngest, is the most accepting from start to finish highlights how socialization and social control cement these cultural ideals of a fixed, biologically determined gender binary into children as they age. While Chelsea and Olivia agonize over the potential strangeness of their new aunt and worry about what it means that she dates other women, Abby expresses excitement that she and Aunt Barbara could now possibly play Barbies together – showing that while she clearly understands what constitutes “girl play,” she is flexible on who meets the criteria of “girl.”

The beauty of the first part of the film is the bluntness of the questions. While the girls offer some hesitation over whether or not words like “penis” and “make love” are acceptable to say on camera, once assured, they put their questions openly on the table. And rather than offering vague or euphemistic answers, their parents respond with honesty – Aunt Barbara is not having surgery currently, she will use the women’s restroom, she identifies as a lesbian. The girls exhibit a variety of responses to these answers – excitement, apprehension, anxiety – both in one-on-one interviews and in a group discussion. Their responses move from theory to practice in the second half of the film as they go to meet Aunt Barbara for the first time. Abby immediately runs to her aunt and grabs her leg and says, “Hi Aunt Barbara.” Olivia and Chelsea run in the opposite direction and have to be coaxed into the room by their mother. After sitting in the room with Barbara for a few minutes, they slowly start to engage her in conversation. By the end of the night, their anxiety and apprehension allayed, they are chatting with her about a wide range of topics – just as they once did with Uncle Bill. In their closing interviews, they reflect on

Barbara. They emphasize that while she might look different, she is still the same on the inside.

“No Dumb Questions” is perfect for classroom use – whether that be an elementary, high school, or college classroom. It is short (24 minutes), which easily allows it to be used in its entirety. It provides a good model for teaching about tolerance of any group that is considered “different.” Reactions to group differences often are difficult for people to articulate – as anyone who has ever taught a course about gender or race can testify to. Abby, Olivia, and Chelsea, however, articulate these fears clearly, asking questions about how they can be expected to relate to someone who has undergone a huge change, and how society at large will think of their aunt. Rather than shutting down the discussion, their parents answer their questions and let them work out their relationship with their aunt at their own pace – a strategy that made me rethink my irritation and annoyance with what I had framed as my students’ “dumb questions.”

The impact of this strategy of open communication is clear at the end of the film. The girls’ mother relates a story about the sex education program at Chelsea’s school. A classmate raised his hand during the session and asked the teacher about “boys who want to become girls.” The teacher laughed off the question, remarking, “Who would want to do that?” Chelsea raised her hand and informed the teacher that some people do want to do exactly that and the correct term for those people is “transgender.” Describing this interaction, the girls’ mother notes that she thinks that this experience with Aunt Barbara has made her children more accepting of others, and ultimately made them better people. The film has a similar potential to educate about the power of acceptance by highlighting the impact of open communication as a way to address stereotypes and fear of difference.

“No Dumb Questions”
 Director: Melissa Regan
 New Day Films
www.newday.com
 24 minutes

SEX & GENDER GRAD STUDENT SHOWCASE

Continuing our annual tradition, we are featuring descriptions of graduate students’ dissertations that have an emphasis on sex/gender. This year, we’ve organized the contributions alphabetically by author. Enjoy!

“School’s Out: A Qualitative Study of Workplace Sexuality through the Experiences of Gay and Lesbian Teachers.”

Catherine Connell, University of Texas at Austin

Despite social and political changes favoring gay rights, the employment of gay and lesbian teachers continues to be the subject of controversy. I argue that these teachers stand at the crossroads between two powerful opposing social forces – gay rights and child welfare. For both pro-gay and anti-gay movements, gay and lesbian teachers are the subject of critical moral and ethical consideration. In my dissertation, I am interested in understanding how these teachers engage in identity negotiation between their sexual and professional identities within their fraught location in the pro-gay and anti-gay battleground. I am also interested in knowing the impact of social and legal contexts on this identity process. To investigate, I interviewed and observed 26 teachers in California, a “liberal” social environment with respect to both gay rights and worker rights, and 23 in Texas, a “conservative” social environment with respect to the same.

“Taking One for the Team? African American Women, Gendered Racism, and the Contemporary Challenge of African American Politics”

Kiana Cox, University of Illinois at Chicago

On April 4, 2007 radio personality Don Imus grabbed the attention of the nation as he and his executive producer Bernard McGuirk made racist and sexist jokes about the predominantly African American Rutgers University women’s basketball team. The event is not unique in that African American women have historically experienced racism and sexism, which were executed and justified by inscribing sexualized meanings onto their bodies and lives. However, formal African American politics, its leaders and organizations, have failed to recognize this aspect of African American women’s experiences and have not adapted a gendered lens for their mobilization, activism, nor advocacy. Therefore, the ultimate goal of my dissertation research is to investigate how the Imus/Rutgers controversy, as a public and undeniable example of racism and sexism, did or did not provide the much needed catalyst to, once again, bring the intersection of race and gender to the fore in African American public discourse and political action.

“A Gender Structure Analysis of the Intersex Rights Movement”

Georgiann Davis, University of Illinois at Chicago

In my dissertation research I explore how those involved with the intersex rights movement conceptualize gender and how such conceptualization has changed over time. I am also analyzing the ways in which, if at all, gender

structure has influenced the goals and/or mobilization strategies of the organizations involved in the movement. In-depth interviews with intersex activists, the parents of intersexual children, and medical professionals that self-identify as intersex experts will be conducted to address the following: How is gender currently understood by those within the movement? Do particular beliefs about gender influence the goals and mobilization strategies of the intersex rights social movement organizations? Is there a relationship between how gender is understood and the given goals established by the various social movement organizations affiliated with the intersex rights movement?

“Eating Disorders as ‘Genetic’: Meanings and Implications for Women with Eating Disorders”

Michele M. Easter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

My dissertation examines how women diagnosed with anorexia or bulimia nervosa understand and use the idea of a genetic causal factor for eating disorders. Recent research supports the idea that genes play a role in the development of these disorders. Genetic ideas may be seen as newly available “cultural tools” for individuals to use as they manage identities, organize action, and conceptualize their own behavior and condition. Genetic causation competes with other causal narratives that implicate individual choice, family problems, and cultural norms. I interview fifty women with a history of eating disorders to illuminate their reasoning about genetic causality and its social, ethical, and political implications. There is no previous research on how people with eating disorders understand and react to the idea of a genetic causal factor.

“Men and Women’s Attitudes towards Feminism, Gender, Gender Inequality, and U.S. Politics”

Maura Kelly, University of Connecticut

In my dissertation project, I engage with and expand upon theoretical and empirical work on feminism and postfeminism (a position representing an engagement with feminism and feminist discourse as well as a distancing or rejection of some aspects of feminism). Specifically, I use survey data and qualitative interviews to investigate men and women’s attitudes towards feminism, gender, gender inequality as well as their participation in U.S. electoral politics (with a focus on the 2008 Presidential election). The quantitative data will include opinion polls conducted in 2006-2008 and the General Social Survey. The qualitative data will consist of interviews with men and women age 18-48 currently residing in Connecticut. The mixed methods approach will allow for an investigation of generalizable trends as well as an analysis of nuanced views through the narratives of participants.

“Breaking Away: Origins and Trajectories of Breakaway Organizations from the National Organization for Women (NOW), 1966 – 2000”

Kelsy Kretschmer, University of California, Irvine

This dissertation examines National Organization for Women (NOW) and the organizations that spun out of it between 1966 and 2000. NOW and its breakaways, as well as two cases of “failed” breakaways, are studied in order to develop a framework for understanding the various pathways breaking away can take. The project also evaluates the consequences of these different pathways for the relationships between the organizations after the split. Because of NOW’s size and prominence on the American political stage, and because many feminist organizations have roots in NOW, the relationships among them are critical for understanding how feminism has developed. This dissertation has implications for both how we conceptualize competition and cooperation among organizations in the feminist movement, as well as our understanding of organizational processes in social movements more generally.

“Eat, Drink, and be Married: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Couples and the Management of Health”

Corinne Reczek, University of Texas at Austin

Scholars and policy makers have long argued that the married are happier, healthier, and live longer than the unmarried. Yet, since Jesse Bernard’s work in the early 1970s on “his” and “hers” marriages, controversy remains about health benefits of marriage for both men and women. In the tradition of Bernard’s work, my dissertation elucidates the gendered dynamics that shape health in intimate relationships. I do so by qualitatively investigating the drinking, eating, and exercise habits of 120 men and women in 60 straight, gay, and lesbian long-term relationships. Guided by a gender constructionist approach, this study addresses three main questions: How do partners in long-term relationships influence one another’s health habits? Do men and women in gay, lesbian, and straight couples differ in how they do this? If so, what does this tell us about gender inequality, marriage, and intimate ties?

“Untitled”

Megan Reid, University of Texas at Austin

Megan’s dissertation explores the hardships post-Hurricane Katrina policies created for hurricane survivors, especially displaced poor Blacks. Her work is based on two years of interviews with Hurricane Katrina survivors who evacuated to Texas in 2005. Specifically, she explores the experiences survivors had obtaining and using post-displacement housing assistance and the effects of these experiences on the survivors’ abilities to

recover, through analyzing in-depth interviews with survivors. Preliminary findings indicate that many aspects of these policies did not consider the race, class, gender and family positionalities of those in need of assistance, as is true of many everyday housing policies. She hopes her dissertation will lead to better understanding of how social policies can both resist and reinforce inequalities, as well as lay the groundwork for more effective social policies to help disadvantaged groups both during natural disasters and in everyday life.

“Locked and Loaded: The Social Meanings of Concealed Handgun Licenses”

Angela Stroud, University of Texas at Austin

This dissertation will explore the social meanings embedded in the practice of carrying concealed handguns. At present, gun purchases and concealed handgun licensing are on the rise. Some reports suggest that gun stores sell out of ammunition almost as quickly as their shelves are stocked. The current Texas legislative session saw nineteen different bills introduced and all of them sought to expand gun rights, particularly rights surrounding carrying concealed handguns. Most arguments in favor of expanded rights for concealed handgun carriers revolve around our collective need to protect the “good guys” from the “bad guys.” These discourses, and the embedded meanings of gender, race, and class that shape them, are the focus of this dissertation. Feminist and critical race theories provide the framework for this project. I will interview 65 people who are involved with concealed handgun licensing, from licensing instructors, to participants. These licensees will be able to speak to when, where, and why license holders carry concealed weapons. I will also interview police officers—a population highly trained in firearms proficiency and charged with the task of defending the public—who can speak to their views on the concealed handgun use. I will also interview gun users who do not have licenses to explore why they do not. Taken together, these interviews will reveal something about the social meanings of the concealed carry movement. Additionally, I will go through the process of obtaining a concealed handgun license, to examine how the licensing procedures produce a certain type of armed citizen and will conduct an ethnographic content analysis of media used by gun advocacy groups. To date, the social meanings of gun use and concealed gun carry have not been explored. This project is one step towards filling that void.

“From Reel to Virtual – *The US Adult Film Industry, Production, and Changes in Women’s Labor Opportunity (1957-2005)*”

Chauntelle Anne Tibbals, University of Texas at Austin

My dissertation project examines women’s workplace rights and labor opportunities in the US adult film

industry between 1957 and 2005. I incorporated ethnographic and informal interview, comparative historical, and content analysis data to explore women's workplace rights expansion in the absence of worker activism. I have found that, for women working in the adult film industry as "talent" (performers) and in behind-the-scenes non-talent occupations, workers' rights have been expanded by industry leaders from the top down. Rights expansion was motivated, in part, by two unique factors: 1) the need to employ what I refer to as "industry protective practices" (tactics initiated by industry leaders designed to benefit workers and protect the industry itself from mainstream scrutiny) and 2) the tightly interconnected adult film industry network. My work builds on existing literature by exploring top-down processes occurring in a subculture of US women workers and by pointing to additional processes for rights expansion beyond the traditional "bottom up" model. Consequently, this study adds to a growing body of scholarship developing new theoretical models explaining rights expansion. Moreover, this work provides a venue for the voices and experiences of a population of understudied and stigmatized, yet culturally significant, women workers.

"Surgical Body Modification in Transgender and Cisgender Consumers"

Elroi J. Windsor, Georgia State University

This dissertation focuses on the gendered aspects of surgical body modification. The research compares transgender and cisgender populations' use of "cosmetic" surgeries, examining their motivations for and satisfaction with the procedures. The study will also examine how these procedures are differently regulated in each community based on presumptions about consumers' mental health. The research uses mixed methods to study these issues, including in-depth interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, a survey for transgender respondents, and content analyses of internet bulletin boards and relevant documents used to authorize and insure surgeries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member News & Awards

Michelle Budig and **Joya Misra's** (both from the University of Massachusetts) LIS Working Paper (#499), "How Care Work Shapes Earnings in a Cross-National Perspective", has been chosen as the winner of the first World Bank / LIS Gender Research Award. The nominating pool for this first award consisted of all papers added to the LIS Working Paper series during 2008 that have a focus on gender and that include at least

one middle-income country. This award was created with support from the World Bank, specifically the Gender Team of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management unit. The award includes a cash prize and a visit to Luxembourg to present the paper at the LIS annual workshop. Budig and Misra's research for this paper was conducted with support from the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development.

Victoria Pitts-Taylor has been appointed Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society and Coordinator of the Women's Studies Certificate Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She also serves as co-Editor (with Talia Schaffer) of the journal *WSQ* (Women's Studies Quarterly).

Professor **Elizabeth A. Hoffmann**, Purdue University, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study how businesses accommodate women employees who wish to pump breast milk at work. Currently, about 22 states have laws mandating some level of accommodation for lactating employees; however, most have only the most minimal requirements and no enforcement mechanisms. This study, which focuses on Indiana, will include interviews with managers as well as employees who are pumping or had pumped breast milk at their workplace.

Mary Frank Fox (Georgia Institute of Technology) is Co-Principal Investigator of the world's first international research summit for women in engineering, supported by the National Science Foundation. The Women's Research Engineering Summit (WIRES) will bring 50 women engineers from the US, and 50 from other countries, to Barcelona in June 2009 to address research, international collaboration, and gender equity in engineering. Mary Frank Fox is also presenting research on "Analyzing Women in Academic Science" at the Forum of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in June, and was chosen to present social science perspectives on women in science for the US.

Elaine Weiner was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology on June 1, 2009 at McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

New Books by Section Members

Aldridge, Delores P. 2008. *Our Last Hope: Black Male-Female Relationships in Change*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

Aldridge, Delores P. 2009. *Imagine a World: Pioneering Black Women Sociologists*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

Bose, Christine E. and Minjeong Kim (eds). 2009. *Global Gender Research: Transnational Perspectives*. Routledge Publishers

Chong, Kelly H. 2008. *Deliverance and Submission: Evangelical Women and the Negotiation of Patriarchy in South Korea*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Coltrane, Scott and Michele Adams. 2008. *Gender and Families* (Gender Lens Series, 2nd Edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Connidis, Ingrid Arnet. 2010. *Family Ties & Aging*, 2nd ed. Los Angeles, CA: Sage/Pine Forge Press.

Desai, Manisha. 2009. *Gender and the Politics of Possibilities: Rethinking Globalization* (Gender Lens Series). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Dill, Bonnie Thornton and Ruth E. Zambrana. 2009. *Emerging Intersections: Race, Class and Gender in Theory, Policy and Practice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano (ed). 2009. *Shades of Difference: Why Skin Color Matters*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.

Hanson, Sandra L. 2009. *Swimming Against the Tide: African American Girls in Science Education*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Plante, Rebecca F. and Lis M. Maurer (eds). *Doing Gender Diversity: Readings in Theory and Real-World Experience*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, forthcoming July 2009.

Ray, Raka and Seemin Qayum. 2009. *Cultures of Servitude: modernity, Domesticity and Class in India*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.

Rueschemeyer, Marilyn and Sharon L. Wolchik (eds). 2009. *Women in Power in Postcommunist Parliaments*. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press/ Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Sutherland, Jean-Anne and Kathryn Feltey (eds). *Cinematic Sociology: Social Life in Film*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/Pine Forge, forthcoming October 2009.

New Journal Articles and Book Chapters by Section Members

Feliciano, Cynthia, Belinda Robnett, and Golnaz Komaie. 2009. "Gendered Racial Exclusion among White Internet Daters." *Social Science Research*, 38:39-54.

Glasser, Carol L., Belinda Robnett, and Cynthia Feliciano. 2009. "Internet Daters' Body Type Preferences: Race-Ethnic and Gender Differences." *Sex Roles*, April 14th, Published Online.

Pennington, Suzanne. 2009. "Bisexuals 'Doing Gender' in Romantic Relationships." *Journal of Bisexuality*, 9(1):33-69.

Postdoc Opportunity

Postdoc position at the University of Arizona: Project Director for the Gender, Sexuality, and Conformity at School (GSCS) project. More information at: <http://cals.arizona.edu/fcs/fmi/PDF%20announcement.pdf>

Calls for Submissions

Transnational Feminisms: Revisioning Politics and Practice beyond Borders, Inanna Publications, March 2010. The publication, "Transnational Feminisms: Revisioning Politics and Practice beyond Borders", is designed as a graduate students' initiative, where researchers, writers and students of women/gender and multidisciplinary studies from diverse localities are invited to exchange views and thoughts on the question of how we enrich and transform our feminist theorizations and methods that go beyond West-centric paradigm. The purpose of this journal is to contribute to York University's 50th anniversary and history of commitment to international and interdisciplinary nature of academic community building, by creating dialogues among feminist scholars from diverse cultural and social backgrounds. We aim to create a space for dialogue about the links and tensions between transnational feminist theory and analysis, research, political change and social justice work. **Submission Guidelines:** Abstracts should be between 250-300 words. Please also include a brief bio (100 words) along with your name, contact address, and institutional affiliation. Please send your complete abstract to transfem@yorku.ca, by July 30, 2009. We might be able to consider late submissions, but priority will be given to those who meet the deadline. The committee will contact you by mid-September 2009. Please feel free to contact the conference organizing committee at transfem@yorku.ca should you have any questions. 2009 Transnational Feminist Publication Organizing Committee Graduate Programme in Women's Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada

Journal of Race and Policy: Race and Policy in the Age of Obama. Theme and Rationale: The historic election of Barack Obama marked a significant and dramatic turning point in American government and politics. In a country that is still coping with the legacy of its painful history of slavery, segregation, and other forms of continued institutionalized inequality, a self-

described black man decisively won election to the nation's highest office. Much recent commentary has focused on the important implications of this event. Other analyses seek to determine what this election means for understanding race and racism in U.S. society. In this special issue, rather than considering the implications of Obama's presidency for racial matters in the United States, we focus on the impact that an Obama administration will have on various areas of public policy, particularly those that disproportionately impact racial and ethnic groups. We are looking for manuscripts (empirical or theoretical) that address the policy implications of Obama's presidency for people of color. Papers due: October 15, 2009; Revisions due: February 15, 2010; Issue in print: May 2010. Please send manuscripts to both of the below addresses:

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Upcoming Conferences/Meetings

The 1st National Conference for Campus-Based Men's Gender Equality & Anti-violence Groups, November 6-7, 2009. St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Across the country, groups of male students are making their voices heard! More and more men are finding the courage to say "no" to ideas of manhood and relations between the sexes that aren't good for women and aren't good for men as well. They're speaking out against date rape and violence against women. They support gender equality. Some work through residence life or student activities offices, others through women's centers and counseling programs. Some are campus branches of national organizations like MVP, White Ribbon, Men Can Stop Rape, 1 in 4, or V-Men. These men face common problems: How to have an impact? How to find positive ways to get their message to other campus men? How to deal with backlash, to work in partnership with women's groups, to recruit and sustain their groups? For the first time, campus-based pro-feminist men's groups from across the country are meeting together. To share resources, trade their best ideas, discuss strategies, and simply find out what's happening on other campuses. For more details, including on costs and the members of the organizing &

advisory committees, visit:

www.michaelkaufman.com/campusmensconference

Sociologists' AIDS Network (SAN) Conference

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the first major ASA panel on HIV/AIDS, SAN is holding a one day conference on Friday, August 7th 2009, entitled "Marking 20 Years of AIDS in Sociology: Reflecting Back & Moving Forward". The conference is an opportunity for sociologists of HIV/AIDS and interested others (sociologists and non-sociologists alike) to reflect on work in our field, contemplate new directions, and appreciate one another's work. The mini-conference will also include talks by local and national activists, meetings with HIV researchers from a variety of fields, and presentations by federal agency representatives regarding prospects for HIV/AIDS research in the new administration. We view this as an important opportunity to enhance research networks among sociologists of HIV/AIDS, chart future possibilities for the field, and draw new scholars into HIV/AIDS research. Whether you are well-established in HIV-related work, new to the field, or just interest in exploring this area of sociology, please join us! The conference is sponsored by the ASA Sections on Medical Sociology and Sexualities, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Sociologists' AIDS Network. For more information, visit

<http://www.sociologistsaidsnetwork.org/> or contact padamsee.1@osu.edu.

2008-2009 Sex and Gender Officers

Chair: Michael Messner, University of Southern California, messner@usc.edu

Chair-Elect: Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut, nancy.naples@uconn.edu

Past-Chair: Linda M. Blum, University of New Hampshire, Linda.Blum@unh.edu

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