
sex and gender news

October 2003

FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

By Denise A. Segura

University of California, Santa Barbara

Greetings to all Sex and Gender section members! It is a pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of the Section. I have been active in the ASA for a number of years, but I consider the opportunity to serve the Section as exciting, challenging, and fun! I am happy to report that I met the first challenge of my chair-ship by recruiting a new editor for this newsletter, Dula J. Espinosa. On behalf of the entire Section, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our past editor, Margaret Greer, for her many wonderful contributions. I would also like to thank everyone who expressed a willingness to take on this task. Dula, an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, specializes in affirmative action policy, employment, hate crimes, and citizenship. Although she has only had the job for two weeks, the newsletter has been produced and is on schedule!

We had a very successful section day at the ASA meetings in Atlanta last month, and I want to thank outgoing chair Michael Kimmel for doing an excellent job in putting together an exciting program. I wish he could have been there but the infamous New York blackout kept him grounded. However, you know what happens to people who miss a meeting ... they get nominated for other jobs! Michael has graciously agreed to chair our nominations committee. I urge all of you to think of individuals who are interested in bringing new ideas and themes to the Section and provide those names to Michael and the nominations committee (page 5 of this newsletter has contact info).

I also want to take this opportunity to provide those of you unable to attend the sessions we offered at the 2003 Annual Meetings of the ASA with a brief synopsis which was prepared by each session's organizer/presider (please feel free to contact that person for additional information). The "Gender of Globalization and the Globalization of Gender" session, organized by Jyoti Puri, Simmons College, had papers that examined domesticity and motherhood among Filipina domestic workers and their employers in Taiwan, the production of femininities in China's service industry, feminist theoretical interventions against the backdrop of globalization, as well as transborder participatory democracy from a feminist perspective.

Participants in "Gender in the [U.S.] South," organized by Laura M. Carpenter, Vanderbilt University, explored the intersections of gender, race, and social class in the southern U.S., 1865 to the present, from the perspectives of sociology, history, and American studies. These papers addressed the Scopes trial as a site of competing White masculinities; the construction of gender, race, and social class in the Natchez, Mississippi Confederate Pageant; how gender and race shaped Reconstruction-era missionary work; and regional differences in gender role attitudes by sex and race.

"Gender and Violence," which was organized by Patti Giuffre, Texas State University, raised important methodological, theoretical, and policy-oriented questions. Chapkis discussed the explicit and implicit messages and consequences of U.S. trafficking laws while Esterchild, using a historical sociological perspective, analyzed men's violence against men in an early ranching community. Also notable were Hattery's qualitative analysis of the experiences of abused women and VanNatta's use of feminist legal theory to explore the social and

Next Issue

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legal construction of battered women's experiences and emotions and the consequences of those definitions in court.

Sex and Gender also had a session co-sponsored with Crime, Law, and Deviance, titled "The Gender of Crime" that was organized by Dana Britton, Kansas State University. Due to last minute cancellations, there were only two papers in this session. The first, by Karen Snedker, New York University, "Explaining the Gender Gap in the Fear of Crime," explored the apparent paradox between women's lower official rates of criminal victimization (when compared to men) and their higher levels of fear of crime. The second paper, by Annulla Linders and Alana Van Grundy, University of Cincinnati, "Gall, Gallantry and the Gallows: The Social Construction of Gender and Justice," examined the confrontation between gender and capital justice that often surfaced around nineteenth century executions of women.

As you can see, our Section continues to push the boundaries of conventional social science. It was in this spirit that the 2003 business meeting honored outstanding feminist scholarship. The text of these awards appears on pages 3 and 4 in this newsletter. Consistent with last year's practice, the attendees of the business meeting divided themselves into small groups to develop session topics for the 2004 ASA meetings that considered different aspects of our new overarching theme, "Gendering Human Rights and Social Justice." I had proposed this theme to the membership as both timely and provocative given the horrors of war and genocide across the globe and the violence against women and immigrant subjects transnationally and domestically. Feminism's long history of activist scholarship will be highlighted at the San Francisco meetings and I encourage all of you to submit papers on any aspect of this theme to this year's organizers. We have also included three co-sponsored sessions to encourage greater diversity in approach and critique to the ongoing challenges of advocating for human rights and social justice today.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to send articles on controversial issues or issues of social significance that you'd like to share with other Section members. In addition to the newsletter, I invite you to suggest items of interest to our website (www.asanet.org/sectionsexgend/index.html) and fellowship and job opportunities to the list-serv. Please know that I will try to incorporate as many voices as possible into these forums. I do so because diversifying feminist dialogues and challenging oppressive intellectual and social regimes form my agenda for the year I will serve you as Section Chair.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

August 14-17, 2004
San Francisco, California
Theme: *Public Sociologies*

Sex and Gender Section Information:

August 15, 2004 (Sunday): Section Day and Council Meeting

January 15, 2004 Deadline for Paper Submissions (all on-line)

2004 Section Theme:

Gendering Human Rights and Social Justice

1. Title: "Gender, Human Rights, and Conflict"
Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Hyun Sook Kim

(Co-sponsored by the Caucus on Research on Gender and Sexuality in International Contexts)
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Wheaton College
Norton, MA 02766
(508) 286-3657 (Phone)
(508) 286-3640 (Fax)
hkim@wheatonma.edu (email)

2. Title: "Trafficking, the Global Sex Industry and Human Rights"

(Co-Sponsored with Sexualities)

Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Beth Schneider

Sociology Department
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430
(805) 893-3300 (Phone)
(805) 893-3324 (Fax)
schneider@soc.ucsb.edu (email)

3. Title: "Reproduction and Health Care Access as Basic Human Rights"

Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Patti Giuffre

Department of Sociology
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San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-8983 (Phone)
(512) 245-8362 (Fax)
pg07@txstate.edu (email)

4. Title: "National and International Workplace Policies and Social Justice"

Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Cynthia Cranford

University of Toronto at Mississauga
 Department of Sociology
 3359 Mississauga Road North
 Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6, Canada
 (905) 569-4701 (Phone)
 ccranfor@utm.toronto.ca (email)

5. Title: "Anti-Racist Feminisms and Transnationalization of Women's Human Rights" (Co-sponsored with Racial-Ethnic Minorities) Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Verta Taylor

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 vtaylor@soc.ucsb.edu (email)

6. Title: "Global Struggles Over Appropriate Feminine Embodiment"

Open Submission

Organizer/Presider: Leslie Salzinger

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 (773) 702-4849 (Fax)
 l-salzinger@uchicago.edu (email)

7. Title: "Gender, Crime and Victimization: New Directions in Research"

(Organized by Crime, Law and Deviance & co-sponsored by Sex and Gender)

Invited session

Organizer: Karen Heimer

Department of Sociology
 University of Iowa
 W140 Seashore Hall
 Iowa City, IA 52242
 karen-heimer@uiowa.edu (email)

Section Refereed Roundtables:

Organizers: Denise A. Segura, Socorro Castaneda, Lorena Garcia, Oscar Gil, Gladys Lopez, Xuan Santos--all Sociology, UC Santa Barbara

Send submissions to:**Denise A. Segura**

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2003 SECTION AWARD WINNERS

Distinguished Book: Lynne Haney, *Inventing the Needy: Gender and the Politics of Welfare in Hungary*. 2002. University of California Press.

Haney's book is excellent in using gender as a category of analysis for rethinking the relationship between the state and family in three key historical transition moments in Hungary. The book opens with personal narratives from three generations of women in the same family and their varied experiences with the state and state subsidies for women, work, and families. It is carefully researched - historically and ethnographically. The book uses a variety of methodologies from top-down analysis examination of policies, to interviews with welfare workers and government officials, to an examination of case files. The result of this multifaceted approach is to increase our understanding of the complexity of the topic. She also ties the individual experiences of women and their case workers to the structural changes occurring in Hungarian society and their impact on policies.

The book helps us to rethink the theory and research on the emergence of the so-called post-socialist state in Hungary. It also has implications for thinking about gender and the state in other countries as well. Although Haney's intent is not to generalize about the state in all countries, she does develop an analytical lens that can be fruitfully and productively applied to other regions of the world. Further, unlike much work on the socialist and post-socialist state, she takes gender seriously as a category of analysis. Most important is that Haney uses gender as an analytical frame to transform conventional understandings of the state. Finally, it's beautifully written and well worth our time.

Distinguished Article: Kirsten Dellinger and Christine Williams, "The Locker Room and the Dorm Room: Workplace Norms and the Boundaries of Sexual Harassment in Magazine Editing" *Social Problems* 49(2):242-257 (2002).

This article is an outstanding piece of research that compares the workplace subcultures of two magazine offices in New York City. It reveals that workplace subcultures can be highly sexualized in different ways, and lead to divergent consequences. Dellinger and Williams examine how the rules and norms concerning sexual discussion and innuendo within a particular workplace emerge. The article clearly shows that, rather than individual actions of interpretations, it is organizational sexualities at the different workplaces that helps define what actions

constitute sexual harassment within that workplace. The committee unanimously found the study to be important due to the prevailing ambiguity regarding the definition of sexual harassment. We also agreed that exploration from an organizational perspective, advances our understanding of sexual harassment.

Diana Tietjens Meyers received an Honorable Mention for her article, "The Rush to Motherhood--Pronatalist Discourse and Women's Autonomy (*Signs* 26(3): 734-773). The committee felt Meyers' article contributed not only to a better understanding of the constraints under which women choose to have children, but that it also, more generally, illuminated important agency-structure dynamics that apply particularly to women in male-dominated societies. Meyers' concept of "matrogyno-idoltry" recognizes the strong cultural conventions regarding motherhood, but her major contribution is to identify several skills that are prerequisite to exercising feminist agency. The article also convincingly argues that these factors are often lacking in women's motherhood "choice."

Martin Levine Dissertation Award: Tasleem Juana Padamsee at the University of Michigan for "Medicine and Inequality in the Welfare State: AIDS Policy-Making in the United States and the United Kingdom" (email: tjpadams@umich.edu).

The Levine Award Committee, chaired by Michael Kimmel also awarded Honorable Mention to Kristen Schilt at UCLA for "Transsexuality in Context: The Variable Meaning of Transition" (email: kschild@ucla.edu). Due to the New York blackout, the final texts for these awards were lost. Interested readers are urged to directly contact the awardees to learn more about their exciting work.

Please note that this Award will be under the auspices of the Sexualities Section beginning this year. The change, which was requested by Levine Fellowship Committee Chair Kimmel, was approved by the Sex and Gender Council.

Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper: Eileen Otis, a Ph.D. candidate at UC Davis, for "Global Restructuring and the Production of Femininities in China's Emergent Service Industry."

Otis provides a wonderful account of how structure forms femininities. She specifically addresses the growing service sector industry in China, with a focus on the intersection of global processes, class, and gender formation under post-socialism. The paper also provides a useful comparative field study across nation-states, and has broad implications for social

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theory, empirical analysis of global restructuring, and theoretical and empirical implications for thinking through intersectionality. Her main argument is that the presence or absence of socialist work unaffected the formation of femininities. The fact that such work was gendered differently prior to global restructuring in the Maoist era, makes her choice of setting both empirically and theoretically interesting. Especially important is that she views gender as a resource, not natural and static, thereby rethinking Hochschild on emotion work. She also refrains from imposing Western feminism on her subject(s). The paper, in sum, explores an area in need of additional research, advances theory, and is methodologically strong.

CALL FOR 2004 SECTION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Distinguished Book Award

This award honors those who make a significant contribution to the field of sex and gender through a book on the cutting edge of sociological inquiry. This Award Committee is currently accepting nominations of outstanding and innovative books published in 2001, 2002, or 2003. Although authors need not be sociologists, nominators must be Section members. Please note that edited collections are not eligible. To nominate a book, please send a two-page letter explaining how it makes a significant contribution to the committee chair: Raka Ray, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, phone: (510) 642-9565, rakaray@uclink4.berkeley.edu (email). **Nominations deadline: February 15, 2004.**

Distinguished Article Award

This award honors those who make a significant contribution to the understanding of sex and gender through an article or chapter on the cutting edge of sociological inquiry. Articles or chapters published in 2001, 2002, or 2003 are eligible. Authors need not be sociologists and the work may be in journals associated with other disciplines. Self-nominations are acceptable. To be considered, please submit a two-page letter explaining why the article or chapter makes a significant contribution to the sociology of sex and gender together with an electronic copy of the article through email, or send the letter and four photocopies of the article by post to the committee chair: Naomi Cassirer, 106 Amorsolo Street, 5/F Neda Building, Makati City, Philippines, cassirer@ilomnl.org.ph and cassirer@ilo.org. (emails). **Nominations deadline: February 15, 2004.**

Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award

This award honors graduate student papers that deal with a theoretical issue or empirical problem important to the field of sex and gender. The paper should be based on a dissertation that is in progress or was completed and approved no earlier than January 2004. To be considered, please send letters of nomination, one hard copy of the paper, and an electronic copy of the paper to the committee chair: Mindy Stombler, Department of Sociology, Georgia State University, P.O. Box 5020, Atlanta, GA 30302-5020, phone: 404-651-2806, stombler@gsu.edu (email). **Nominations deadline: February 15, 2004**

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SECTION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Hilton, Atlanta, GA
August 16, 2003

1. Introductions

Chair Michael Kimmel could not attend the business meeting because of the New York area blackout. Secretary/treasurer Patti Giuffre opened the meeting and introduced Chair-elect Denise Segura.

2. Presentation of Awards

The Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award was presented to Eileen Otis for "Global Restructuring and the Production of Femininities in China's Emergent Service Industry."

The Distinguished Paper Award was presented to Kirsten Dellinger and Christine Williams for "The Locker Room and the Dorm Room: Workplace Norms and the Boundaries of Sexual Harassment in Magazine Editing." The Honorable Mention went to Diana Tietjens Meyers "The Rush to Motherhood--Pronatalist Discourse and Women's Autonomy."

The Distinguished Book Award was given to Lynne Haney for *Inventing the Needy: Gender and the Politics of Welfare in Hungary*.

The Martin Levine Dissertation Award was presented Tasleem Juana Padamsee for "Medicine and Inequality in the Welfare State: AIDS Policy-Making in the United States and the United Kingdom." Honorable Mention was awarded to

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Kristen Schilt for "Transsexuality in Context: The Variable Meaning of Transition."

3. Election Results

New are: Chair-Elect Amy Wharton, council members Shirley Hill and Irene Padavic, Sally Hacker committee members Bernice McNair Barnett and Joya Misra.

4. Nominations Committee Election

One member was selected at random: Michael Messina-Yauchzy. However, Messina-Yauchzy was on the committee last year and bylaws prevent him from serving in two consecutive years. Chair-elect Denise Segura will select another person in his place to serve on the nominations committee.

5. Budget Report

Secretary/treasurer Patti Giuffre reported that the section should finish the year in good financial shape; we are carrying over an approximate surplus of \$2000.

In terms of membership, we are close to where we were last year at this time. Currently, membership is 1,011. We expect similar revenues, so we propose a budget similar to last year. Given that membership helps the section to remain viable, we discussed the possibility of continuing to recruit graduate student members actively.

6. Selection of New Student Member to Council

Stephanie Nawyn (USC) was chosen at random to be the new graduate student member of Council.

7. Discussion Groups for 2004 Session Topics

Chair-elect Denise Segura suggested an overarching theme for next year's sex and gender paper sessions: "Gendering Human Rights and Social Justice." Given that theme, many suggestions were made for next year's sessions, including transgendered human rights, gendered health care and reproduction in an international context, workplace rights and legal rights in the global and U.S. context, how consumerism and buying habits contribute to global inequality, women in post-invasion Iraq, women's rights and war, sex work internationally, gender, war and terrorism, the politics of clothing and the presentation of self, prisons, gender and human rights, nationalism and human rights, women's movements internationally,

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transnational feminism, gendering war and militarization, sports, gender and justice, and gender and politics at the ASA.

8. New Business

Chair-elect Denise Segura suggested informal tables based on topics or interests at the 2004 reception. Denise also discussed her communication with the Section on Race-Ethnic Minorities for a joint reception. All approved this and indicated that if this did not work out, that we would seek out a smaller section for this co-sponsorship.

One member noted that 2004 is the 50-year anniversary of *Brown vs. Board of Education* and suggested that we organize a session or a table at the reception focusing on its anniversary.

The call for a newsletter editor was announced. The call will be placed on the listserv if we cannot find a volunteer through personal contacts.

Chair-elect Denise Segura asked the membership to consider moving to an electronic format for the newsletter to save escalating paper and postage costs. The pros and cons of such a change were discussed. She suggested that we propose this issue via ballot and vote on it in our next election slate.

Segura also proposed an ad hoc committee to both increase membership, sponsor graduate students, contact lapsed members, and support our current membership by working on reception ideas.

9. Transfer of Leadership

Secretary/treasurer Patti Giuffre introduced the new Section Chair, Denise Segura.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations Committee Notice!!

The Sex and Gender Committee on Nominations invites you to submit the names of colleagues that you think would be great candidates. The Committee will be putting together a slate of candidates for the chair-elect, two council members, and two members of the Sally Hacker Award. Please send the names to: Michael Kimmel, Chair, Department of Sociology, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794. PH: (631) 632-7708 MichaelSKimmel@compuserve.com (email).

Fellowship Opportunity

The University of California is pleased to announce the annual competition of the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for the academic year 2004-2005. The Program offers research fellowships to scholars committed to university careers in research, teaching, and service that will enhance the diversity of the UC academic community. Fellowships are awarded for research conducted under faculty sponsorship on any one of the UC's nine campuses and are designed to enhance the awardee's prospects for appointments to UC faculty positions. In addition to financial support, the fellowships include mentorship guidance in areas critical to success in an academic career, such as research and writing. Application forms are available at www.ucop.edu/acadadv/ppfp/applic-2004-2005.pdf (email). **Application deadline: November 15, 2003.**

Joint Ph.D. Program in Soc & Women's Studies

The University of Michigan is currently accepting applications for its recently instituted interdepartmental Ph.D. Program in Sociology and Women's Studies. This program draws on the Women's Studies Program's thirty-year history and breadth of faculty expertise across the social sciences and humanities, and Sociology's long-standing record of excellence in training and scholarship and culminates in a single, joined dissertation. For further information, contact: Anne Herrmann, Director of Graduate Studies, Women's Studies anneh@umich.edu or Karin Martin, Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology kamartin@umich.edu c/o 1122 Lane Hall, 204 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1290. Phone: (734) 763-2047, fax (734) 647-4943, <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/women/> **Application Deadline: December 15, 2003.**

Section Website News

Our website, www.asanet.org/sections/sexgend.htm, currently consists of the following sections: 1) News and Information, 2) Awards, 3) Links of Interest, 4) Discussion Forums, 5) Listing of Section Officers, and 6) Listing of Council Members. Please feel free to visit the site and send items of information/interest to our Website Coordinator, Ashley Finley.

Short hello from Dula (the new newsletter editor)

I just wanted everyone to know that I will be doing my best to serve the Section. Currently, I am looking for a publisher for a book manuscript, *Affirmative Action: The Truth Behind the Rhetoric*, while continuing work on hate crimes, citizenship, and employment.

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Sex and Gender Officers

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