

# Sociology Speaks

2008-2009

The Newsletter of the Sociology Department at Boston College

## Message from Chairperson Zine Magubane

I was very excited to take over chairing the department during the 2008-2009 academic year. My predecessors Juliet Schor and Stephen Pfohl laid the groundwork for an exciting set of initiatives that are now coming to fruition. The world around us underwent enormous change with Barack Obama being elected our first African-American president. We couldn't help but smile at the thought that one of his closest advisors (Michelle Obama) holds a degree in sociology!

This year was a particularly good year for us as we made two terrific new hires (Sara Moorman, PhD Wisconsin and Brian Gareau, PhD UCSC). Sara specializes in the

sociology of aging, while Brian's research focus is environmental sociology. Our faculty completed a number of fascinating projects this year on topics ranging from development banks to global warming. We

were also extremely pleased to see that we have made further strides in the *U.S. News* rankings. We are currently ranked at 41, which makes us one of the top ranked departments in A & S (second only to economics). Further, we are now the no. 1 ranked Sociology department among Catholic colleges and universities.

The department hosted its seventh annual Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series, on the theme of "The Nature of Nature." We hosted the world renowned sociologist Emily Martin of New York University. Two more exciting seminars hosted by Anne Fausto Sterling and Dorothy Roberts were held in the fall of 2009, and Michael Hardt, David Harvey, and Saskia Sassen will join us in the spring of 2010. The department seminar also completed a fourth, successful year of operation, with speakers on topics ranging from the state of public sociology to United States empire and American imperialism.

The department, with generous support from the Dean and the Lavizzo-Mourey gift, was prominent at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. We hosted two mini-conferences, jointly organized by faculty and graduate students, in conjunction with larger organizations within the profession (Sociologists Without Borders and the Consumer Studies Research Network). The conferences were on the themes of human rights and consumer culture.

For the second time, the department offered a number of competitive fellowships to PhD students to support their summer research. In all, five students were supported for mentored research, while six received funding for independent research. The work is on a variety of topics, is highly international, and involves a variety of original data collection efforts.

Our faculty enjoyed a wonderfully productive year as well. In 2010, no less than nine books will appear that were either written, co-written, or edited by our faculty members. These books include *Behind the Development Banks: Washington Politics, World Poverty, and the Wealth of Nations* by Sarah Babb, *Greed to Green: Solving Climate Change and Remaking the Economy* by Charlie Derber, *The Moral Underground: How Ordinary Americans Subvert an Unfair Economy* by Lisa Dodson, *Mixed Methods Research: Merging Theory With Practice* by Sharlene Hesse-Biber, and *Plentitude: The New Economics of True Wealth* by Juliet Schor.

This year was also a banner year for awards, with graduate students and faculty members earning recognition from the ASA and SSSP. Two faculty members won major awards from the ASA. Shawn McGuffey's article, "Saving Masculinity: Gender Reaffirmation, Sexuality, Race, and Parental Responses to Child Sexual Abuse," won the Best Article Award from the ASA's sexuality section. Natasha Sarkisian (who was also promoted to Associate Professor in 2009) won the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award from the Race and Ethnicity Section of the ASA for her article, "Street Men, Family Men: Race and Men's Extended Family Involvement." Our graduate students also won prestigious prizes this year. Jared Del Rosso's paper, "To Make Prison Mobile: Social Problem Forms and the Construction of Abu Ghraib," won the Best Graduate Student Paper Award for the Social Problems Theory section of the SSSP. Matt Williams also garnered a Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements for his paper, "Strategizing Against Sweatshops: Ideology, Strategic Models, and Innovation in the U.S Anti-Sweatshop Movement."

Our department has enjoyed some wonderful successes over the past year and we look forward to achieving even greater heights in the future. I feel fortunate to be leading the department during such an exciting and productive time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZINE MAGUBANE

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The Boston College Sociology Department Presents

The Robert & Risa Lavizzo-Mourey  
Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series 2009

# The Nature of Nature

Struggles around  
the Biology of  
Gender and Race

**Emily Martin**

New York University  
April 27 / 28

**Anne Fausto-Sterling**

Brown University  
September 25 / 28

**Dorothy Roberts**

Northwestern University  
October 29 / 30



# DVSS 2009: The Nature of Nature: Struggles Around the Biology of Gender and Race

## Emily Martin

Sleeplessness in America

Uncanny rounds: The unsaid in medical diagnosis

The Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series for 2009, "The Nature of Nature: Struggles around the Biology of Gender and Race," commenced with a public lecture by Dr. Emily Martin on April 27. Martin's lecture, "Sleepless in America," and her seminar, "Uncanny Rounds: The Unsaid in Medical Diagnosis," were a thought provoking and genuinely revealing beginning to a series that will conclude in fall of 2009.

Martin, a professor within the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for the History of the Production of Knowledge at New York University, has academic interests centering in religion, ideology, politics, models and explanations in social anthropology, political economy of health, gender, anthropology of science, rationality, psychiatry, the unconscious, China, and the United States. She's published three books on Chinese culture and society (most recently *Chinese Ritual and Politics* in 2007) and three based on her research in conceptions and practices of the body, the mind, work, health and personhood in American culture (most recently *Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture* in 2009). She is the founding editor of the public interest magazine *Anthropology Now* and co-organizes the regional seminar "The Psyences Project," which brings clinicians into dialogue with academics around common interests in the mind and brain as understood by various disciplines in a cultural and historical context. In addition, the "Culture, Mind and Brain Working Group," an initiative that developed out of one of Martin's courses, brings together graduate students and faculty across schools and disciplines to investigate through historical analysis the contemporary cultural meanings attached to mental phenomena.

Her public lecture at Boston College, delivered soon after the publication of her latest book, extended this type of analysis into a new area of research, although she specified that her talk did not represent a final study but rather a beginning sketch, a consideration of a new subject from multiple perspectives. We were subsequently treated to a view of the creative processes of a fascinating thinker at the outset of a project on a topic of universal relevance – sleep – or rather sleeplessness, since the relatively recent

history of sleep involves its fragmentation into multiple medical and psychological disorders. Of these, Martin is particularly interested in sleeplessness because of its paradoxical nature: the more it's desired and the more effort is made to achieve it, the more tantalizingly elusive it becomes. She likes paradoxes, she said, because they tend to be culturally rich and complex, and the topic of insomnia provides many of them.



PHOTO BY RENEE IPPOLITO

Her lecture followed a historical overview of the changing conceptions of sleep and sleeplessness. She explained that "early morning awakening," now a diagnosable pathology, was considered so normal in the Middle Ages that all European languages had words for the ideas of first sleep, second sleep, and the wakeful period in between. The notion of 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep as a natural human requirement appears to have arisen in the late 1800s, as a labor movement claim to the right to a balanced life including 8 hours of work, 8 hours of leisure, and 8 hours of sleep. The social focus on sleep subsequently rose dramatically, with the emergence of various sleep technologies (with box springs being among the earliest and simplest attempts to control sleepers' external environments, and sleeping pills a later attempt to control their internal environments), along with a blizzard of advertisements that both target and create consumer concerns about sleep. Some of the most elaborate technologies involved the first scientific studies on sleep, begun in the 1930s by Nathaniel Kleitman in Mammoth Cave, a location chosen because it was the most controlled environment he could find. There the "universal subject" (always male, generally middle class) was studied with

elaborate, Rube Goldbergesque equipment that dwarfed the person under study. A prime paradox of sleeplessness is that the concept of "natural sleep," now desired almost obsessively by people posting in insomnia chat rooms, has been defined by a century of commodification and by the strikingly unnatural conditions set up in Mammoth Cave.

IMAGE FROM NATHANIEL KLEITMAN'S SLEEP AND WAKEFULNESS

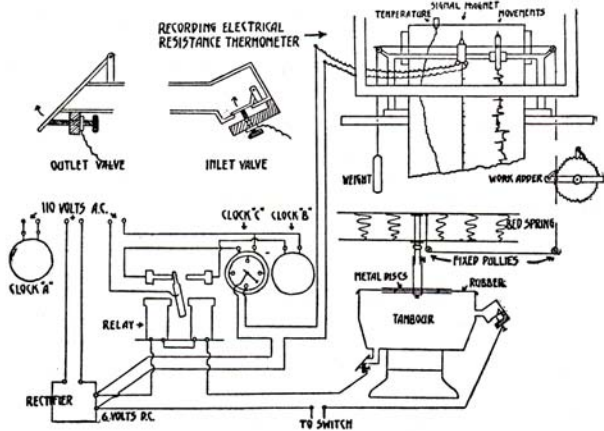


Diagram of Kleitman's measuring equipment

A significant loss in these developments is the decreased importance of dreams, which were once a potential avenue to new possibilities and are increasingly studied only in terms of the neurological activity they create. As a consequence, Martin speculated, "the dream life has become irrelevant, sleep has become a complex management project, and the space of imagination and desire in these cases has been occupied by the advertising industry."

Martin's seminar the next day focused on ideas that she developed in "Uncanny Rounds," an article which applies Freud's concept of the uncanny – "something which ought to remain hidden but has come to light" – to the social setting of medical rounds in a teaching hospital treating affective disorders. She compared doctor and medical student interactions with two male patients exhibiting similar symptoms of mania and depression: an older white economics professor, and a young African American college dropout who had recently had a medical problem requiring the removal of one of his testicles. The professor was seen by medical personnel as occupying a gray area between sickness and health; the student was diagnosed as bipolar. Martin analyzed the unspoken components of race and class in these distinctions, noting for example that a manic white professor can be seen as potent while a manic African-American student is more likely to be viewed as dangerous. More significantly, she noted that during the interview none of the medical personnel mentioned the loss of the student's testicle, surely a disturbing

prospect for every man in the room and an important element in the patient's emotional well being.

Trying to understand this, Martin explored the idea of the uncanny further, drawing ultimately on Harry Stack Sullivan's description of the uncanny as a frightening threshold of the "Not-Me... the fundamental propensity to become defamiliarized, derealized, as if in a dream." Sullivan applied this description of the uncanny to social interactions, observing that it can result in a feeling of apathy. If the sense of the uncanny actually leads to apathy, Martin concluded, it could explain the behavior of the medical personnel toward the young patient's physical loss, and more than that: it may describe a mechanism that "perpetuates racial discrimination by deadening sentiments that otherwise might link people empathetically."

Martin's juxtapositions – of theories of the personal unconscious with medical practices and judgments, and of intertwined historical developments that are usually considered in isolation – result in insights that are truly surprising while fitting in with what is already known about such topics. To read racism and classism in medical diagnoses is no longer news; to use this in order to highlight the progression from a sense of the uncanny to apathy to racism in society at large is to open up a new perspective on a troubling phenomenon. Likewise, her historical overview of insomnia – a kind of genealogy of sleeplessness – reveals unexpected interconnections between political movements, consumerism, science, the rise of new technologies, and the private, "natural" act of sleeping. We might rework the psychoanalytical definitions of the uncanny to say that Martin brings that which has been hidden into the light, not with a shudder of alienation but with a sense of recognition and clarity. Or, to borrow another term from psychology, her social insights are like breakthroughs, creating a fresh understanding of longstanding issues, and opening up new possibilities for change and growth.

by Jean Lovett

*The Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series is generously funded by Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey. The current series, The Nature of Nature: Struggles Around the Biology of Gender and Race, will continue in fall of 2009 with Anne Fausto-Sterling and Dorothy Roberts.*

## **Sociology Departmental Seminar Series**

Throughout the academic year, the Sociology Department hosts a seminar series featuring research work by our faculty, our advanced PhD students, and by other prominent scholars in the field. To see upcoming seminars see <http://www.bc.edu/sociology/research/seminar.html>; to read abstracts of previous seminars, click on the archives link on the seminar page. The Sociology Department Seminar Series is generously supported by the Boston College Dean of Arts and Sciences and by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The 2008-2009 Sociology Department Seminar Series included:

“Global Fields and Imperial Forms: the British and American Empires Compared,” by Julian Go, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston University.

“Structures and Subjects in the Global Economy: What Gender Helps Us See,” by Leslie Salzinger, Associate Professor, Boston College.

“Displacing Activism? The Impact of International Service Trips on Understandings of Social Change,” by Amy Finnegan, Jonathan Christiansen, Mike Cermak, Aideen Gleeson, Shelley White, Ph.D. and M.A. Sociology students, Boston College.

“The Making of a Public Sociologist: Invitation to a Conversation,” by Charles Derber, Professor, Boston College.

“Work to Retirement Transitions and Happiness: Linking Public Policies, Social Structures, and Private Troubles,” by Esteban Calvo Bralic, Ph.D. student, Boston College.

“The New Consumer Movement: Co-optation or Challenge?” by Juliet Schor, Professor, Boston College.

“Like a Family: Caring, Exploitation and Race in Paid Carework,” by Research Professor Lisa Dodson, Boston College.

“Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not,” by History Professor Prasannan Parthasarathi, Boston College.

“Sexual Orientation and Health Disparities,” by Assistant Professor Ulrike Boehmer, Boston University School of Public Health.

## **“Contested Terrain of Consumption” Conference**

*by Margaret Willis*

Prior to the 2008 ASA conference, the Consumer Studies Research Network presented a one-day conference at Boston College: “The Contested Terrain of Consumption Studies.” In all, over twenty papers were presented on topics ranging from the contested politics and morals of consumption to social inequalities in consumption.

The keynote speaker, Douglas Holt of Oxford University, presented his research on the challenging question of political consumption, asking whether such consumption, and its related moralism, deters broader political involvement or is part of a broader social movement. The focus on looming ecological and ethical issues was also highlighted in Craig Thompson's (University of Wisconsin-Madison) work on the link between the ideology of American exceptionalism and resource-intensive lifestyles, using Hummer enthusiasts as a case study. Colin Beavan (aka “No Impact Man”) shared reflections on his “no impact” year and his efforts to move beyond trying to “do less harm” as a consumer to also trying to “do more good.”

The conference also featured the work of several members of our department: Betsy Leondar-Wright's research on race, class, and clothing subcultures among activists; Dave Harker's analysis of the postings on the *New York Time's* DotEarth blog about climate change solutions; Patricia Arend's research on women, weddings, and consumer desire; and Johanna Pabst's work on technology, advertising, and the self.

As Juliet Schor noted, “The mini-conference revealed how much excellent work is being done on the movements that have emerged to challenge the mainstream of consumer culture. We were treated to papers on cultural responses to climate change, consumption reduction, online sharing networks, and a variety of other topics. These represent the cutting-edge of the consumer culture. The day-long meeting was also notable for its light green footprint, in what we hope will be a trend for future ASA mini-conferences.”

The event was organized by Juliet Schor, Laura Miller (Brandeis), and Sam Binkley (Emerson), with help from Jacqueline Hennrikus and several graduate students from Boston College, Boston University, and Brandeis University. The committee worked with BC Dining Services and local caterers to keep the menu for the day ecologically-friendly, recycled and composted waste from the conference, and circulated tips for greening the conference to participants prior to the meeting.

## **Boston Human Rights: Ideas and Actions**

**by Jacqueline Hennrikus**

On July 31st, 2008 the "Boston Human Rights: Ideas and Actions" conference was held at the Boston Public Library and the Old South Church. It was advertised as a day to "bring together academics and activists to explore the current state of human rights activism, to push the boundaries of the human rights tradition, and to move forward a human rights campaign in Boston that will actually work for our communities." The conference succeeded in attracting approximately one hundred participants, bringing together academics, activists, and the general public. Attendees heard from guest lecturers like Shula Koenig, founder and president of PDHRE (the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning), and Frances Fox Piven, prominent author in the field of social movements and faculty member of City University of New York. There were panels on a range of human rights issues, and round table discussions were held for attendees to exchange ideas and to start putting their plans into motion.

The event was a collaborative effort organized by members of the Boston College Department of Sociology, Sociologists Without Borders (SWB), and many other local sponsors. SWB initially approached the Boston College Sociology Department to identify any interest in co-sponsoring a conference on human rights, to precede the ASA conference in Boston. Shelley White, a Sociology graduate student at BC and an organizer of the conference, says that members of the department were more than happy to be involved in the event's collaboration and planning. In preparation for the conference, the sponsors conducted "outreach interviews" with activists in the Boston area. The interviews were held for two reasons, according to Shelley: first, to find out the activists' perception of "human rights as a mobilizing framework and the extent to which they currently engaged with the language and framework of human rights in their work," and second, to raise interest in the conference and get people invested in the cause. The research from these interviews has been compiled in a distinguished research paper, "Boston Human Rights: Ideas and Action, Summary of Research Results" by Amy Finnegan, Adam Saltzman, and Shelley White, all Ph.D. candidates of BC's Sociology Department. This work has been submitted to the *Human Rights Quarterly* journal and a summarized version can also be found at <http://bostonhumanrights.org/start/node/5>.

The day of the conference hailed a wide variety of guest speakers and activist respondents. The first group of panelists spoke to "The Leading Rogue State: Collective Rights," which covered issues of Disabled Rights, Migrant Rights, Housing Rights, and Youth. The second group spoke to "The Leading Rogue State: Individual Rights," which included issues of Water, Democracy, and Trade. After lunch the keynote address was given by Shula Koenig, who addressed the Human Rights Cities Program, which molds cities into a community that Shula describes as a place "where wisdom and experiences accumulated in a community come together to be anchored in human rights." All the city's inhabitants, including local government, community groups, and stakeholders organize "the future development of their city with regard to laws, policies, resources and relationships within a human rights framework." With twelve human rights cities already under way, the PDHRE has plans to create twenty more in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Following the Human Right Cities presentation, participants spent time in issue-focused groups and transformed their ideas into action plans. Housing, immigrants, gender, and the environment were just a few of the issues discussed before attendees reconvened for closing remarks by Frances Fox Piven.

Charles Derber, a BC Sociology Professor, notes that the conference "helped create a foundation for further work between sociologists and social justice activists." Derber also said that he has subsequently been "personally involved in new projects with the Boston activist leaders who find the link to sociology and sociologists important." Despite the brevity of the event, this conference consisted of a lot of productive networking, research, and future plans for human rights. This shows the potential for bridging the gap between academia and activism, while forming an effective human rights campaign in Boston.

For more information on this event please see <http://bostonhumanrights.org>. To see a full list of sponsors, speakers, and moderators, along with the full program, see <http://bostonhumanrights.org/start/sites/default/files/program-2008-07-31-hr-conf.pdf>.

# Undergraduate Achievements 2008-2009

## The Amanda V. Houston Fellowship

The Amanda V. Houston Fellowship is intended to further prepare BC undergraduates of African descent for leadership by enriching their personal and educational development through travel. Students who receive the award have

up to \$3500 of their study abroad expenses reimbursed.

In AY 2008-9, Sociology major **Sarah Onori** received this prestigious fellowship to help finance her proposed project, an ethnographic comparison of Italian and African-American families, with an

emphasis on extended family and on food at important family gatherings. She was encouraged to apply for this award by her Social Theory instructor, Teaching Fellow Noa Milman, who will also work with her in the development of a thesis after she returns. Sarah plans to go to Parma in the spring term of 2009-2010.

**Advanced Study Grants (ASGs)** are awarded to particularly imaginative and independent students for summer projects that promise to accelerate dramatically their progress in the major field of study.



BC ID

In 2008-9, Sociology major **Connor Fitzmaurice** received an ASG for his study of organic farming in northeastern United States. More specifically, he wondered whether small scale organic farmers were tied to the land through

an environmental ideology or if they were tied to the market and seeking the higher profit available to certified organic farms. He volunteered at a small organic farm for three weeks and based his study on this experience, identifying and analyzing the push and pull of both motivations in combination with additional factors like health, family, etc.

## The John D. Donovan Award

This award is in honor of Professor Emeritus John D. Donovan. It is ordinarily presented each year to an undergraduate student who submits the best paper written for a course in sociology. In 2009, the Donovan Award was awarded to **Meghan Battle**, for her paper "From Partners to Victims: How Social Learning Theory Explains Changing Marital Relations and the Rise of Domestic Violence in Post-Genocide Cambodia." This paper was written for Associate Professor Paul Gray.

## The William A. Gamson Award

This award was established during the 2001-2002 academic year by the Sociology Department in honor of William Gamson. It is given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in Sociology. The 2009 recipient of this award is **Nicole Picone**.

## Sociology Undergraduate Honors Program

Coordinated by Professor David Karp, the Sociology Department Honors Program is composed of a junior-year seminar, SC 550 "Important Readings in Sociology" and a two-seminar Senior Thesis seminar, SC555 and SC556. In the academic year 2008-9, the following students participated in our Honors Program:

### *Class of 2009:*

Cristina Hancock, Stephanie Howe, Christopher Lee, Nicole Picone, Malak Yusef

### **Dean's Scholars:**

Kathryn Casey, Claire Duggan, Ana Mascagni, Anna Rhodes, John Skinner

### **Sophomore Scholars:**

Connor Fitzmaurice, Erica Meninno, Anna Minkow, Kristina Kohn

**AKD Honor Society.** Professor Michael Malec coordinates inductions into the AKD Honor Society. The following Sociology Majors were inducted into AKD:

Cara Elizabeth Colbert, Claire Michèle Duggan, Connor John Fitzmaurice, Natalie Foy-Claycomb, Caitlin Marie Hall, Karyn Elizabeth Hollister, Kari Elise Hulley, Timothy Paul, Jordan Daniel Kenny, Sarah Elizabeth Popper, Andrew Rigoglioso, Madeline Rosen, Theresa Schmall, Olivia Tess Snyder

# Sociology Major Jeans M. Santana Wins Romero Scholarship

There were three finalists for this year's Oscar Romero Scholarship, all of them sociology majors: Stephanie Andujar, Jeans M. Santana, and Gloria Mercedes Villanueva. Jeans M. Santana won the award in the annual ceremony on March 28, 2009. The following article is taken from Melissa Beecher's article about him, "Family Experience Inspires Med Career Plans," printed in the April 14 *Chronicle*.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE CAMARATA (THE CHRONICLE)

Jeans M. Santana, '10, was the center of attention when he was chosen as the 2009 Oscar Romero Scholarship winner.

Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Bronx, Jeans M. Santana says challenges have always been a part of his life. He used football and track to keep him off the streets and made a point of putting in extra time at the library to earn good grades.

So it's taken a little while for Santana to get used to being named the 17th annual Archbishop Oscar A. Romero Scholarship Award winner. Days after University President William P. Leahy, SJ, called his name and offered congratulations at the March 28

ceremony in the Yawkey Center, Santana still has a hard time absorbing the fact that it all happened.

"It still hasn't hit me yet," says Santana. "It is an honor to be awarded a scholarship in Archbishop Romero's name. He acted to establish change amid social injustice. He worked to make things better."

The Romero Scholarship is given annually to a student who demonstrates an outstanding record of involvement in service to the Hispanic and Latino community. It is named for Oscar A. Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, who worked for the poor and the oppressed of his country until his 1980 assassination during the country's civil war.

Stephanie Andujar, '10, and Gloria Mercedes Villanueva, '10, were the other scholarship finalists.

Santana is majoring in sociology and is in the pre-med program, a vocation he has pursued after watching his grandmother fight breast cancer when he was a sophomore in high school.

"My mom was able to get her a visa for treatment here in the US," recalls Santana. "Taking in the whole situation, being hospitalized, going through chemo treatments, going through the pain...it all set up my interest. I want to go to medical school, I want to become an oncologist."

Last summer, Santana worked at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute CURE program, where he coordinated and implemented a campaign to raise awareness of HPV in the Latino community. He plans to return to Dana Farber this year to focus on wet lab research.

Santana said the two most influential people in his life have been his mother, Orquidea Hierro, and Matt Knaure, a fellow Cardinal Hayes High School graduate who sponsored Santana's high school education.

"My mother's the only one on my grandmother's side who's here in the United States. So much of her time, so much of her energy goes into not only making sure food is on the table for us, but also funding our family at home because they're not in the best economic state.

"Seeing that while growing up, it's where I get my drive. She helped me aspire to be more."

While at Boston College, Santana has been a member of the Organization of Latin American Affairs (OLAA), the AHANA Leadership Council, AHANA Volunteer Corps and participated in the OLAA Culture Show. He has volunteered on service trips with the Turkey Creek Initiative to Mississippi and led the BC service immersion trip to the Dominican Republic.

# Graduate Degrees 2008-2009

## Ph.D. Degrees

### **Marlene Bryant, Ph.D.**

*Circles of Community and the Decline of Civil Society.* Michael Malec and Charles Derber, Advisors.

### **Jeff Langstraat, Ph.D.**

*New Boston Marriages: News Representations, Respectability, and the Politics of Same-Sex Marriage.* Bill Gamson, Advisor.

### **Joelle Sano, Ph.D.**

*Making the Grade: Moral Framing and the Catholic Teachers Union.* Paul Gray, Advisor.

### **Diane Watts-Roy, Ph.D.**

*Technology to Delay Aging and Extend Life.* John Williamson, Advisor.

## M.A. Degrees

### **Kim Bachechi, M.A.** (interim degree)

*The Pure, the Pious and the Preyed Upon; A Celebration of Celibacy and the Erasure of Young Women's Sexual Agency.* Zine Magubane, Advisor.

### **Shanyuan Foo, M.A.**

*The Lived Realities of Educated Chinese Women in Singapore – Contestations in Formation of a Gendered Identity vis-à-vis State Definitions of Womanhood.* Shawn McGuffey, Advisor.

### **Aideen Gleeson, M.A.**

*Service Learning and Civic Action: A Multilevel Analysis of Personal Commitment and Campus Culture.* Natasha Sarkisian, Advisor.

### **David Harker, M.A.** (interim degree)

*The Role of Individual Action in Climate Change: Reactions from DotEarth.* Juliet Schor, Advisor.

### **Chris Kelly, M.A.** (interim degree)

*The Gift of "Getting It": Plausibility Structures in Student Activism.* Stephen Pfohl, Advisor.

### **Emily MacMillan, M.A.**

*The Voices of Parents in the Classroom: A Qualitative Inquiry.* Lisa Dodson, Advisor.

### **Nick Redel, M.A.**

*Resilience into the Analysis of Sustainable Socioeconomic Development: Conceptual Framework and Research Priorities.* Eve Spangler, Advisor.

### **Maggie Willis, M.A.** (interim degree)

*'Conscious Consumption' and Activism: An Empirical Reevaluation of the Apolitical and Distracted Consumer.* Juliet Schor, Advisor.



PHOTO BY KERRY BURKE

Marlene Bryant (4th from left) with committee and friends

Titles and abstracts of PhD dissertations since 2004 can be viewed on our website at [bc.edu/sociology/grad/dissertations.html](http://bc.edu/sociology/grad/dissertations.html).

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## Graduate Student Updates

### Awards



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

Jared Del Rosso

#### **Jared Del Rosso**

Jared was awarded First Place, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Social Problems Theory Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems: "To Make a Prison Mobile: Social Problem Forms and the Construction of Abu Ghraib."

#### **Emily Dubois**

Emily won a Hearst Fellowship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The fellowship allowed her to do research for the Mount Vernon Museum in New York City (primarily developing a women's social history tour and adding to the museum's educational curriculum).

#### **Adam Saltsman**

Adam received the BC Center for Human Rights and International Justice Summer Research Grant as well as a Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation Summer Research Fellowship.

#### **Matthew S. Williams**

Matt won the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award 2009, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association: "Strategizing Against Sweatshops: Ideology, Strategic Models and Innovation in U.S. Anti-Sweatshop Movement."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT WILLIAMS

Matt Williams

## Publications, Presentations, News

#### **Patricia Arend**

Patricia Arend and Juliet Schor discussed the trend in over-the-top celebrations with the *New York Times*.

## **Graduate Student Updates, continued**

### **Jared Del Rosso**

"Viewing Abu Ghraib: Congress and the Construction of Problem Photos," Presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. San Francisco, 2009.

### **Ross Glover**

Led a teaching seminar (with Chris Kelly) on "Democratic Pedagogy and Technology in the Classroom" at the Connors Family Learning Center.

### **Matthew Gregory**

"Peace In The Marketplace? The Role of Political and Conscientious Consumerism on Social Movements," Presented at the Peace and Justice Studies Association National Conference: Exploring the Power of Nonviolence in Milwaukee, WI, October, 2009. The panel was titled Recrafting the American Cultural Genome: For a Possible Future.

### **David Harker**

"Individual Action in Climate Change: Reactions from DotEarth," Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD, March 2009.

### **Chris Kelly**

Led a teaching seminar (with Ross Glover) on "Democratic Pedagogy and Technology in the Classroom" at the Connors Family Learning Center.

### **Susan Legere**

o "Immigrant Reflections," Shown at the Second Annual Meeting of the Italian Oral History Association. Padua, Italy, May 2009.

o "Immigrant Reflections," Shown at the Conference of the Working Class Studies Association, "Class Matters" conference. University of Pittsburgh, June 2009.

### **Johanna Pabst**

Johanna Pabst was quoted in two *Heights* articles: one on Juicy Campus (a web site that enabled college and university students to publish gossip and rumors anonymously), and another on the popularity of a cappella groups.

### **Rie Taniguchi**

"The Global Construction of Development Models: The U.S., Japan, and the East Asian Miracle," with Sarah Babb, *Socio-Economic Review* 7(2): 277-303 (April 2009).

### **Michelle White**

o "HIV/AIDS and Business Response: Understanding the Context of Economic Globalization," *Globalization: Understanding, Management and Effects*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc (2009).

o "The Utility of a Human Rights Framework for U.S. Activists," Co-Presented: Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD, March 2009.

o "Practicing Public Sociology in the Study of Human Rights as an Activist Framework," Co-Presented: Association for Humanist Sociology Conference. Boston, MA, November 2008.

o "Understanding Context and Strategy: A Comparative Analysis of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP)," Co-Presented: International AIDS Conference. Mexico City, Mexico, August 2008.

### **Matthew S. Williams**

"The Bush Administration, Debt Relief, and the War on Terror: Reforming the International Development System as Part of the Neoconservative Project," *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict and World Order*. 35 (3): 49-65 (2009).

## Focus on Grad Activist Mike Cermak

by Sarah Babb

From the time Mike Cermak began the Sociology Ph.D. program in AY 2006, he has devoted himself to activism and education around issues of the environment and social justice. His incredible energy and spirit have helped and inspired the various communities to which he's devoted his time, and have also been recognized in a series of awards. In 2007 he won the BC Graduate Student Association Men and Women for Others Award, given to the student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the local or global community. In AY 2009 he won the Donald White Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes graduate teaching fellows and teaching assistants who distinguish themselves in classroom instruction. Most recently he won the prestigious Set the World Aflame Award, given to the student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership to the BC community.

Mike came to our department with extensive background in environmental and educational issues. He joined our Ph.D. program after two years on a NSF fellowship doing environmental education in some of the most resource-poor and challenging schools in Boston, such as the Jeremiah Burke school

for example. The curriculum he developed during this time won an award from the EPA, and he was by all accounts extremely successful. However, he felt that to really understand the population he was trying to reach he needed to study the socio-economic contexts from which his students came. As a graduate student in our department, Mike has focused his electives in



PHOTO BY DAVE GIVLER (THE HEIGHTS)

the areas of consumer and popular culture, environmental education, and the study of poverty.

He has brought his increased understanding and his talent for activism to his service work in the Boston College and wider communities. Building on his connections with schools he developed a tremendously successful workshop entitled "Word Weapons: the Rhythm and Rhyme of Environmental Action," that he has given at more than 30 schools and other venues

since 2007. (These include East Boston, Charlestown, New Mission High Schools, and several others.) In the workshop, he helps students analyze the environmental language used by movement leaders as well as hip hop, R&B and spoken word artists, giving a history of the environmental justice movement and engaging students in creating their own ecological poetry (eco-rhymes). This workshop embodies three central tenets of Mike's work: it engages the audience by starting with issues that matter to them, it involves participants in creating their own product, and it is rooted in an analysis of ecological issues that puts social justice at the core. His prize-winning curriculum did this by discussing environment as a "grey" rather than a "green" issue because his students lived in a grey (concrete environments, consumer electronics) world.

He's also been a key figure in the Public Sociology Initiative, a diverse group of BC sociology grad students and faculty members with a variety of scholarly and activist projects addressing concerns ranging from the local to the international. (See *Sociology Speaks 2006-2008* as well as page 20 of this issue for more information on the Public Sociology Initiative.) Within BC, Mike has also led the formation of a new on-campus group that focuses on the issue of sustainable food. Working closely with students and BC's Dining Services, he was the lead organizer of the highly successful "Real Food Week," held in Spring 2008. The event led to the installation of an organic garden on campus. It also led to the launching of a green dining option, Addie's Loft, which features locally-grown and organic foods, in the BC Dining Commons. These and many of his other achievements have repeatedly been featured in BC publications, and even in the *Boston Globe*. He was most recently profiled in *The Heights* for an innovative project in which students in his Planet in Peril class created a website, called the BC Green Guide (<http://www.bc.edu/clubs/realfood/greenguide/>), which uses video and an interactive design to present students' innovative solutions to various environmental problems.

Mike's work is truly original, forging a path that is essential if we are to solve the issues of socio-economic injustice and ecological crisis, problems that are ordinarily thought of as requiring antithetical solutions. His creative approach to their joint resolution, in combination with his exceptional degree of commitment, distinguish him even among progressive activists, and serve as a model response to seemingly intractable social problems.

## BC Alumna Avery Gordon: Cutting Edge Intellectual and Activist

by Sarah Woodside

Avery Gordon, Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Barbara and BC PhD 1990, worked at the cutting edge of the discipline even as a graduate student. She continues to do so with her current work on dispossession, subjugated knowledge, domination, and ways in which these may be subverted and ultimately overcome.



HTTP://WWW.SOC.UCSB.EDU/GORDON.HTM

In the introduction of her critically acclaimed book *Ghostly Matters* (1997/2008), Gordon wrote that the task of any activist is to "side with the excluded and the repressed." Her current work exemplifies this mandate, in particular by examining imprisonment and militarism. She does so through the lens of three figures: the criminal, the prisoner of war, and the prison abolitionist. Just as *Ghostly Matters* contrasted ghosts of old and new in the form of, on the one hand, the slave, and on the other, Toni Morrison's protagonist in *Beloved*, Gordon's current work examines the meaning and human consequences of imprisonment both as an old phenomenon, and as a newly intensified modality of domination. From this experience of domination, she argues, come particular types of subjugated knowledges that inform those studying the intersection of power, knowledge, and experience.

A key component of her inquiry relates to racism and the subjugation of knowledge in the prison industry. As Gordon explains, "A major underlying argument in this work has been that racism is not merely external to imprisonment, and prisoners are not just racial subjects in the sense in which we commonly use that word. Rather, imprisonment is also a medium of racialized statecraft and prisoners are usually considered in law and social practice an inferior race in and of themselves. Like most of my work, this work tries to understand dispossession, and the thought and practice that subverts and undoes it."

Indeed, the theme of dispossession in many forms emerges in Gordon's work as both a scholar and activist. In *Ghostly Matters*, she demonstrated that past or shadowy social forces control present life. Haunting, framed as a social phenomenon, better reveals evils such as torture and slavery than other social forces, and these ghostly aspects of social life must be confronted if they are ever to be eliminated. One cannot, Gordon asserts, examine society without considering the impact of what is missing or ignored. We must deal with ghosts if we want to address oppression and injustice.

In her continuing commitment to the convergence of scholarship, activism, and giving voice to the subjugated, Gordon co-hosts a grassroots radio program and is a Visiting Fellow in Research Architecture. Both of these projects extend her inquiry into conversations that are, on the one hand, missing voices, and on the other, seeking methods of inclusion.

Her radio show, *No Alibis* (KCSB 91.9 FM Santa Barbara), grew out of the context of the global movement for democratic grassroots communication. She and her co-hosts operate in the framework that activism – viewed as an inherently intellectual endeavor in that it involves thought, analysis, and taking positions – is an imperative for academics. Recent topics include the assault on public education; public readings of tribunal transcripts from Guantanamo Bay; and interviews with Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Palestine.

Research architecture brings together architects, urban scholars, filmmakers, curators and other cultural practitioners to work on expanded notions of architecture that engage with questions of culture, politics, conflict, and human rights. Rather than merely supporting the productive process of architectural constructs, research architecture involves itself in the radical critique of its very nature using contemporary critical theory, philosophy, and cultural studies. As a Visiting Fellow at the University of London's Goldsmiths College Center for Research Architecture, Gordon supervises PhD students and is coordinating the upcoming roundtable seminar in Antwerp titled "Generosity and the Common." The seminar will focus on old and new forms of enclosures and communing, exploring property relations and the quotidian: the how and what and who of, for example, food, wood, water, knowledge, work, play, and trash.

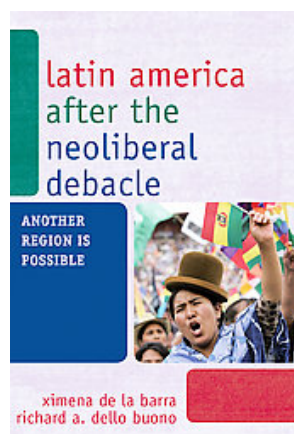
## Alumni Updates

**Michael Anastario** (Ph.D. 2007), Research Associate with the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM), published *Violence and Women's Health: An analysis of violence victimization and women's mental and reproductive health in two internally displaced populations* (VDM Verlag Dr. Müller). The work is based on his dissertation. He also published, with Nadine Shehab and Lynn Lawry, "Access to Care Among Displaced Mississippi Residents in FEMA Travel Trailer Parks Two Years After Katrina" in *Health Affairs: The Policy Journal of the Health Sphere*, August 2008.

**Ulrike Boehmer** (Ph.D. 1997), Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Boston University. Her publications currently in press include "Relaxation response with acupuncture trial in HIV patients: Feasibility and participant experiences," *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*; "Staying Healthy - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention," HJ Makadon, K Mayer, and J Potter (Eds.) *The Fenway Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health*; and "Retention challenges for a community-based HIV primary care clinic and implications for intervention," *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*.

**Janet Boguslaw** (Ph.D. 1999), Research Scientist at Brandeis University. In 2009 she received the Heller Mentoring Award. She also published, with Mary Ellen Boyle, "Investments at the Base of the Pyramid: Reducing Poverty Through Sustainable Asset Development" in *Sustainability Challenges and Solutions at the Base of the Pyramid: Business, Technology, and the Poor* in 2008.

**Anthony F Buono** (Ph.D. 1981), Professor of Management and Sociology at Bentley College, coauthored (with Aaron J. Nurick) "Reaching Your Next Generation of Employees," published in the *Federal Ethics Report*.



**Richard Alan Dello Buono** (Ph.D. 1986), Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair at Manhattan College. In 2008 he published *Latin America After the Neoliberal Debacle*, co-authored with Ximena de la Barra. He authored several articles as well, including:

- o "Natural Disasters are Social Problems: Learning from Katrina" (with A. Kathryn Stout) in *Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions 2008*, Knoxville: Society for the Study of Social Problems.
- o "Guatemalan Peace Accords End Civil War" in *Great Events from History: The Twentieth Century*, Robert F. Gorman, ed., Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, Inc.
- o "Transnational Activism" in *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, Vincent N. Parrillo, ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- o "FARC Offensive Intensifies the Guerrilla War in Colombia" in *Great Events from History: The Twentieth Century*, Robert F. Gorman, ed., Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, Inc.

**Tian-jia Dong** (Ph.D. 2001), Assistant Professor of Sociology at Westfield State College, published *Social Reach: A Connectivist Approach to American Identity and Global Governance* (University Press of America) in 2008.

**Danielle Egan** (Ph.D. 2000), Associate Professor of Gender Studies at St. Lawrence University. She is currently researching the history of childhood sexuality in the mid-19th to early 20th centuries in America, England and Australia. Along with her co-author, Gail Hawkes, she is exploring how particular institutions and social movements such as pediatric medicine and the social purity campaigns created ideas about children and their sexuality.

**Ted Gaiser** (Ph.D. 2000), Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Boston College. He contributed the chapter "Online Focus Groups" to *The Handbook of Online Research Methods* (Sage Publications 2008).

**Michele M. Garvin** (Ph.D. 1981), Health Care Group of Ropes & Gray. She was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* from 2003-2009 and in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* from 2004-2009.

## Alumni Updates, continued

**Lori Girshick** (Ph.D. 1992), Trainer, Consultant, Professor of Sociology at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. In 2008 she published *Transgender Voices: Beyond Women and Men* with Jamison Green (University Press of New England, 2008).

**Avery Gordon** (Ph.D. 1990), Professor of Sociology at University of California Santa Barbara, contributed to *An Atlas of Radical Cartography* (Journal of Aesthetics and Protest Press, 2008).

**Kelly Joyce** (Ph.D. 2001) was promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology at College of William and Mary in 2008, when she also won the Alumni Fellowship Award for Excellence in Teaching from the William and Mary Alumni Association. She was profiled in the William and Mary Alumni Magazine "Innovative Educators" section in the fall of 2008. Her article "Of Course I Love You, and I Have the Brain Scan To Prove It," was published in the *Boston Globe*, August 17, 2008.

Additionally, she participated in a number of events, organizing the Sociology of Science Regular Session in San Francisco, CA, from August 8-11, 2009, and the Mentor Program, Sociology, Knowledge, and Technology section, American Sociological Association, 2008-9. She was invited to participate in the "Centers, Universities, and the Scientific Innovation Ecology: A Workshop," at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA, on March 26-27, 2009.

**Karen McCormack** (Ph.D. 2002), Assistant Professor of Sociology at Wheaton College. In 2009 she published "The Place of Resistance" in *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*. She is currently "working on a project that examines the consequences of home loss from foreclosures resulting from high risk lending practices" (wheatoncollege.edu).

**Kathleen Odell-Korgen** (Ph.D. 1997), Professor of Sociology at William Paterson University. She just signed a contract with Routledge to edit and recruit top scholars to contribute to *Multiracial Identity and Social Class*. This will be the first work to focus on the influence of social class on the racial identity of multiracial Americans. Her works on public sociology include *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*, written with Jonathan White (Pine Forge 2007, 2009).

**Deborah Piatelli** (Ph.D. 2008), Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston College. In 2008 she published *Stories of Inclusion?: Power, Privilege, and Difference in a Peace and Justice Network* (Lexington Books), based on her dissertation.



Paula Rayman

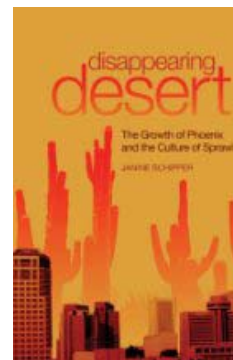
**Paula Rayman** (Ph.D. 1977), Professor, Department of Regional Economic and Social Development, UMASS Lowell. "Paula received a Senior Fulbright Scholar award in spring 2008 for her project *Beyond Coexistence: Israeli-Arab-Jewish Relations* based at the University of Haifa, Israel... Under her leadership, the Center for Women & Work sponsored Project Working WISE to advance the prospects for women in science and technology. The heart of this National Science Foundation-funded initiative was a conference that gathered an intergenerational and interdisciplinary community of racially and ethnically diverse scholars to establish a research agenda about workplace factors associated with women's success in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)." (Quoted from [http://www.uml.edu/centers/women-work/people/Senior\\_Associates.html](http://www.uml.edu/centers/women-work/people/Senior_Associates.html).)

**Theodore Sasson** (Ph.D. 1994) is currently Associate Professor of International Studies at Middlebury College. Recently he has examined Israeli political culture and Israel-Diaspora relations. Related articles include: "Converging Political Cultures: How Globalization is Shaping the Discourses of Israeli and American Jews" (with Ephraim Tabory, *Journal of Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, forthcoming, 2010); "From Shrine to Forum: Masada and the Politics of

## Alumni Updates, continued

Jewish Extremism" (with Shaul Kelner, *Israel Studies*, 2008); and "A House Divided: Grassroots National Religious Perspectives on the Gaza Disengagement and Future of the West Bank" (with Ephraim Tabory, *Journal of Church and State*, 2007).

**Janine Schipper** (Ph.D 2000), Associate Professor of Sociology at Northern Arizona University. In 2008 she published *Disappearing Desert: The Growth of Phoenix and the Culture of Sprawl* (University of Oklahoma Press) and, with Dustin Hiles, "Science, Planning and the Logic of Suburban Sprawl" in *The Sociology Spectrum*. She was interviewed about *Disappearing Desert* on KJZZ.



**Leah Schmalzbauer** (Ph.D 2004) contributed "Latinos in Minnesota" to Mark Overmyer-Valezquez's *Latino America: State-By-State* in 2008. In 2007 she was awarded a grant for The Transnational Second Generation: A Longitudinal Study of Aspirations and Mobility.

**Richard Swedberg** (Ph.D. 1978), Sociology Professor at Cornell University. In 2008 he co-edited (with Trevor Pinch) *Living in a Material World: Economic Sociology Meets Science and Technology Studies* (Cambridge: The MIT Press). In 2009 he wrote *Tocqueville's Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

**A. Javier Trevino** (Ph.D. 1990), Professor of Sociology at Wheaton College. In 2009 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Republic of Moldova. He also published *Talcott Parsons on Law and the Legal System* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008).

**Amanda Udis-Kessler** (Ph.D. 2002) published *Queer Inclusion in the United Methodist Church* in 2008.

**Lee Garth Vigilant** (Ph.D. 2001), Associate Professor of Sociology at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He is co-editor with Dr. Joel Charon of the books *Social Problems: Readings with Four Questions* (CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning 2009) and *The Meaning of Sociology: A Reader* (9th edition) (NJ: Prentice Hall 2009).

**Jonathan White** (Ph.D. 2002), Associate Professor of Sociology at Bridgewater State College. In AY 2008-9 he was promoted to Associate Professor and served as Director of Service-Learning. He received Outstanding Honors Faculty at Bridgewater, Exemplary Faculty Award from the Education Department students organization at Bridgewater, and Advisor of the Year Award for advising the Social Justice League student group. The League itself was awarded Student Organization of the Year. He helped to create and acted as consultant for a mentoring partnership project between Bridgewater State College and Brockton High School that aims to keep at-risk youth in school by pairing them with a college mentor. He continued serving on the Board of Directors for Free the Children, the world's largest organization of youth-helping-youth ([www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com)). They have now built 600 schools, and in AY 2008-9 he helped to create and launch their new campaign 10 By 10 ([www.giveyour10.com](http://www.giveyour10.com)), which works to bring schools, healthcare, water/sanitation, community gardens, and women's microdevelopment projects to rural areas in poverty-stricken nations.



Jonathan White with friends

HTTP://WWW.FREETHECHILDREN.COM/GETINVOLVED/  
GETEDUCATED/PROFESSORJONATHAN.HTM

# Remembering Sharon Kurtz (Ph.D. 1994)

by **Bill Gamson**

When Sharon entered my life in the mid-1980s, I had only been at BC a few years. From my standpoint, she was the kind of student from whom one learns. She was a grown up in her thirties who had been heavily involved in organizing hospital workers in the Boston area, with all of its challenges and frustrations. She was thoughtful and reflective, wanting to understand better her own experiences as a labor organizer and draw lessons from them. She could take



HTTP://WWW.PINGG.COM/RS/SVP/WSXJ/R2ZKZHQ3P6XT

some argument from social movement theory and ground it in her own experiences in the field and help me to see its strengths and weaknesses. And she was fun and intellectually lively. Charlotte Ryan and I did our best to draw her into the emerging MRAP project (the acronym stands for Movement/Media Research and Action Project) and she helped to shape it.

During her graduate student years she followed closely the efforts to organize clerical workers at Harvard and Yale, using her networks and contributing her growing wisdom to their efforts as well as helping in more tangible ways. When she decided to focus on the efforts to organize clerical workers at Columbia University for her dissertation, she began with an unusually rich combination of first hand knowledge of similar efforts in other settings and a thorough grasp of everything that social movement theory had to offer and a good sense of its limits.

If you haven't read her wonderful and influential book, *Workplace Justice: Organizing Multi-Identity Movements*, you owe it to yourself to do so. It was characteristic of Sharon and the values that informed her work that she made an unusual arrangement with the union – in exchange for giving her full access and helping her in doing research, she would donate a fraction of her time to the union, to be deployed in whatever tasks made the most sense for her to pursue. So during her participant-observer field work in 1991-92, she coordinated the Faculty-Grad Student support for the union's effort.

To Sharon's credit, she fully recognized the potential traps and dilemmas in both working for a group and maintaining the critical distance necessarily to analyze their effectiveness. Her awareness allowed her to navigate around the traps and avoid getting impaled on the horns of the multiple dilemmas she faced. You can read *Workplace Justice* and judge for yourself but, in my judgment, it achieves that delicate balance of sympathy for the union along with a critical analysis that suggests lost opportunities.

To give you the flavor of her complex argument, the union faced a dilemma of how to deal with the multiple identities of their constituency – 75 percent female (with many raising children as single parents) and two-thirds people of color (mostly either African-American or Latino). The union, following traditional labor strategy, focused on the common identity as workers, officially ignoring the other identities. Sharon suggests that opportunities were lost by the failure to integrate these other identities into the organizing effort.

The story she tells is complicated and textured. The lasting contribution of the book to social movement theory is her development of the idea of identity practices. By this she refers to the various ways in which the collective efforts of the union contained a variety of informal and unofficial ways of reflecting the gender and racial/ethnic identities of the members. Union events would feature ethnic food and music and various practices reflected the predominantly female composition of the workforce. And, although it was not officially acknowledged, the union's inclusion of demands centering on workplace child care arrangements clearly reflected the gendered composition of the workforce. By sensitizing students of social movements to the ways in which competing collective identities can be integrated – and the consequences of failing to do this – she has enriched our understanding of the many movements that wrestle with this issue.

It has been many years since Sharon regularly attended the MRAP seminar and I have missed her contributions and her spirit and embrace of life. I fully understood that with raising Zoe, dealing with her illness, and maintaining a full time teaching load at Suffolk, there was no room for getting up at an ungodly hour on Wednesday morning to traipse out to BC for an 8:30 a.m. seminar. But there was always the possibility of luring her out for a session now and then on something that was especially relevant to her interests – or to get her to come to one of our occasional evening meetings. It is sad to think that this is no longer possible but we will do our best to keep alive her spirit and embrace of life.

## Media Research and Action Project (MRAP)

by **Bill Gamson**

With Charlotte Ryan continuing to provide crucial leadership from her current base at UMASS Lowell, the weekly Wednesday morning MRAP seminar continues to serve as an incubator for project development for its regular members and visitors.

While the majority of the sessions were taken up by regular MRAP participants presenting work in progress, we had the following visitors who discussed their projects with us during the past year:

Doyle Canning from Smart Meme, who described and demonstrated their workshop for activists on using the media effectively.

Josh Weiss from the Program on Negotiation at Harvard who described the Abraham Path Initiative for establishing a route of cultural tourism throughout the Middle East including Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.

Jason Pramas, Editor/Publisher of *Open Media Boston*, a relatively new on-line news publication aimed at the progressive community.

Lisa Mogel, co-author of a book, *An Atlas of Radical Cartography*, on the use of specially designed maps for social change.

Gonen Dori-Hacohen on radio phone-ins as a venue of political participation in Israel.

Stefania Milan, from the European University Institute in Florence, on the use of the new media in Italy as a vehicle for social movements and social change.

MRAP members ran a variety of workshops for outside groups, typically discussed at length in an MRAP session before taking them on the road. This included a version of the MRAP-developed exercise, "Bridging the Academic-Activist Divide," at a session of the Association of Humanist Sociology. (Those who attended the sociology faculty retreat in May will be familiar with the exercise.)

Finally, MRAP served as an incubator for an ongoing project on "Media and Collective Civic Engagement." With the assistance of MRAP webmaster and long time participant, Jesse Kirdahy-Scalia, we will establish an on-line dialogue among sociologists and related social scientists and community activists on issues of media and civic engagement. The users will respond to postings on the following questions: What are the most important elements that should be present in a media system to promote collective civic engagement? What elements in existing media systems in the U.S. and elsewhere discourage collective civic engagement and how can one counter such influences?

Users of the website will be asked to respond to ideas about new and alternative media as well as mainstream media, including news media, entertainment, and advertising. We will focus on civic engagement as a collective process – that is, civic engagement as the creation of the capacity to participate in politics through communities of like-minded people.

The project will culminate with sessions scheduled for the ESS meetings in Boston in March and the ASA meetings in Atlanta in August, 2010. An invited panel will be asked to respond to the question: What lessons about the role of the media in promoting or retarding collective civic engagement can we learn from the on-line dialogue of the past year?

# **Public Sociology Initiative**

Public sociology at Boston College can be understood as a collection of efforts, both formal and informal, at the individual level and in group projects, to link sociology within academia to the wider community in ways that are engaged and transformative. It has often been initiated by graduate students, who have done presentations at high schools, collaborated with other activist groups on a variety of projects within and outside of BC, and formed commitments on an individual basis with organizations at the community, state, national, and international level.

As part of this effort, the Sociology Department in AY 2008 developed an experimental graduate course combining classroom discussions of readings and theories with a research project examining the relationship between service work and subsequent activism in undergrad students. The graduate students who attended the course conducted interviews, collected data, analyzed the results, and wrote an article on their findings which they submitted to targeted service journals. So far the article has been rejected. Mike Cermak, one of the members of the group, speculates that an activist journal might be more likely to publish their findings, but said that the group would really like to influence the way service learning is done, and will continue to submit to publications which focus on that. Meanwhile, the article has acquired an underground reputation, as faculty members involved with service learning at BC and at other institutions request copies of it for use in their classes.

The class members have also done presentations for MAGIS, a relatively recent program developed at BC to encourage exploration and conversation around the questions that emerge after service and immersion experiences. The students presented their research results and then facilitated an interpretive drama in which the undergraduates role played various tensions related to service work, including the tensions between the service and activist communities. Mike said that he and the other sociology students were excited to be able to do this, not just to get validation for their research but to work with the undergraduates again. They hope to present more workshops in the future.

In terms of formal structures related to the practice of public sociology, Professor Lisa Dodson, Assistant Professor Shawn McGuffey, and Visiting Assistant Professor (and recent Sociology alumna) Deb Piatelli have developed the Poverty, Families, and Social Policy Program, profiled below.

## **Poverty, Families, and Social Policy**

***by Lisa Dodson, Shawn McGuffey, and Deborah Piatelli***

The Sociology Department at Boston College has a long commitment to scholarship and engagement on matters of social justice and the public good. Reflecting this orientation, over the past year we have been consulting with other faculty and graduate students to outline a program that would enhance the department's ability to do "collaborative public sociology." This approach seeks to build effective, trustworthy collaborations with local, national, and global organizations that are working on issues related to social and economic justice. Such collaborations will focus on both immediate conditions faced by vulnerable people as well as the larger meanings and implications of inequity and injustice, integrating an applied and theoretical approach to learning. A collaborative public sociology seeks to engage students in experiential learning and community-relevant research that informs local and public policy debates, while also offering provocative theoretical insight on matters of social and economic inequality.

The Poverty, Families, and Social Policy (PFSP) program is one model of collaborative public sociology that has been introduced into the Sociology Department with the support of a Teaching, Advising, and Mentoring Grant. The PFSP program is a carefully coordinated, progressively challenging curriculum of coursework that promotes community-based research/service-learning with rigorous study of race, class, gender, and inequality. This learning model includes three dimensions: (1) personal engagement and community research (2) collaboration with local organizations working on economic and social justice (3) and the integration of applied and theoretical teaching and learning about poverty, families,

and social policy. While linking academic study with real-world experiences, this program provides students with training, advising, and mentorship in addressing urgent social problems related to increasing economic inequality. Through engagement in this program, students will have the opportunity to study an array of core issues intrinsic to poverty and social justice that strengthen critical thinking and encourage the pursuit of individual areas of interest. The program seeks to promote socially responsible leaders who can bridge complex sociological thinking with immediate conditions affecting low-income families that demand responsible public policy. The goal of the PFSP program is to become an innovative bridge for those students who seek to continuously connect their academic study with engagement in the everyday world.

At the graduate level, the department offers PFSP as an area of specialty for graduate students who are admitted into the Sociology program and are interested in conducting community-based inquiry related to poverty, families, and social policy as part of their MA thesis or dissertation research. At the undergraduate level, the department offers a carefully coordinated array of classes with (in process as a one-credit course) a series of discussion groups and "brown-bag talks" that will include speakers who work on poverty, families, and social policy issues. Undergraduate students interested in participating in PFSP must declare Sociology as their major. In the future, with additional resources, the undergraduate program will be expanded to include structured internships in selected organizations working on matters of poverty, family, and social policy

As part of the PFSP initiative, the Sociology Department and the Crittenton Women's Union developed a five-year, collaborative study of the Career Family Opportunity (CFO) program, committed to the economic advancement of low-income families in Boston. The Crittenton Women's Union (CWU) is a leading Boston anti-poverty organization with a 150-year history of working directly with low-income women in their efforts to attain economic stability, while also working on public policy to reduce structural inequality. The mission of CWU as "a laboratory for social change" reflects core principles of collaborative public sociology.



Crittenton Women's Union graduates

The CFO project is an innovative approach that provides individually-tailored opportunities for 30-40 low-income families over a period of five years. The goal of the project is to work with low-income parents – largely mothers – as they pursue pathways towards a career of their choosing that provides a sustainable family income. The CFO project includes funding to support a doctoral Poverty Fellow for the duration of the project and in September 2009, Amanda Freeman, a second-year doctoral student in the Sociology Department, joined the research team as an integral member of the CFO study. She spends a day and a half each week in the South Boston location of the project, conducting fieldwork and contributing to the development of the evolving study.

The CFO study, led by Research Professor Lisa Dodson, will document the overall process, lessons learned, and effects of the CFO model of working with low-income families. Additionally, the team will examine this model relative to other programs around the country, toward engaging in and influencing the current national debates about increasing poverty in America. As the CFO and related work expand, additional faculty and graduate/undergraduate participation will be sought to join this collaborative public sociology project.

For more information about the Crittenton Women's Union, see their website at <http://www.liveworkthrive.org/>. The website for PFSP is under development, and should be accessible via the BC Sociology Department home page by January of 2010.

# **Natasha Sarkisian Wins Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award**

**by Sarah Woodside**

Congratulations to Associate Professor of Sociology Natalia Sarkisian, who recently won the Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award from the American Sociology Association (ASA). The award, granted by the Racial and Ethnic Minorities section of the ASA, honored Sarkisian's article "Street Men, Family Men: Race and Men's Extended Family Involvement," published in *Social Forces* in 2007.

Sarkisian has earned accolades for her scholarship since the beginning of her career. Recent awards include the 2008 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award from the ASA's Race, Gender, and Class section for "Extended Family Integration among Euro and Mexican Americans: Ethnicity, Gender, and Class," co-authored with Mariana Gerena and Naomi Gerstel for the *Journal of Marriage and Family*; and the 2005 Rosabeth Moss Kanter International Award for Research Excellence in Families and Work for "Explaining the Gender Gap in Help to Parents: The Importance of Employment," co-authored with Naomi Gerstel and also published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Her work has also been cited in such national publications as *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Boston Globe*.

"Street Men, Family Men" discusses two dominant paradigms used to explain black men's family involvement, disorganization and superorganization theories. Using data from the National Survey of Families and Households, Sarkisian suggests that neither is sufficient to either explain black men's experience or to contribute to helpful policy prescriptions.

On the one hand, disorganization theories postulate that black men have largely abandoned their family roles. In order to show that black families lack the societal and economic support required for organized engagement in family life, disorganization theories emphasize the social ills of poor black families. As a result, the black family is portrayed as pathological and black men as negligent, responsible for poverty, crime and other social ills plaguing black communities, and undeserving of governmental aid. On the other hand, superorganization theories criticize the view of black families as disorganized and pathological. Rather, they emphasize only the positive aspects of black family life, thus creating a romanticized portrayal of black families and implying that black families are fully protected by familial support safety nets, in need of neither assistance nor structural changes.

Sarkisian writes that "we need to transcend the binary approach to black families implicit in the disorganization vs. superorganization debate because such an approach misrepresents the reality of family life." Her research demonstrates both that black men are more likely than white men to be involved with their extended families, and that the constricting effects of economic disadvantage impede their ability to provide financial support to their families. To avoid and transcend both of these misrepresentations, future research on black families should strive to explain differences and similarities by carefully examining the interplay of economic conditions and cultural values.

The Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award recognizes the best research article in the sociological study of race and ethnicity published in the past three years. This annual award honors the memory of Oliver Cromwell Cox (1901-1974), one of America's most influential sociologists of the intersection of race and class. Cox's first and most influential book, *Caste, Class, and Race* (1948) had a significant impact on the study of race and class for several decades following, setting the phenomenon of racism clearly in the context of class consciousness, a concept that dominated racial discrimination studies into the 1980s. In later works, Cox continued to focus his writing on the impact of capitalism on race relations. The award acknowledges the salience of Sarkisian's work on continuing the study of the intersection of race and class in the current economic and social climate.

Sarkisian has also written extensively on older adults and aging; extended families; intergenerational care; and the intersection of gender, class, and race in the family context. She has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## In Memoriam: Sy Leventman

Seymour (Sy) Leventman was born in Brooklyn in June of 1930; conceived in prosperity and born after the crash, as he observed in an oral history celebrating Brooklyn. Sy said that this circumstance of his birth was emblematic of his perspective, "high expectations coupled with a cynical outlook." Many of the historical events that he cites as significant during his early years – the advent of talking pictures, the Depression, World War II, the Dodgers winning their first pennant in over 20 years, and Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier – find echoes in his eventual fields of sociological expertise: race and ethnic relations, the experience of veterans, social theory, the history of social ideas, and American popular culture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOODS SCHOOL

Sy received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Minnesota in 1958. He took pride in having taught at a total of five colleges, including Macalester College, Pennsylvania State University, Bryn Mawr College, the University of Pennsylvania, and of course Boston College. He was hired at BC in 1968 and served as an Associate Professor on the faculty of the Sociology Department until his retirement in 2002, after which he continued to teach on a part time basis for BC's College of Advancing Studies. The breadth of his knowledge, his curiosity, his total lack of pretension, and above all his sense of humor made him an extremely popular professor with students at all levels.

In an interview at the time of his retirement (*Sociology Speaks 2001-2002*), Sy said that he was originally drawn to sociology through "perversity." "I found that sociology went beneath the façade of manufactured reality.... Sociology turned society upside down and made the invisible visible." He initially focused on the history of ideas and sociology, but developed an interest in ethnic studies when his advisor, Don Martindale, argued that a thesis should be empirical. Sy subsequently wrote his dissertation on the Jewish community of Minneapolis, which he later developed into his first book, *Children of the Gilded Ghetto: Conflict Resolution in Three Generations of American Jews*, co-authored with Judith R Kramer in 1969.

In the 1970s his encounters with several BC students who were Vietnam veterans sparked his interest in their experience. His thinking in this area was influenced by Howard Becker's presentation on "spoiled identity," the idea that soldiers left as heroes and returned as deviants, and by then BC grad student/Vietnam veteran Paul Camacho's observations on the "gook syndrome" in foxholes. As a result, Sy became interested in the concept of "manufactured deviancy," and in 1980 he co-edited with Charles Figley *Strangers at Home: Vietnam Veterans Since the War*.

Additional books include *Counterculture and Social Transformation: Essays on Negative Themes in Social Theory*, edited in 1981, and *American Popular Culture: Historical and Pedagogical Perspectives*, edited in 2008, and based on the 2005 Conference of the Popular Culture Association. Over the years Sy had organized, chaired, and presented papers at dozens of sessions of professional organizations, but in the last several years of his life he was particularly interested in and involved with the PCA.

Mark Rubinfeld of Westminster College, Sy's friend and colleague at these conferences, witnessed Sy's scholarly and personal generosity there over the last several years. In particular, he describes how Sy was impressed with the presentations of two undergraduates and invited them to contribute to his anthology, "never worrying, not for an instant, that it might diminish his book's prestige to have two of its chapters written by a pair of undergraduate students." Mark references both Sy's imposing physical stature and generosity of spirit when he calls him "a giant of a man. The only thing small about him was his ego."

Sy is survived by his wife Paula, his daughter Rachel Leventman Schwalb and her husband Gene Schwalb, and his son Aaron Leventman and his partner Phillip Retzky. They have set up a guest book for him at <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?I=GB000126850104> where friends and colleagues can offer condolences or share memories.

**by Jean Lovett**

# Two New Faculty Hires: Brian Gareau and Sara Moorman

by Ross Glover

In AY 2006-2007, in response to an increased emphasis on interdisciplinary research as well as a positive administrative response to our strategic vision, the Sociology Department submitted proposals for two new faculty hires: one in global sociology with an emphasis on environmental studies (in partnership with the International Studies program), and a quantitatively oriented position in aging and the life course (in partnership with the Institute on Aging). Both hires were authorized, and the following year, after a lengthy search resulting in hundreds of impressive applications, offers were made to and accepted by Brian Gareau and Sara Moorman. While both positions are located within the Sociology Department, Brian teaches two courses per year for International Studies, and Sara is also an active member of the Institute on Aging.

## Brian Gareau

Brian Gareau joins the faculty of Boston College as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies after completing his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2008. He completed his MS in Environmental Science and Regional Planning from Washington State University in 2001 and has since been actively researching globalization and food systems. Professor Gareau's primary research interests include the linkages between globalization, science, and politics in global environmental governance.



Neoliberalism and global environmental politics play a key role in Brian's dissertation, *Dangerous Holes in Global Environmental Governance: The Roles of Neoliberal Discourse, Science, and California Agriculture in the Montreal Protocol*. He draws on concepts of neoliberalism to examine how powerful actors use neoliberal discourse to articulate protectionism in protocol deliberations. By exploring the links between global political and economic dominance and global environmental governance, Brian Gareau shows that powerful nation-states and agro-industrial firms are able to influence global decision making. Using interviews with ozone scientists, state delegates, NGO and industry representatives, and direct observation at international meetings, he

argues that the stalled phase-out of methyl bromide results from US protectionism of its strawberry production complex.

To date, Brian has published four peer reviewed articles as a result of his dissertation research. One such article, "Dangerous Holes in Global Environmental Governance: The Roles of Neoliberal Discourse, Science, and California Agriculture in the Montreal Protocol," won the 2008 Albert Szymanski T.R. Young Award of the ASA Section on Marxist Sociology. The article examines the complex socio-natural conditions necessary for strawberry production in California. Dr. Gareau connects the historico-geographically constituted production conditions within this industry to the production of a neo-liberal discourse by wealthy nations involved in global environmental policy to expose a generalized protectionism by core countries. More broadly this work crosses the disciplines of critical geography, environmental science, political science, and sociology and offers an integrated critical understanding of the relationship between political discourses and environmental policy outcomes. Over the course of three years, Brian directly observed numerous meetings at the Montreal Protocol as well as interviewed key nation-state delegates. Through these data, he shows the primary discursive junctures in which a discourse of science becomes backgrounded to a US produced market discourse, thus nullifying efforts to reduce some ozone producing chemicals.

In addition to his dissertation research, Brian Gareau has done extensive theoretical work in political ecology and Actor Network Theory. With Alan Rudy, Brian organized the "Symposium on Actor-Network Theory, Marxist Economics, and Marxist Political Ecology" for the journal *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*. This volume critically engages with Actor-Network Theory in order to understand the structural relationships between nature, culture and economics. Professor Gareau's "We Have Never Been 'Human': Agential Nature, ANT, and Marxist Political Ecology" closely interrogates how marxian social theory, and particularly Marx himself, engage closely with nature as a productive force

within a capitalist mode of production, thus demonstrating how critical political ecology should not be dismissed by ANT, but instead can be used to develop a more clearly articulated understanding of nature-social networks. Brian successfully applies this theoretical framework to his research in Honduras for which he received a commendation in the 2005-2006 International Sociological Association (ISA) Worldwide Writing Competition for Junior Sociologists.

His publication, "Ecological Values amid Local Interests: Natural Resource Conservation, Social Differentiation, and Human Survival in Honduras," explores narrative differences between global ecological movements and local ecological views in Honduras. The research, based on interviews with local community members on protected land, suggests an expanded view of local ecological concerns needs consideration in global ecological decision making practices. A related piece, "Class Consciousness or Natural Consciousness? Socionatural Relations and the Potential for Social Change: Suggestions from Development in Southern Honduras," uses critical political ecology as an explanatory frame for Honduras's development process. Through an analysis of hurricane frequency and the response by the aid organization World Neighbors coupled with interview data from local peasants, Gareau shows how an understanding of the impact of nature on social relations, or socionature, can improve the positive impact of aid organizations such as World Neighbors. He clearly demonstrates the advantage of using political ecological concepts for interpreting the intimate co-constitutive relations between the social world and the natural world and how those relations create "socionatural class conditions."

In addition to his impressive publishing record, which includes the forthcoming book *The Environment, Nature, and Social Theory*, Brian Gareau brings a stellar teaching record to the department. Having won three Outstanding Teaching Awards from UC-Santa Cruz, he expresses a commitment to both undergraduate and graduate mentorship. His history of successful grant writing and a promising multidisciplinary grant proposal to the National Science Foundation suggests an excellent opportunity to both fund students' work and help students garner funding for their own work. Brian believes strongly in directing students toward funding opportunities to support their research.

### **Sara Moorman**

Sara Moorman joins the faculty of Boston College as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and a member of the Institute on Aging after receiving her PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Moorman brings with her great insight into the dynamics of end-of-life decisions. Her primary research foci are late life decision making, how end-of-life decisions get discussed, made, and interpreted by family members. Professor Moorman demonstrates, in her work, a sophisticated understanding of numerous advanced statistical techniques.

In her dissertation, *Facing End-of-Life Together: Marital Relationship Quality and End-of-Life Health Care Preferences*, Professor Moorman traces older adults' preferences for end-of-life medical care and the relationship to marital dynamics. Using the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey, Sara finds that individuals prefer to have spouses, rather than medical professionals, oversee end-of-life decisions. Individuals who give their family members such decision making powers expect those family members to follow a strict set of rules outlined by the individual. That is, should they become incapacitated, older adults believe their family members will be more likely to enact the individual's wishes than institutions. Following a strict set of rules, participants believe, will minimize the burdens faced by family members due to end-of-life decisions whether those be financial, emotional, or physical. Dr. Moorman argues that this concern with burdens reflects internalized American attitudes around reciprocity in relationships, autonomy and productivity. This cultural reproduction, she posits, while attempting to reduce burdens may actually be maladaptive as concern for becoming a burden correlates with symptoms of depression and anxiety. These provocative findings have significant and important implications for health care providers, policy, ethics and legislation.

Before completing her dissertation, Dr. Moorman was already an accomplished scholar with numerous publications. As lead author on two studies, "Do Older Adults Know Their Spouses' End-of-Life Treatment Preferences?" and "Spouses' Effectiveness as End-of-Life Health Care Surrogates: Accuracy, Uncertainty, and Errors of Overtreatment or Undertreatment," her research shows inaccuracies in how spouses make end-of-life deci-



sions for their partners. The former study uses structural equation models to determine the accuracy of surrogates' interpretation of their spouses' end-of-life wishes. Professor Moorman shows through this research that surrogates carry a projection bias which assumes their spouses' wishes are more closely aligned with their own. In the second article, Sara shows a similar phenomenon in surrogates' perspectives of quantity of treatment as they trend toward overtreatment. Each of these studies have important implications for health care givers as they encourage extended family conversations in order to clarify each individual's end-of-life wishes.

Sara expresses a deep commitment to training both graduate and undergraduate students in advanced statistical methods as well as in the sociology of aging and the family. Her approach to teaching requires students to take a comparative and a socio-historical perspective on their world. She offers students multiple hypotheses as comparative frameworks for examining structural social relationships. Additionally, she works with multiple media to give students a means to examine the cultural realities implicit in structural relationships.

Looking forward, Professor Moorman foresees an extended and exciting research agenda. Having squirreled away numerous ideas during her dissertation research, she would like to move toward a mixed methodological approach and explore how end-of-life conversations between family members occur. The stuff of language and meaning construction has become a site of interest for Sara due to the findings in her prior research. She plans to apply for the NIH (career development) K-Award and use the resources at the Institute on Aging to assist in funding a large research project to examine the topic.

## **Faculty Updates 2008-2009**

**Sarah Babb** published *Behind the Development Banks: Washington Politics, World Poverty, and the Wealth of Nations* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press). She is consulting editor for the *American Journal of Sociology*, 2008-present.

**Lisa Dodson** is Principal Investigator of Career and Family Opportunity Study, a 5 year grant funded by the Crittenton Women's Union. This grant is part of the Poverty, Families, and Social Policy Concentration, which she co-directs with Shawn McGuffey and Deborah Piatelli.

**Brian Gareau** was head of the Review Committee for the Albert Szymanski T.R. Young Student Paper Award (ASA Section on Marxist Sociology), having won the award the year before. He's also Co-Principal Investigator of an international multidisciplinary NSF research project entitled "Agents of Change: Environmental Governance, Competition, and Sustainability in Global Strawberry Production," which involves researchers from the USA, Mexico, Spain, and China. He's a pioneering member of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (2008-present).

**Eva Garroutte** is on the editorial board of the *American Indian Quarterly* (2007-present) and the *Journal of Native Aging and Health* (2005-present). She's PI of the NIA Mentored Research Scientist Development Award "Health Communication with American Indian Elders" (2005-2009).

**Sharlene Hesse-Biber** co-edited the *Handbook of Emergent Methods in Social Research* (Guilford, 2008). Her many media appearances included a discussion of Barbie's legacy on NPR's *On Point*.

**C. Shawn McGuffey** received the 2009 Best Article Award Winner, Sexualities Section of the American Sociological Association for his article "Saving Masculinity: Gender Reaffirmation, Sexuality, Race and Parental Responses to Male Child Sexual Abuse," which appeared in *Social Problems*. He presented "Rape and Trauma in South Africa: The Experience of Women in Poverty" to the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Accra, Ghana, and participated in a panel discussion at Harvard University on the sociological, evolutionary and biological contributions to male violence. He also gave a lecture on understanding black women's experiences of rape as part of the C.A.R.E. week at BC.

## Faculty Updates, continued



David Karp

**David Karp** received the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the ASA Section on Emotions, which honors a scholar with a record of several years of scholarly work of exceptional merit who has developed and extended the sociology of emotions empirically, theoretically, or methodologically.

**Zine Magubane** was elected to the executive committee of the Eastern Sociological Society. She will serve from 2009-2012.

**Sara Moorman** presented "Healthy Older Adults' Concern about Burdening Future Caregivers: A Gendered Approach" at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Atlanta, GA, and "Feeling Understood Following End-of-Life Discussions with a

Spouse: Correlates and Consequences," presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Boston, MA.

**Stephen Pfohl** was the featured speaker at two conferences. He spoke on "The Sociological Imagination" at the NESAs 2009 Spring Conference at Western New England College, and on "The Planetary Perils of Cybernetic Capitalism: Power, Profit, Resistance, and Change" at the People, Planet, and Profit workshop at the Brighton campus.

**Leslie Salzinger** participated in "Gender Matters in Social Sciences: Family, Economy, and Politics" at Harvard University.

**Natasha Sarkisian** was promoted to Associate Professor. She also led the Sloan Center Global Initiative "Generations of Talent" study, which will examine employee access to workplace resources and opportunities, documenting outcomes for employees and their organizations.

**Paul Schervish** presented the 2008 Annual Thomas H. Lake Lecture on Faith & Giving. The lecture was sponsored by the Lake Family Institute on Faith & Giving at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and can be read in its entirety here: <http://www.bc.edu/research/cwp//meta-elements/pdf/receivingandgiving.pdf>.

The Center on Wealth and Philanthropy in partnership with AFP designed a two-day seminar to address questions on the impacts of the current economic crisis on philanthropy. The conference, *Wealth and Giving in the Current Economic Crisis*, was held on the Boston College campus on June 9th and 10th, 2009. Over the course of two days, the CWP offered a series of panels presenting the most current information on the state of philanthropy. The conference featured analyses of the reasons for the economic crisis, what might be expected in the short and long term horizons, the most up to date numbers on giving, and the observations and strategies of philanthropists, executives, and wealth managers. The conference used the panel format to encourage dialogue among the experts and with the conference participants.

Paul was also profiled in the 1/26/09 edition of *The Heights*.

**Juliet Schor** was named Oxford University Herbert Spencer Lecturer in Economics in March of 2009. She spoke on "The Social Consumer and the Sustainability Challenge – Consumer Behavior, Ecological Challenge, and the new 'Social Science.'" The Herbert Spencer Lectures are arranged (by a Trust Fund held by the University of Oxford) every three years on a theme that would have been of interest to Herbert Spencer. The theme for the 2009 Lecture Series was "Modifying Human Behaviour."



Paul Schervish

## Faculty Updates, continued

Julie was also Area-Editor on economics and ecology for the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, and on the editorial boards for *Intervention: A Journal of Economics, Advertising and Society Review*, the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, and the *International Journal of Applied Economics*. She is on the Board of Directors of Commercial Alert, and Founding Member and Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Center for a New American Dream. She is on the advisory boards for the Media Education Foundation, Senior Advisory Council, The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, Action Coalition for Media Education, Programme on Socio-Economic Security, International Labor Organization, and the Global Development and Environment Institute (Tufts University), and on the founding board PEGS (Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society) and the Research Advisory Council of Economic Policy Institute.



In the fall semester of AY 2008-9, **Eve Spangler** taught SC367 Social Justice in Israel and Palestine, which culminated in a winter break trip to the West Bank and Israel. Eve and her students spent several days there. The course and the trip are described in more detail in the BC newsletters (January 22 in *The Heights*, archives at <http://www.bcheights.com/home/archives/>) and January 29 in *The Chronicle* (archives at <http://www.bc.edu/publications/chronicle/archives.html>). Eve and her students subsequently organized and took part in on-campus events to raise awareness about the problems of Palestinians. Eve was also quoted extensively in *The Heights* during Israeli Apartheid Week, and in the article which honored student Alexandra Saieh (who had worked with Eve on SC367) as Person of the Year.

Eve is the founding member and conference organizer for the International Exchange for Environmental and Occupational Health during Societal Transition. This group of environmental and occupational health professionals sponsors annual conferences in Eastern Europe advocating and modeling intersectoral collaboration among labor, community groups, government agencies, science and industry in achieving environmental and occupational health.

**John Williamson** is on the editorial and/or advisory boards of the *Journal of Aging Studies*; *Research on Aging*; the *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*; *Benefits: The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*; *Social Security, Pensions, and Retirement Income Abstracts* (electronic); *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*; *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*; and the *Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience*. In 2008 he was the Chair of the Pollack Award Committee for Gerontological Society of America. He was elected to the Executive Board of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Aging RC11, International Sociological Association, 2006 to 2010.

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