

Public Sociology SC794
Thursdays, 4:30-6:50, McGuinn 303

Course Description/History.

This course is a collective endeavor which evolved out of a series of discussions that took place last year amongst students and faculty on the topic of public sociology—what it can, does, and should mean and the question of whether and how sociologists can negotiate identities and careers as both scholars and activists. This course was developed as a way to continue those discussions in a more structured format and also to begin putting our ideas into practice through the design and implementation of a group research project. Class periods will be divided between discussion of common readings and coordinating our work on the research project. Tying in with these questions, our readings cover such topics as student activism, service learning, participatory action research, the debates surrounding Burowoy's call for the development of public sociology, the role of public intellectuals in the US and elsewhere, and reflections on exactly how one might go about trying to be a public sociologist within the structural constraints of the academy.

Our research project investigates two questions: 1) how does participation in international service and immersion projects in areas of extreme poverty affect BC undergraduates' thinking about service and activism? and 2) under what conditions do students become involved in activism and/or begin to identify as activists upon their return to the US? The study will be carried out in two phases. The first research question will be addressed through a qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with BC students who have returned from 8 different trips. In the second phase, hypotheses derived from the first phase will be tested through a quantitative analysis of survey data comparing BC students with another university. All in all, we expect the project to occupy us for both semesters, and we hope to publicize our findings both in academic settings, e.g. through conference presentations and/or a paper to be submitted to a sociological journal, and in the form of a report to be written for relevant offices in the two university communities.

Books for the course (BS=bookstore; IO=individual order):

Required:

- Stanton, Timothy K. and Nadinne I. Cruz. 1999. *Service-Learning: A Movement's Pioneers Reflect on Its Origins, Practice, and Future*. Higher and Adult Education Series. Jossey-Bass Publishers. **IO**.
- Loeb, Paul Rogat. 1995. *Generation at the Crossroads: Apathy and Action on the American Campus*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. **IO**.
- Rhoads, Robert A. 2000. *Freedom's Web: Student Activism in an Age of Cultural Diversity*, new edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press. **IO**.
- Etzioni, Amitai & Alyssa Bowditch. 2006. *Public Intellectuals: An Endangered Species? Series: Rights and Responsibilities: Communitarian Perspectives*. Rowman and Littlefield. **BS**.
- Clawson, Dan, Robert Zussman, Joya Misra, Naomi Gerstel, Randall Stokes, Douglas L. Anderton, and Michael Burawoy, eds. *Public Sociology: Fifteen Eminent Sociologists*

Debate Politics and the Profession in the Twenty-first Century. Berkeley: University of California Press. **BS**.

Recommended:

Eliasoph, Nina. 1998. *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life*. Cambridge Cultural Social Studies Series. Cambridge University Press. **BS**.

Blau, Judith and Keri E. Iyall Smith. 2006. *Public Sociologies Reader*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. **BS**.

Still Undecided (get exam copies):

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Vélez-Ibáñez. 2004. *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Society for Applied Anthropology, ISBN: 0-9642023-3-6.

Yates, M. 1998. *Roots of Civic Identity: International Perspectives on Community Service and Activism in Youth*.

Part I. Student Activism and Service Learning

Brief Intro/Overview of Qualitative Methods (weeks 1-2: 9/6, 9/13)

Patton, Michael Quinn. 1990. Ch. 1. "The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry"; Ch. 2. "Strategic Themes in Qualitative Inquiry"; Ch. 5. "Designing Qualitative Studies"; and Ch. 7. "Qualitative Interviewing" in *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*, 2nd ed. Sage Press.

Blee, Kathleen M. & Taylor, Verta. 2002. "Semi-Structured Interviewing in Social Movement Research" in *Methods of Social Movement Research*. Blee & Taylor, eds. Minneapolis: U Minnesota Press. pp. 92-117.

Student Public Service and Service Learning (weeks 3-4: 9/20, 9/27)

Stanton, Timothy K. and Nadinne I. Cruz. 1999. *Service-Learning: A Movement's Pioneers Reflect on Its Origins, Practice, and Future*. Higher and Adult Education Series. Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Myers-Lipton, Scott. 1998. "Effect of a Comprehensive Service-Learning Program on College Students' Civic Responsibility" *Teaching Sociology* 26(4).

Lewis, Tammy L. 2004. "Service Learning for Social Change? Lessons from a Liberal Arts College" *Teaching Sociology* 32(1).

Derbyshire, Lynne. 2002. "Theory and Activism in a Core Course: Beyond Service Learning" *Women's Studies Quarterly* 30(3-4):304-314.

Derber, Charles. 1993. "National service: the sixties meet the nineties. (City Year service programs in Boston, Massachusetts)." *Tikkun* 8(3):19-22.

*something more here on spring break and/or international service trips?

Student Activism (weeks 5-6: 10/4, 10/11)

Feuer, Lewis S. 1969. Chapter 1. "The Sources and Traits of Student Movements" in *The Conflict of Generations: the Character and Significance of Student Movements*. New York: Basic Books, Inc. Publishers, pp.3-53.

Loeb, Paul Rogat. 1995. *Generation at the Crossroads: Apathy and Action on the American Campus*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Berger, Dan, Chesa Boudin, and Kenyon Farrow, eds. 2005. *Letters from Young Activists: Today's Rebels Speak Out*. New York: Nation Books. (Selections.)

Rhoads, Robert A. 2000. *Freedom's Web: Student Activism in an Age of Cultural Diversity*, new edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Yates, M. 1998. *Roots of Civic Identity: International Perspectives on Community Service and Activism in Youth*. (Selections.)

Eliasoph, Nina. 1998. *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life*. Cambridge Cultural Social Studies Series. Cambridge University Press. (Optional.)

Part II. Public Sociology

Public Intellectuals (week 7: 10/18)

Etzioni, Amitai and Alyssa Bowditch. 2006. *Public Intellectuals: An Endangered Species? Series: Rights and Responsibilities: Communitarian Perspectives*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Oppenheimer, Martin, Martin J. Murray, and Rhonda Levine (eds). 1991. *Radical Sociologists and the Movement*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (Selections?)

Burawoy's Challenge & Its Critics (weeks 8-10: 10/25, 11/1, 11/8)

Clawson, Dan, Robert Zussman, Joya Misra, Naomi Gerstel, Randall Stokes, Douglas L. Anderton, and Michael Burawoy, eds. *Public Sociology: Fifteen Eminent Sociologists Debate Politics and the Profession in the Twenty-first Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Blau, Judith and Keri E. Iyall Smith. 2006. *Public Sociologies Reader*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (Selections.)

[I have abstracts for the rest of the articles in this section, if anyone wants to see them]:

Turner, Jonathan H. 2005. "Is Public Sociology Such a Good Idea?" *The American Sociologist* 36(3-4):27-45.

Calhoun, Craig. 2005. "The Promise of Public Sociology." *British Journal of Sociology* 56(3):355-363.

Burawoy, Michael. 2005. "The Critical Turn to Public Sociology." *Critical Sociology* 31(3):313-326.

Brewer, Rose M. 2005. "Response to Michael Burawoy's Commentary: 'The Critical Turn to Public Sociology'" *Critical Sociology* 31(3):353-359.

Aronowitz, Stanley. 2005. "Comments on Michael Burawoy's 'The Critical Turn to Public Sociology'" *Critical Sociology* 31(3):333-338.

Tilly, Charles R. 2004. "The Arrogance of Public Sociology." *Social Forces* 82(4):1639-1643.

Stacey, Judith. 2004. "Marital Suitors Court Social Science Spin-Sters: The Unwittingly Conservative Effects of Public Sociology." *Social Problems* 51(1):131-145.

Being a Public Sociologist (weeks 11-15)

In the Classroom (week 11: 11/15)

Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White. 2006. Chapter 4. "Creating Civic Engagement Versus Creating Apathy." in *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*. Pine Forge Press.

Cornelius, Debra. 1998. "Walking the Walk: Socializing Students to Social Activism" *Teaching Sociology* 26(3).

In our Research (weeks 12-13: 11/29, 12/6)

Bevington, Douglas and Chris Dixon. 2005. "Movement-Relevant Theory: Rethinking Social Movement Scholarship and Activism" *Social Movement Studies* 4(3):185-208.

Stoecker, Randy and Edna Bonacich. 1992. "Why Participatory Research? Guest Editors' Introduction to Special Issue. *The American Sociologist* 23:5-14.

Stoecker, Randy. 1999. "Are Academics Irrelevant? Roles for Scholars in Participatory Research." *American Behavioral Scientist* 42:840-854.

Strand, Kerry, Sam Marullo, Nick Cutforth, and Randy Stoecker. 2003. "Principles of Best Practice for Community-Based Research." *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning (Special Issue on Community-Based Research)* 9:_____.

Cancian, Francesca M. 1993. "Conflicts Between Activist Research and Academic Success: Participatory Research and Alternative Strategies. *The American Sociologist* 24:92-107.

Israel, Barbara A., Susan J. Schurman, and Margrit K. Hugentobler. 1992. "Conducting Action Research: Relationships Between Organization Members and Researchers. *The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science* 28:74-101.

Croteau, David, William Hoynes, and Charlotte Ryan. 2005. *Rhyming Hope and History: Activists, Academics, and Social Movement Scholarship*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Flacks, Richard. 2004. "Knowledge for What? Thoughts on the State of Social Movement Studies." in *Rethinking Social Movements: Structure, Meaning, and Emotion*. Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, eds. New York: Rowman and Littlefield. pp.135-153.

In our Careers as Activists and Academics (weeks 14-15: 12/13, 12/20)

ASA Research and Development Dept. 2007. "The Health of Sociology: Statistical Fact Sheets."

Burnett, Cathleen. 2003. "Passion Through the Profession: Being Both Activist and Academic." *Social Justice* 30(4):135-151.

Nagengast, Carole and Carlos G. Vélez-Ibáñez. 2004. *Human Rights: The Scholar as Activist*. Society for Applied Anthropology, ISBN: 0-9642023-3-6. (undecided on this one)

Assata, Zerai. 2002. "Models for Unity between Scholarship and Grassroots Activism" *Critical Sociology* 28(1-2):201-216.

Dale, C. and D. Kalob. 2006. "Embracing Social Activism: Sociology in the Service of Social Justice and Peace" *Humanity and Society* 30(2):121-152.

Bonacich, Edna. 2005. "Working with the Labor Movement: A Personal Journey in Organic Public Sociology." *The American Sociologist* 36(3-4):105-120.

Abraham, Margaret and Bandana Purkayastha. [year?] "Doing Public Sociology: Bringing the Margins to the Center." Paper presented at *International Sociological Association*, Durban, South Africa. [email: margaret.abraham@hofstra.edu for copy]

Hubbard, Amy. 1996. "The Activist Academic and the Stigma of 'Community Housework.'" *Sociological Imagination* 33:73-87.

Taylor, Verta and Nicole C. Raeburn. 1995. "Identity Politics as High-Risk Activism: Career Consequences for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Sociologists" *Social Problems* 42(2):252-273.

Burawoy, Michael, William Gamson, Charlotte Ryan, Stephen Pfohl, Diane Vaughan, Charles Derber, and Juliet Schor. 2004. "Public Sociologies: A Symposium from Boston College." *Social Problems* 51:103-130.

Guest speaker ideas: Julie Schor, George Katsiaficas, Charlie Derber, Char Ryan...?