

# Sociology Speaks

2009-2010

The Newsletter of the Sociology Department at Boston College

## Message from Chairperson Zine Magubane

The Boston College Sociology department was an exciting place to be in 2009-2010 and we are happy to have the opportunity to invite you to share some of those experiences and accomplishments with us in this edition of *Sociology Speaks*.

Our faculty continued to publish highly respected books and articles on themes such as the environment, consumption, gender, qualitative methods, poverty, and the link between politics and the economy. The research done by our faculty continues to make a huge impact nationally and internationally. Our scholarship, op-ed pieces, and interviews with our faculty appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, National Public Radio, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post* to name just a few. Our reputation as public intellectuals and our commitment to public sociology continues to grow each year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZINE MAGUBANE

Our faculty, students and alumni were recognized by the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and by the university for their excellence in research, service, and leadership. A. Javier Trevino (PhD 1990) was elected president of the SSSP 2010-2011. Matthew Williams won the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award from ASA's Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section. Kelley Joyce (PhD 2001) won the ASA's Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award. Professor Eve Spangler won the Reverend John R. Trzaska Award which recognizes the faculty advisor who has contributed to student life at Boston College. I extend my sincere congratulations to all of them, and to our undergraduate students, Jessica Chau, Catherine Duarte,

and Earl Edwards, who were respectively awarded the Benigno and Corazon Aquino Fellowship, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, and the Alfred Feliciano and Valerie Lewis Award. Earl Edwards was also selected Person of the Year by *The Heights* in recognition of his leadership qualities and his contributions to Boston College, particularly his creative proposals for raising on-campus awareness about issues surrounding diversity.

The department, with generous support from Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey and the Dean of Arts and Sciences, hosted a fascinating series of lectures given by such prominent scholars as Dorothy Roberts, Saskia Sassen, David Harvey, Michael Hardt, and Anne Fausto-Sterling. These lectures provided both our department and the university at large a wonderful opportunity to engage in discussions on cutting edge topics like the financial crises, genetic testing and engineering, race, and globalization. The complexity of these issues and the spirited and vigorous debates that they sparked in the department and the community at large demonstrate the continuing relevance of sociological theory and sociological insights to understanding and shaping our rapidly changing world.

We were also pleased to launch a new undergraduate journal, *SocialEyes*, which features original sociological theory and research by undergraduate students. The journal has been spearheaded by Sociology majors John Skinner and Stafford Oliver and by Deborah Piatelli, who is both a professor in and an alumna of our department (PhD 2008).

Finally, in these pages we pay tribute to two of our longest standing faculty members, Lynda Lytle Holmstrom and Ritchie Lowry, each of whom will retire from full time teaching while continuing to contribute to both the department and the discipline of sociology in significant ways. We are honored that Ritchie has chosen to fund a generous scholarship to support ongoing graduate student research in two areas he believes are crucial to society's future: social economy and the proper use of military force.

These are exciting times for our department. As the world grows more complex, the importance of sociology grows as well. We hope you enjoy this edition of *Sociology Speaks*.

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# **Boston College Sociology Department**

## **Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series 2009 and 2010**

The 2009 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series, *The Nature of Nature: Struggles Around the Biology of Gender and Race*, began in spring of 2008-9 with Emily Martin's public lecture on "Sleeplessness in America" and her seminar on "Uncanny rounds: The unsaid in medical diagnosis," both covered in the 2008-9 issue of *Sociology Speaks*. That series continued in fall of 2009 with visits by Anne Fausto-Sterling and Dorothy Roberts. The DVS series then focused on Capitalism in Crisis, welcoming David Harvey, Michael Hardt, and Saskia Sassen to the campus in the spring term. The visits from all of these prominent and fascinating scholars are described on the following pages.

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

**Dorothy Roberts**  
Northwestern University  
October 29 / 30

POSTER BY RUBÉN CARRILLO

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

## Anne Fausto-Sterling

The Dynamics of Gender and Development or Down with the Nature-Nurture Controversy!

Measuring the Environment: Meaningful Approaches to Biology and Sociology

By Jared del Rosso

The Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series for 2009, "The Nature of Nature: Struggles around the Biology of Gender and Race," continued with a public lecture by Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling on September 25. The lecture, "The Dynamics of Gender and Development or Down with the Nature-Nurture Controversy," opened a lively discussion on the limits of deterministic accounts, be they biological or sociological, of bodily development. This conversation continued during Professor Fausto-Sterling's seminar, "Measuring the Environment: Meaningful Approaches to Biology and Sociology," on September 28.

Professor Fausto-Sterling is currently Professor of Biology and Gender Studies in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry and Chair of the Faculty Committee on Science and Technology Studies at Brown University. As a laboratory scientist, Professor Fausto-Sterling has published broadly on developmental biology. She has also done influential work on gender, race, and sexuality at the intersection of biology and Feminist theory. Her two books exemplify her interdisciplinary project. *Myths of Gender*, originally published in 1985 and republished in 1992, examines the validity of scientific claims about the biological basis of sex differences between men and women - that they originate in the brain or in hormones, for instance - and finds many of them thinly supported, if at all, by scientific evidence.

Her second book, *Sexing the Body*, published in 2000 and winner of the Distinguished Publication Award of the Association for Women in Psychology and a co-winner of the Robert K. Merton Award of the American Sociological Association Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology, took up the task of developing a new framework for thinking about human behavior and biology. The resulting framework - dynamic systems theory - was the subject of Professor Fausto-Sterling's public lecture. Fausto-Sterling presented the framework as an alternative to the two dominant scientific accounts of bodily development and human behavior: "nature" and "nurture," neither of which can adequately explain how it is that bodies (and, particularly, different bodies) develop.

Dynamic systems theory has two "basic ideas." The first is "that physical embodiment and patterns of behavior self-organize. That is, there is not a blueprint that gets read, but rather there are systems in which one thing leads to another." The second idea emphasizes that this self-organization takes place over time and "the emergence of difference can only be studied on a time axis." These principles fuse "nature" and "nurture" in a way that prevents the two from being disentangled. The body of dynamic systems theory does not resemble that of "nature"-based accounts; it is not pre-formed prior to entering an environment. (In the lecture, Professor Fausto-Sterling did suggest that particular behaviors or bodily tendencies are differentially stable at birth. Some may be relatively stabilized at birth and require quite a bit of resistance, "something really drastic," to be reformed. Yet even in these comments, a vocabulary of relative "stability" or "plasticity" replaces the unidirectional, deterministic vocabulary of "nature"-based accounts.) Yet neither does the body of dynamic systems theory resemble the body posited by "nurture"-based theories of development; such theories tend to portray the body as incapable of resisting, or influencing, social forces. Professor Fausto-Sterling offered a study of racial differences in breast cancer as an example of how the environment and the



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

body merge in dynamic systems: "So you can have these big societal things [social support, quality of care, toxin exposure, for instance] causing very specific physiological changes in an individual. And how an individual system responds to stress and handles it can affect their whole system. And then these, in turn, have effects at the cellular level. Then the question of which genes are in the nucleus and how they respond to all of these external forces in the cell can ultimately lead to a decision point where cells that are stressed either just die, or whether they become cancerous."

During the departmental seminar, Professor Fausto-Sterling focused on a recent supplemental published in the *American Journal of Sociology* on genetics and social structure to explore the limits and possibilities of interdisciplinary contact between sociology and the other human sciences. It is, Professor Fausto-Sterling and several participants suggested, necessary and worthwhile for sociologists to pursue interdisciplinary discussions with medical scientists and both open their research to sophisticated studies of human biology. Yet these possibilities were themselves fraught with practical difficulties, including problems around scarce resources (time and funding) and inter-disciplinary knowledge (natural scientists' conceptions of the social are "clunky," as are social scientists' conceptions of human biology!). Of greater importance to seminar participants are the political difficulties of managing interdisciplinary relationships. Medical researchers, Professor Fausto-Sterling acknowledged, do not make the same distinctions as sociologists, such as that between sex and gender. To engage in discussions, then, sociologists must either convince medical researchers to begin making the distinctions that sociologists make or begin using medical researchers' language to foster discussion and/or to "turn [their language] back" on medical-based arguments.

The seminar suggested the effort and care still required to manage interdisciplinary contact. Following Professor Fausto-Sterling's productive lecture, which seemed to open a space into which the languages, if not biases, of both medical and sociological accounts of humans might dissolve, the lesson was stark. If sociologists wish to give back to social actors their human bodies, it will not suffice to unreflectively take up the findings or methods of medical researchers. Terms await translation, differences negotiations; a truly interdisciplinary approach to the study of humans, one that would not rest on either on genes or structure, nature or nurture, requires work that is, at its core, both political and scientific.

## **Dorothy Roberts**

Is Race Biological? What the Question Means and Who Should Answer It

Is Race-Based Medicine Good for Us?: A Scientific and Political Question

By Betsy Leondar-Wright and Autumn Green



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

Although we had been familiar with Dorothy Roberts' work before her visit, we could not have anticipated how lively and approachable she would be when she came to the Sociology Department as a distinguished scholar in October. As she presented her current research on biotechnology and race she pointed out the preposterousness of many current approaches to race, engaging her audience to laugh with her at the absurdity of how post-racial science has cemented old racial divisions.

Dorothy Roberts is considered one of the most sophisticated thinkers about racism in the United States. Her *Killing the Black Body* spotlighted the racism in reproductive medicine and welfare policy. Her book *Shattered Bonds* revealed racism in foster care,

the child welfare system and the criminal justice system. Her next book will ask how race-based technologies reflect and shape political contests over race.

## DVSS 2009

### Dorothy Roberts, continued

The Human Genome Project found human beings to be 99.99% biologically identical, reinforcing our discipline's long-held assertion that race is socially constructed. But the interpretation of that research has ironically concentrated attention on the .01% differences. Roberts discussed the drug BiDil as an example of biological notions of race in medicine. BiDil is the first medication approved by the FDA for a specific race, African Americans. Initially rejected by the FDA, the patent was resubmitted after a clinical trial was done only with self-identified African American heart patients, though in fact it works on many white patients too. But money could be made from BiDil only by touting it as a race-specific drug.

This raises the question of how racial status is defined. Do we turn to the age-old "one-drop rule"? Do we develop new ways of measuring racial make-up? Clinical trials that make racial comparisons sometimes create the racial groups to compare by asking participants for racial self-identifications. Thus certain racial categories, which should be the dependent variable to be tested, are presumed as part of the independent variable - a mistake that no social scientist could get away with without challenge.

Ancestry testing companies also cement racial classifications for profit. The largest company markets its services to African-Americans. But when DNA test results for individuals, for example celebrities on Henry Louis Gates' PBS series "Faces of America," specify that they have a certain percentage white, a certain percentage African and a certain percentage Asian, that has the ironic effect of strengthening the idea of racial purity. Roberts said some companies actually print the pie wedges in different colors to represent the various races, as if our DNA came in those separate colors.

These racial constructions have political impacts. As racial consciousness increases in medicine and biology, it is simultaneously decreasing in social policy, and the combination has racialized social consequences. Supreme Court decisions overturn affirmative action policies, for instance, while new biotechnologies permit law enforcement officials to be able to identify the race of a suspect based on crime scene samples. Due to the disproportionate arrest rates of African American and Latino men, the DNA collected during their arrests is much more likely to be compared with future crime scene samples.

The sociological maxim that things perceived as real are real in their consequences is missing from many understandings of race today. The stress of living in a racist society does biological and psychological harm to those categorized as demeaned ethnic groups. Social oppression enters the flesh as asthma, heart problems, hypertension, depression, and so on. But the same findings that reveal the health impacts of racism can instead be seen as evidence that there is something wrong with Black bodies. Legacies of racist logic make it easy to accept that a marginalized group of people has a biological defect. Just as disproportionate rates of poverty among African Americans have been attributed to cultural inferiority, new biomedicine allows health disparities to be blamed on biological inferiority.

There's a political drive to look for molecular differences between races; and there's a political drive to scientifically undermine policies designed to lift up groups targeted by racism. To divide genetic variations into five clusters is to reinforce culturally created races; the data could just as well support twenty or a million groups, or could reinforce the idea of one human race. The kind of discourse about race most helpful to dismantling racism is complex and subtle, and we are indebted to Dorothy Roberts for bringing us some of that needed complexity.

*The Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series is generously funded by Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey and by the College of Arts and Sciences.*

The Boston College Sociology Department Presents  
The Robert & Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series 2010



# CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

David Harvey  
City University of New York  
*February 4-5*

Michael Hardt  
Duke University  
*February 24-25*

Saskia Sassen  
Columbia University  
*March 9-10*



# DVSS 2010: Capitalism in Crisis

## David Harvey

### The Enigma of Capital

### Dialectics of Social Change: Exit Strategies for Capitalism in Crisis

By Adam Saltsman

On February 4th, 2010 David Harvey presented the lecture "The Enigma of Capital" (the title of his forthcoming book) and the next day led a seminar with the sociology department, both focused on an analysis of the most recent global economic recession that sought to ground discussion of the crisis within a broader understanding of capitalism's systemic nature. Harvey, who is the Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the City University of New York's Graduate Center, has a distinguished career as one of the foremost scholars of Marx and a Marxian analysis of economic globalization. His books, including *The New Imperialism* (2005) and *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (2007) and several others, provide insightful critiques of the contemporary economic system and the subsequent political structures that order today's world.

In his lecture and seminar, Harvey noted that even though the US government and certain economic actors have proclaimed the end of the recession, the country is still staggering under crippling unemployment, with 17-18% lacking adequate employment. While the crisis is often cited as a product of greed or regulatory failure, Harvey emphasized that it is by no means a product of such phenomena, but rather a part of the systemic nature of capitalism itself. Harvey asserted that this recession is one of hundreds of crises that have taken place throughout the world since 1975; the current crisis is deeper and has a more global impact, but has its roots in the major economic crisis of the 1970s, which in turn has its roots in the crisis of the 1930s and 40s. Exploring in depth the economic crisis of the 1970s, which Harvey argues was a crisis of capital accumulation, Harvey noted the advent of a more globalized economy with flexible capital that took production to sites with a surplus of labor. The subsequent decline in wages led to a credit-based economy with the numbers of indebted households tripling in several countries throughout the 1980s. Subsequent financial innovation led corporations to expand their profit margin by establishing large-scale lending and credit systems, and by trading on currency, commodity, and asset futures. As profits and investments for capitalists centered increasingly less on production and more on futures, the emergence of asset bubbles - which Harvey suggested always have "Ponzi-like" structures - led to inflated predictions of values, much of which since 2000 has been focused on property.

Harvey locates the problem of endemic crises in the inherent need for capitalist systems to be ever-growing. With an average 2.5% rate of growth since the early days of capitalism in 1750, a "healthy" capitalist economy is one that maintains at least a 3% growth rate of new profitable investments, what amounts currently to about an additional \$1.6 trillion, an amount that must also be absorbed into markets. As this rate exponentially increases (a 3% growth rate will mean \$3 trillion of new investments in 2030), it becomes increasingly hard to manage growth on such a scale. Harvey concluded his lecture by suggesting that to halt the destructive spiraling of economic crises, it may be necessary to bring the growth rate of the economy down to 0%, a solution that would require an alternative economic model. If the global economy continues at such a rate, Harvey warned the audience in his lecture closing, we will witness increasingly destructive forces, the further marginalization of larger swaths of the world's population, and the concentration of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals.

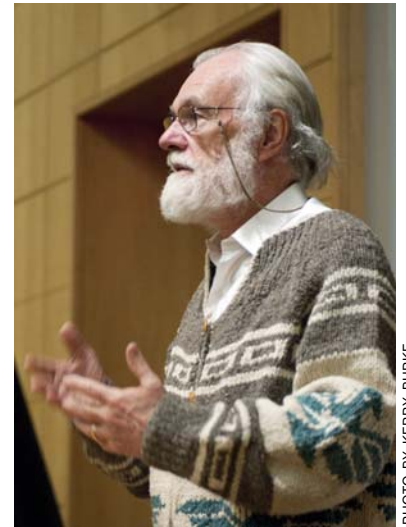


PHOTO BY KERRY BURKE

Building off of this, Harvey expanded in the seminar on theories of transformation, calling for broader social ownership of the state and the market, a shift in social relations and relations between humans and the natural world. In a sense, Harvey concluded the seminar by proposing a radical shift, on the institutional level in rearranging the structures of the state and market and on a discursive level, disaggregating thought and discourse from a liberalist focus on private property while embracing emancipatory movements around issues of identity.

## **Michael Hardt**

### The Politics of the Common

### Foucault and Kant on Enlightenment

*By Ross Glover*

Professor Michael Hardt visited Boston College as part of the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series with his public lecture, "The Politics of the Common," and his seminar "Kant, Foucault and Enlightenment," each of which took up philosophical and analytic questions at the root of political struggle.

Dr. Hardt is a professor of Italian literature at Duke University and an internationally acclaimed co-author with Antonio Negri of the influential book *Empire*. Read by activists and intellectuals alike, cited over 4,000 times and translated in over 20 languages, *Empire* forces us to understand the shifting matrix of global power relations not in terms of one way negative domination, but in terms of multiplicities of flows and breaks, assemblages and networks that have the capacity to dominate and in some sense the destiny to revitalize the affirmative resistance of the *Multitude*, the title of *Empire*'s follow up. His lecture came in the wake of the release of the third book in the *Empire* trilogy, *Commonwealth*. In this lecture, Hardt laid out both the platform established in the book as well as a research agenda based on the idea that "the primary terrain of political struggle of the coming period will be the common."



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

The insightful and pointed lecture claimed that globalization has as one of its primary features the management or governance of the common. Neither private nor public, the common exists in two distinct domains, the 'natural commons' which includes the earth and all its ecosystems, and the 'artificial commons', those things produced by humans, images, codes, affects, images, languages. Each of these domains has become fundamental to the political struggle over the common. Focusing on shifts in temporality and property, Hardt argued for an understanding of political struggle around the common. The shifts in capitalist production, he claimed, can be thought of in qualitative terms similar to the ways Marx understood industrial production in the mid-19th century. The qualities of industry no longer hold a hegemonic status over the mechanisms of capitalism. Immaterial production, he suggests, has taken over the hegemonic place of industry in the current period.

Examining two activist fronts, the Environmental movements and Anti-capitalist movements, Hardt proposes two conflicting perspectives: the 'limitless' reflected in the anti-capitalist movements and the 'limited' reflected in environmental movements. These perspectives reside in three different domains: 1. The domain of governance. 2. The domain of knowledge. 3. The domain of temporality. Within these different domains, he argues, political actors must work through their differences and develop concepts and political practices that productively engage the political barriers between the natural and artificial commons.

In the following day's seminar, "Kant, Foucault and Enlightenment," Hardt asked us to take up a much different question and investigate the basic concept of critique. By reading Kant's question, "What is Enlightenment?," through

Foucault's three meditations on the question, Hardt explored the notion of autonomy in Kant and Foucault's treatment of the notion as a mechanism for critique. Hardt's philosophical explorations reconsider the ideas of Kant such that we might develop a fuller sense of how to engage as political actors in an unstable democratic context. He argues that the reading done by Foucault on the question of Enlightenment opens up new spaces for developing a political project. Rather than following the Kantian tradition of obedience, Foucault argues instead for the Kant (what Hardt terms the "minor Kant") who views progress as a 'will to revolution,' a desire to make our world in the service of our politics.

The seminar provoked a lively discussion with many areas of inquiry, including Confucianism to the World Social Forum to the power, manifestation and types of love. Such a wide ranging discussion illuminated, once again, the value inherent in Dr. Hardt's project - the "practice of joy - joy in the sense of the increasing power of an expansive social subject."

## **Saskia Sassen**

The world's third spaces: Novel assemblages of territory, authority, rights

A Savage Sorting of Winners and Losers: A Contemporary Version of Primitive Accumulation

*By Michelle White*

On March 9th and 10th, Saskia Sassen delivered the final Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series lecture, "The World's Third Spaces: Novel Assemblages of Territory, Authority, Rights," followed by a faculty/graduate seminar entitled "A Savage Sorting of Winners and Losers: A Contemporary Version of Primitive Accumulation." Both talks explored changing landscapes and notions of the global and national, as well as a new organizing logic of today's global capitalism which results in a differential valuation of human life and property.

Dr. Sassen's discussion began by framing the contemporary era of global capitalism as one based on a new logic. She argued that in contrast to the Keynesian logic of inclusion (despite its inherent racisms and other discriminatory framings) we operate today under a logic of expulsion. She pointed to two particular examples of this new orientation to, and acceptance of, expulsion. The first was the debt servicing regimes of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which have rendered land more valuable than the individuals residing on it. She examined how corporations, individual investors and governmental executive branches have begun to purchase land resources at a greater scale and scope than in the past, in the process, evicting masses of people from territory and productive means. In her second example of human expulsion, on the other end of this spectrum, she examined the displacement of large populations due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis, and highlighted abandoned neighborhoods in Detroit as one extreme instance. According to Dr. Sassen, we are creating new spaces of expulsion when we "warehouse people" in our ghettos and prisons.

Regarding the sub-prime mortgage crisis, Dr. Sassen discussed new mechanisms of 'financialization' whereby banks have delinked the value of mortgage contracts from the ability of the mortgage holder to pay, creating new symbolic assets. In this context, although the toxic elements lay with these financial mechanisms themselves, we observed the nation state extracting tax payer dollars to rescue a global system of finance. She pointed to this as one line of evidence of the dis-assemblage of the national in today's new capitalist system.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

Dr. Sassen pointed to multiple instances where strict notions of global/national no longer exist, including the concept of global cities, global high finance, the humanitarian regime, and the new transnational class of privileged migrant workers granted transportable rights under Free Trade Agreements. She also discussed the complex case of Somali pirating, remote trading frontiers beyond governance within Brazil and Venezuela, and what she called ungovernable residential spaces such as favelas and ghettos beyond traditional policing. Nonetheless, she observed that while we have a lot of 'globality' today, we still have only two sets of true global law, that of the International Criminal Court and the World Trade Organization. This increasingly muddy sense of the national and the global, then, leads to complex questions of who has rights, where they have rights, and what entities guarantee those rights.

Dr. Sassen discussed broad processes of destabilization in our global society. At the same time, she suggested that populations, in their efforts to survive financial unsettlement, displacement, and today's environmental crisis, have become activated around the world. She pointed to hopeful and innovative examples of powerless populations becoming empowered activists through chains of transnational communication that highlight and work to counter some of these destructive processes.

Dr. Sassen is currently Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and Centennial Visiting Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Sociology at the London School of Economics. Her books include *The Mobility of Labor and Capital* (1988), *The Global City* (1991) and *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (2006, 2008).

## **Other Events**

### **Women's Studies**

Women's Studies, led by Director Sharlene Hesse-Biber and Assistant to the Director Sara Calvert-Kubrom, held three events last year: "Yo Soy Latina," a theatrical exploration of women's roles in Latin culture; a talk by Ariel Levy, author of *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*; and a discussion led by Bakari Kitwana on how hip hop affects mainstream culture, entitled "Does Hip Hop Hate Women?" To find out more about Women's Studies; its courses, events, resources, affiliated faculty, newsletter, and more, check out their main page, [bc.edu/ws](http://bc.edu/ws).

### **Department Seminar**

Throughout the academic year, the Sociology Department hosts a seminar series featuring research work by our faculty, our advanced graduate students, and by other prominent scholars in the field. Seminars in 2009-10 were led by our distinguished visiting scholars, along with Rosanna Hertz of Wellesley College, who spoke on "Donor Siblings or Genetic Strangers: The Internet and the New Networked Family"; Lisa Dodson, who spoke on "Facing Untenable Choices: Taking Care of Low-income Families"; Stephen Pfohl, who spoke on "Digital Magic, Cybernetic Sorcery: on the Cultural Politics of Fascination and Fear"; and Ana Villalobos of Brandeis University, who led a discussion on "I Need Baby, Baby Needs the Boot: How the Perception of a Scary World Can Turn Mother-Child Attachment on its Head." For more information, see the seminar web page at [bc.edu/schools/cas/sociology/research/seminar.html](http://bc.edu/schools/cas/sociology/research/seminar.html).

# Graduate Achievements

**Kim Bachechi** published “Taking Care Of Washington” in the *Journal of American Culture*.

**Lara Birk** presented “Symptoms of Silence: The Somatization of the Chronic Trauma of Subjugation” at the Eastern Sociological Society annual conference.

**Jared Del Rosso** received the Bruyn Award for his paper, “To Make a Prison Mobile: Social Problems Forms and the Construction of Abu Ghraib.” He also presented “Viewing Abu Ghraib: Congress and the Construction of Problem Photos” at the Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting; “Cartographers of Violence: Congress, Abu Ghraib, and the Construction of an 'Isolated Incident'” at the Troubling Reality: (Re)Imagining Realms of the Real Conference hosted by the Interdisciplinary M.A. Program in Cultural Production at Brandeis; “The Evil in Our Midst': Abu Ghraib as Social Crisis” at the Eastern Sociological Society conference; and “When You Just See Blood': Abu Ghraib, Errol Morris, and the Uses of Atrocity Photographs” at the 2010 Boston College Graduate Scholarship Symposium.

**Juan Carlos Henriquez-Mendoza** published “Exploracion de la Escala 5 a 10 para calificar la Presidente de la Republica, casa Mexico” in *Encuesta Nacional 2009*; and “Cine y Sci-Fi, la fascinacion de las creencias” in *Revista Ibero*.

**Michelle Gawerc** and **Autumn Green** were selected as co-winners of this year’s Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award.

**Autumn Green** also presented “Community Research In Practice: The Boston Access to Education Project as an Exploration of Participatory Research in Low-Income Communities” at the Eastern Sociological Society conference; and “The Best Case Scenario: Policies and Practices of Post-Secondary Education Supports for Low-Income Mothers in Oregon's Willamette Valley” also at the Eastern Sociological Society conference.

**Masa Higo** published multiple works including “Working longer in national contexts: Comparing Japan and the United States” from *Managing an Aging Workforce in Managing Age Diversity in the Workforce* (with J. Lee); a chapter in *Global Aging: The New Diversity and Inequalities of Aging in Handbook of Sociology of Aging* (with J.B. Williamson); “Why do

Japanese workers remain in the labor force so long?: Lessons for the United States?” in the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology* (also with J.B. Williamson); *Policy Brief: Japan. Global Policy Brief No. 2.* (with A. Yamada); “Mind the Gap, Japan: Employer Perspective” from *Mind the Gap, Employer Perspective, Report No. 2.* (also with A. Yamada); and an article from *Retirement, Volume 3, Later Life in Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development* (with J.B. Williamson).



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SOLDT

He presented “The Japanese Model of Older Worker Labor Force Participation: Is It Resilient during a Global Recession?” at the International Sociological Association, XVII World Congress of Sociology (with J.B. Williamson); “Why Do Japanese Workers Remain Economically Active Longer Than the UK?” at the Society of America 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting (with M. Flynn); “Firm-Level Policies and Late Career Transitions in Germany, Japan and Britain: A Qualitative Case Study Approach in the Chemical, Steel and Retail Industries” at the European Sociological Association (with M. Muller-Carmen, M. Flynn, and H. Schröder); “Public Policy and Aging Workforce: The Experiences of Japan” with J.B. Williamson at the American Sociological Association conference; “Age Diversities: Challenges to HRM Strategies in the UK, Japan, and Germany” at the International Symposium on Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge in association with the International Labor Organization (with M. Flynn, A. Yamada, and H. Schröder); “Age Diversities: Challenges to HRM Strategies in the UK, Japan, and Germany” at the South East Asian Conference on Ageing and the SEACA 2010 Annual Meeting: Improving Well Being in Later Life (with M. Flynn); and “Older Worker Labor Force Participations in Japan: Lessons to the United Kingdom?” at the Employer and National Stakeholder Community Meeting (with A. Yamada and M. Flynn).

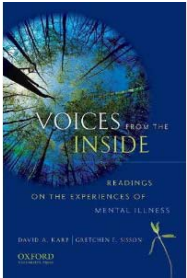
**Susan Legere** presented segments of her documentary film *Immigrant Reflections* at the Working Class Studies Association.

**Nicole Malec** presented “The Generational Divide of American Giving” at the CASE Summit for Advancement Leaders.

**Alexandra Pittman** received Honorable Mention from ASA's Collective Behavior and Social Movements section for her paper "Bridging Discourses: Moroccan Women's Rights Activists Framing the Need for Islamic Family Law Reform."

**Adam Saltsman** wrote, with D. Kusa and P. Gamaghelyan, "Mediating History, Making Peace: dealing with the 'messy' stuff in the conciliation process" in *The Handbook for Working with Difficult Groups: How they are difficult, Why they are difficult, What you can do*.

**Fatima Sattar** presented "Reconstructing memories of violence from the aftermath of the 1947 partition of India" at the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions.



**Gretchen Sisson** co-edited, with Professor David Karp, *Voices from the Inside: Readings on the Experience of Mental Illness*. Gretchen was also selected to receive the Alper Graduate Fellowship.

**Amy Sousa** and **Betsy Leondar Wright** were awarded Dissertation Fellowships.

**Elizangela Storelli** is a Boston College Presidential Scholar. In 2009-10, she presented "The Price of Grandmotherhood: Custodial Grandmothers Sharing the Costs of Motherhood" at the American Sociological Association annual meeting; "Aging and Development in Latin America" at the World Congress of the International Sociological Association; "Aging, Gender and Development in Latin America: Regional Implications of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging" at the Eastern Sociological Society meeting; "The Effects of the Economic Crisis on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" also at the Eastern Sociological Society meeting; and "In Place: Smith, Media Texts and the Invisible Gendered Caregiver" at the Thinking Gender Symposium, UCLA Center for the Study of Women.

**Rie Taniguchi** published "The Global Construction of Development Models: The U.S., Japan, and the East Asian Miracle" in the *Socio-Economic Review* (with Sarah Babb). She also presented "Economic knowledge of Japanese development bureaucracy between 1965 and 1985" at the Berkeley Journal of Sociology Conference on Knowledge and Expertise.

**Matthew Williams** won the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper of ASA's Collective Behavior and Social Movements section for his paper "Strategizing against Sweatshops: Ideology, Strategic Models, and Innovation in the U.S. Anti-Sweatshop Movement." He also published "The Bush Administration, Debt Relief, and the War on Terror: Reforming the International Development System as Part of the Neoconservative Project" in *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict and World Order*.

**Michelle White** published "HIV/AIDS and Business Response: Understanding the Context of Economic Globalization" in *Globalization: Understanding, Management and Effects*.

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## Emilie Dubois wins Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize

Emilie Dubois won first prize in the **Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize for Visual Sociology**, a contest designed to encourage students to incorporate visual analysis in their study and understanding of social phenomena. A panel of judges from the ISA's Thematic Group on Visual Sociology selected her photo Girl on the M4 bus (shown at right), its commentary "Discipline, Defied," and her commentary "Conflicted Discipline" on Rachel Tanur's photo Guatemalan peek-a-boo, from an international pool of entries. To view the photographs, essays, and contest details, see <http://www.racheltanurmemorialprize.com/content/winners-2010>.



PHOTO BY EMILIE DUBOIS

# Graduate Degrees 2009-2010

## Ph.D. Degrees

**Chiwen Bao:** *Within the Classroom Walls: Critical Classroom Processes, Students' and Teachers' Sense of Agency, and the Making of Racial Advantages and Disadvantages.* Juliet Schor, Advisor.

**Esteban Calvo Bralic:** *The Impact Of Pension Policy On Older Adults' Life Satisfaction: An Analysis Of Longitudinal Multilevel Data.* John Williamson, Advisor.

**Michelle Gawerc:** *Israeli Palestinian Peace-Building Partnerships: Stories of Adaptation, Asymmetry, and Survival.* Bill Gamson, Advisor.

**Anders Hayden:** *When Green Growth Is Not Enough: Climate Change, Ecological Modernization, and Sufficiency in the UK and Canada.* Juliet Schor, Advisor.

**Charles Pinderhughes:** *21st Century Chains: The Continuing Relevance Of Internal Colonialism Theory.* Bill Gamson and Zine Magubane, Advisors.

**Alexandra Pittman:** *Transforming Constraint: Transnational Feminist Movement Building in the Middle East and North Africa.* Sarah Babb and Ali Banuazizi, Advisors.



Alexandra Pittman with dissertation committee.  
From left to right:  
Patricia Ewick,  
Brinton Lykes, Ali  
Banuazizi,  
Alexandra Pittman,  
Sarah Babb,  
William Gamson.

## M.A. Degrees

**Erin Balleine:** *Social Class and Social Change: A Study of the Social Class Dynamics Between and Among Social Change Organizations.* Bill Gamson, Advisor.

**Lauren Brown:** *Birth Visionaries: An Examination of Unassisted Childbirth.* Sharlene Hess-Biber, Advisor.

**Curtis Holland:** *MBA Students' Perspectives toward the Economic Crisis: Implications for Contemporary Corporate Culture?* Paul Gray, Advisor.

**Amy Finnegan** (interim MA): *Beyond Victimhood: Community and Forgiveness Amidst War in Northern Uganda.* Zine Magubane, Advisor.

**Noa Milman** (interim MA): *The Single Mothers' Movement in the Israeli Press: an Anatomy of a Struggle.* Bill Gamson, Advisor.

**Adam Saltsman** (interim MA): *Contested Rights: Subjugation and Struggle Among Burmese Forced Migrants in Exile.* Sarah Babb, Advisor.

**Gretchen Sisson** (interim MA): *Negotiating the Biomedical Model.* Stephen Pfohl, Advisor.

## Alumni Updates

**Michael Anastario** (Ph.D. 2007) is now Director of Research and Evaluation at Cicatelli Associates Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of health care and social services delivered to communities in need across the United States and abroad.

**Chiwen Bao** (Ph.D. 2009) has been hired as a full time, non tenure track Lecturer at Harvard University.

**Ulrike Boehmer** (Ph.D. 1997), Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Boston University. Ulrike published several articles, including “Examining factors linked to overweight and obesity in women of different sexual orientations” in *Preventative Medicine* (with Deborah J. Bowen); “Sexual functioning after cancer in sexual minority women” in *The Cancer Journal* (with Jennifer Potter and Deborah J Bowen); and “HIV medical care provider practices for reducing high-risk sexual behavior: Results of a qualitative study” in *AIDS, Patient Care, and STDs* (with Mari-Lynn Drainoni, Debra Dekker, Elizabeth Lee-Hood, and Michael Relf). She also wrote “Lessons Learned: What we know doesn't work and what we shouldn't repeat” in S.A. Schumaker, J.K. Ockene, and K.A. Reikert (eds) *The Handbook of Health Behavior Change*, 3rd edition (with Deborah J. Bowen).

**Anthony F Buono** (Ph.D. 1981), Professor of Management and Sociology at Bentley College, edited two books: *Client-Consultant Collaboration: Coping with Complexity and Change* (co-edited with Flemming Poulfelt) and *Emerging Trends and Issues in Management Consulting: Consulting as a Janus-Faced Reality*.

He also wrote book chapters, including “Building Change Capacity: Client-Consultant Collaboration and Organizational Change,” in *Client-Consultant Collaboration: Coping with Complexity and Change* (with Kenneth Kerber) and “Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers,” in *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society*. He reviewed *70 - The New 50* by William C. Byham and *Designing Matrix Organizations that Actually Work* by Jay Galbraith, both for *Personnel Psychology*.

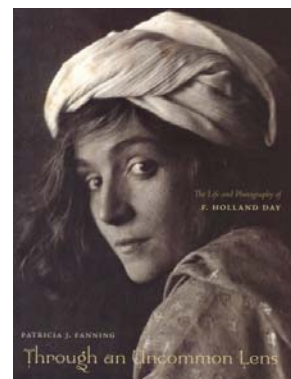
He gave several conference and professional presentations, including one on “Revamping the Curriculum: Innovative Approaches to Curriculum Change in an Era of Climate Change” at the UN PRME/Copenhagen Business School Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Esteban Calvo Bralic** (Ph.D. 2009) has been hired as a tenure track Assistant Professor at Catholic University at Santiago, Chile.

In 2009-10 he co-authored two journal articles: “Are Old-age Pension System Reforms Moving Away from Individual Retirement Accounts in Latin America?” in *Journal of Social Policy* (with Fabio M. Bertranou and Evelina Bertranou) and “Gradual Retirement, Sense of Control, and Retirees' Happiness” in *Research on Aging* (with Kelly Haverstick and Steven A. Sass). He also co-authored several issue briefs for the Center for Retirement Research and co-presented at several conferences, including “Retirement and Well-being: Examining the Characteristics of Life Course Transitions” (with Natasha Sarkisian) at the International Sociological Association World Conference at Gothenburg, Sweden.

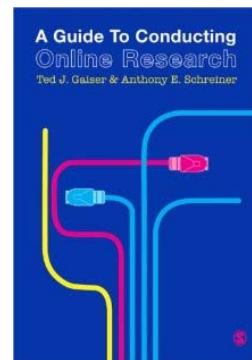
**Danielle Egan** (Ph.D. 2000), Associate Professor of Gender Studies at St. Lawrence University, co-authored (with Gail Hawkes) *Theorizing the Sexual Child in Modernity*.

**Patricia Fanning** (Ph.D. 1995), Associate Professor and Chairperson at Bridgewater State College, won a prestigious award at the 9th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards for her book, *Through an Uncommon Lens: The Life and Photography of F. Holland Day* (University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst). She was also nominated for the Charles C. Eldredge Prize, given annually by the Smithsonian American Art Museum for outstanding scholarship in the field of American art.



## Alumni Updates, continued

**Ted Gaiser** (Ph.D. 2000), Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Boston College, authored *Community: An Evaluation of Emerging Social Forms in Cyberspace*, and co-authored (with Anthony Schreiner) *A Guide to Conducting Online Research* (Sage, 2009). He was interviewed about the latter book; see the video of the interview and more information at [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/pubhighlight/conductingresearch/index.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/pubhighlight/conductingresearch/index.html).



**Michele M. Garvin** (Ph.D. 1981), Partner, Ropes and Gray Health Law Practice, received several awards in 2009, including the Boston *Best Lawyers* Health Care Lawyer of the Year, The Best Lawyers in America award, and Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

**Lori Girshick** (Ph.D. 1992), Trainer, Consultant, Professor of Sociology at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, published "Same-Sex Interpersonal Violence: An Activist Researcher's Commentary" in *Sexual Assault Report* and was interviewed in "The Trannyweb Celebrity Interview: Lori Girshick" for *The Tranny Tribune: The Official Organ of the Trannyweb Community*. She also presented "Woman-to-Woman Sexual Violence" and "Understanding Transgender" for End Violence Against Women International in Anaheim, CA; and she was the luncheon keynote for the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence 7th Annual Conference in Franklin, TN, at which she presented "Woman-to-Woman Sexual Violence," and "Transgender Voices."

**Anders Hayden** (Ph.D. 2010) has been hired as a tenure track Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He also published, with fellow BC alumni John Shandra, "Hours of Work and the Ecological Footprint of Nations: An Exploratory Analysis" in *Local Environment - The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*.

**Kathleen Odell-Korgen** (Ph.D. 1997), Professor of Sociology at William Paterson University, edited *Multiracial Americans and Social Class* (Routledge 2010).

She also published "Black/White Biracial Identity: The Influence of Colorblindness and the Racialization of Poor Black Americans" in *Theory in Action* (2009) and, with Jonathan White, a "Comment" on "The Forum: Second Thoughts on Presidential Elections," by Ruane and Cerulo (solicited by the journal editor) for *Sociological Forum* (2009), and "Public Sociology in the Classroom" in *Humanity & Society* (2010).

**Helen Levine** (Ph.D. 1988), Senior Research Associate, UMASS Boston Center for Social Policy, is involved with Alternative Staffing Organizations, a three year project which integrates the business goal of mainstream staffing services - connecting workers and employers - with the social mission of helping marginalized job seekers find and retain better jobs.

### Internet Law



**Michael Rustad** (Ph.D. 1977), Professor of Law, Suffolk University Law School, wrote *Internet Law in a Nutshell* (Thomson/West, 2009).

He also wrote the following book chapters with Thomas H. Koenig: "Negligent Entrustment for Outsourced Data" in *Data Privacy And Protection: Issues And Perspectives*; "The Tort of Negligent Enablement of Cyberspace" in *Tortious Liability*; and "Crimtorts as Corporate Just Deserts" in *Complex Litigation: Cases And Materials On Non-Litigating For Social Change*.

**Janine Schipper** (Ph.D. 2000), Associate Professor of Sociology at Northern Arizona University, presented the keynote address at the Ninth Annual Arizona Parks and Recreation Association Conference on Open Space in Scottsdale, AZ: "Where We Stand: Suburban Sprawl and the Present."

**John Shandra** (Ph.D. 2005), Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University Department of Sociology, published several articles including, with Colleen Nugent, "Women's Political Participation and Protected Land Area: A Cross-National

## Alumni Updates, continued

Analysis” in *Organization and Environment*; with Christopher Leckband, Laura McKinney, and Bruce London, “Ecologically Unequal Exchange, World Polity, and Biodiversity Loss: A Cross-National Analysis” in the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*; with Anders Hayden, “Hours of Work and the Ecological Footprint of Nations: An Exploratory Analysis” in *Local Environment*; and with Eran Shor and Bruce London, “World Polity, Unequal Ecological Exchange,” and “Water Pollution: A Cross-National Analysis” in *Human Ecology Review*.

**Judith Shindul-Rothschild** (Ph.D. 1990), Associate Professor at the Boston College School of Nursing, contributed a chapter to the *Clinical Manual for Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychotic Depression* (ed. A.J. Rothschild).

**A. Javier Trevino** (Ph.D. 1990), Professor of Sociology at Wheaton College, was elected President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems 2010-2011.

**Jonathan White** (Ph.D. 2002) was promoted to Associate Professor at Bridgewater State College.

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## Kelly Joyce wins ASA’s 2010 Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award

Kelly Joyce, Ph.D. 2001, an Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of William and Mary, is currently on leave to serve as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation, where she develops new areas of inquiry, conducts outreach to scholarly communities, and reviews and recommends proposals for funding.

“I love thinking critically about the cultural, economic, and political dimensions of healthcare and scientific knowledge,” says Joyce. Joyce is co-editor, with Colgate University’s Meika Loe, of *Technogenarians: Studying Health and Illness Through an Ageing, Science, and Technology Lens*. “Sociology has an excellent group of scholars working on aging, but even this can be overshadowed by sociologists’ more general interest in younger people,” says Joyce. “I am particularly intrigued in how old people adapt and use technologies that are initially made for younger, able-bodied people.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY JOYCE

“Good social science starts from paying attention to your interests and what is going on around you,” she says. Now an Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of William and Mary, Joyce’s interest lies at the intersection of medicine, science, and technology. She is also the author of *Magnetic Appeal: MRI and the Myth of Transparency*, an exploration of the culture and the science of magnetic resonance imaging, which won the 2010 Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award from the American Sociological Association.

Joyce remembers the Boston College sociology program as a lively place of intellectual exchange. “The sociology faculty are engaged teachers and researchers who show students what it means to be innovative scholars, imaginative teachers, and members of a broader intellectual community,” she says. “The graduate students drawn to the program are similarly creative, curious, and clever. This combination created a vibrant milieu where exchanges about what it meant to be a social scientist occurred in seminars and coursework as well as in corridors and other spontaneous discussions.”

Adapted by Jean Lovett from an article by Brock Dilworth on the Sociology home page, [www.bc.edu/sociology](http://www.bc.edu/sociology).

# Undergraduate Achievements 2009-2010

Sociology major Connor Fitzmaurice was awarded the **McCarthy Prize** for his **Scholar of the College** thesis, “Tied to the Land or to the Market: The Story of an Organic Farm.” Connor was supervised by **Paul Gray** and **Brian Gareau**.



Scholar of the College is a designation given at Commencement to exceptional students who have excelled academically in their undergraduate studies and who have done substantial, independent work of the highest quality for a significant part of their senior year, under the supervision of faculty scholars. The McCarthy Prize is awarded to the Scholar whose project is deemed best in the social sciences.

Three Sociology majors won **Advanced Study Grants**, which are awarded to particularly imaginative and independent students for summer projects that promise to accelerate dramatically their progress in the major field of study.

**Abigail Letak** (Advisor, Deborah Piatelli): “Experience and Belief: To support research into the link between Catholic adolescents' experience and their interpretations of Catholic teachings and modern societal values.”

**Emily O'Brien** (Advisor, Michael Malec): “Poverty, Health, and Hope: To support participant-observer research in a health clinic in Nueva Vida, Nicaragua.” (Martin Luther King, Jr. Advanced Study Grant)

**Anne Spencer** (Advisors, Autumn Greene and Deborah Piatelli): “The Homeless Female Experience: To support research into the role of social relationships in pulling women out of poverty.” (Martin Luther King, Jr. Advanced Study Grant)

## 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 2009-10, the following students participated in our Honors Program: Cara Colbert, Claire Duggan, Jennifer Fell, Jacqueline Geaney, Timothy Jordan, Daniel Kenny, John Reynolds, Kacey Richards, and John Skinner.

The **John D. Donovan Award** is presented in honor of Professor Emeritus John D. Donovan to an undergraduate student who submits the best paper written for a course in sociology. In 2010 the Donovan award was awarded to **Jacqueline R. Woods** for “Religion and Health in Later Life,” written for Sara Moorman.

**Anna C. Rhodes** won the **William A. Gamson Award**, established in honor of William Gamson and given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in sociology.

The **Lynda Lytle Holmstrom Award** is given annually to recognize the best class paper on gender with sociological implications submitted in an undergraduate course in the College of Arts and Sciences. The first ever recipient of this award is **Arielle W. Eagan** for her paper “The Trauma of Childhood Cancer: Questioning the Maternal Identity,” written for David Karp.

**Dean's Scholars:** Kathryn Casey, Claire Duggan, Ana Mascagni, Anna Rhodes, John Skinner

**Sophomore Scholars:** Connor Fitzmaurice, Kristina Kohn, Erica Meninno, Anna Minkow

Professor Michael Malec coordinates inductions into the **AKD Honor Society**. The following sociology majors were inducted in 2009-10: Lindsey Avedisian, Cara Colbert, Claire Duggan, Jennifer Fell, Jacqueline Geaney, Karyn Hollister, Timothy Jordan, Daniel Kenny, John Reynolds, Kacey Richards, and John Skinner.

The **Real Food Girls**, including sociology majors **Julia Gabbert** and **Mariana Souza**, received **Momentum Awards** from *The Heights* for their work developing both an organic garden and Addie's Loft at BC.



## Jessica Chau wins the Benigno and Corazon Aquino Scholarship

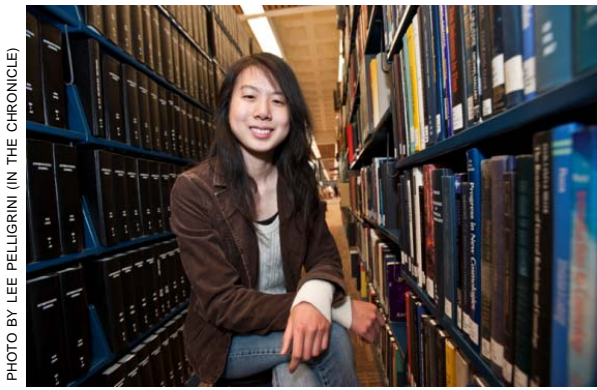


PHOTO BY LEE PELLGRINI (IN THE CHRONICLE)

Sociology major Jessica Chau won the Benigno and Corazon Aquino Scholarship, the Asian American Scholarship named this year for the Philippines human rights activists. This award is given to a junior who demonstrates a strong commitment to the Asian American community at BC.

Jessica has experience in personal challenge, which began for her at a young age. Her family fled Vietnam on a boat built by her father and lived as refugees in Malaysia for several years before settling in the Chinese community in San Francisco. At Boston College, Chau has established herself as an amicable and candid student leader, working to foster an understanding of Asian American culture and

bridge the gap between other ethnicities within the BC community. She has volunteered as a mentor to seven elementary school girls in the “Strong Women, Strong Girls” program. She is a distinguished staff member of the BC Women of Color Caucus; she also serves as political and education director of the BC Asian Caucus. Through a BC Community Research Program, Jessica studied Asian American mental health issues and presented her findings at the Chinese-American National Convention. She also volunteered as an English tutor at the Chinatown Neighborhood Center.

Jessica says she feels humbled yet challenged to “strive for social justice, whether it's through non-profit or through education.” Whether she continues her admirable work through non-profit or educational fields, Chau intends to attend graduate school after she completes her degree at Boston College.

Summarized by Amelia Scott from the 4/26/10 article in *The Heights* by Michael Caprio and the 5/27/10 article in *The Chronicle* by Melissa Beecher.

## Catherine Duarte wins the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship

Sociology major Catherine Duarte, co-president of the Cape Verdean Student Association and pre-med student, won the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. This award was created to recognize students who are living out King's message of social justice, community, and equality, and who continue King's legacy by fostering leadership values in their daily lives.

Catherine began as an English major, but she says a biology class she took to fulfill her core requirement made her reevaluate her focus. She knew she had an interest in medicine, but she decided sociology would better fit her specific interests. She plans to pursue a master's degree in public health before applying to medical school. “I figured that once I get into medical school, I will study the courses that I need to succeed. Right now, I want a foundation in understanding people. Sociology provides me with that,” said Duarte.

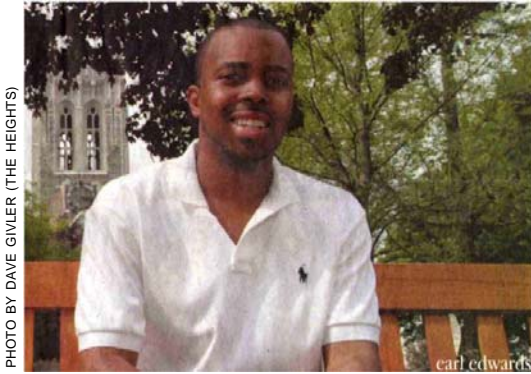


PHOTO BY KAREN C. COHEN (IN THE CHRONICLE)

Catherine spent most of her childhood in Kenya, but moved to Virginia at age 12. As a child, she studied King's speeches and his role in history. She explains how she has internalized his ideals and his teachings continue to affect many facets of her daily life. Catherine studied anatomy at BC in the summer of 2009 and also volunteered in the emergency department at Tufts Medical Center. On a visit to her parents, she gained experience as a teaching assistant at ESCOLA, an English language school in Luanda, Angola. Catherine exemplifies King's ideals when she says, “You learn the most about yourself through service and giving back to the community. It's something that was instilled in me at an early age and something I remain grateful for.”

Summarized by Amelia Scott from the 2/4/10 article in *The Heights* by Natalie Sileno and the 2/18/10 article in *The Chronicle* by Melissa Beecher

## Earl Edwards: *The Heights* Person of the Year and Alfred Feliciano and Valerie Lewis Award Winner



Sociology major Earl Edwards received the Alfred Feliciano and Valerie Lewis Award, given to the undergraduate who has made extraordinary contributions to further the ideals of the AHANA and provided leadership to help the Boston College community actualize the AHANA concept. He was also chosen by *The Heights* to receive the Person of the Year Award, which is given to the member of the BC community who has had a profound effect on life at BC over the previous two semesters. Earl was lauded in part for his work to reshape how students think about what it is to be diverse on this campus. He is just as invested in understanding the experience of non-AHANA students as that of minorities since, according to Earl, diversity is not just the experience of

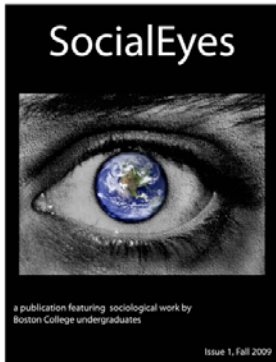
students of color - it's the experience of every student at BC. Just months away from his own graduation, he spent hours in offices of faculty and administrators determining the details of a course he proposed called the "Social Experiment," a required one-credit seminar for freshman that would provoke dialogue about the breadth of backgrounds and struggles that BC students experience. Even though Earl has left Boston College, the Social Experiment project continues to be developed by a group of current undergraduate students.

Edwards acted as President of the AHANA Leadership Council during his senior year, and served as President of the NAACP at BC during his junior year. He was a Preceptor for the summer Option Through Education program. He has been a member of a fraternity and Dedicated Intellectuals of the People, founded a youth basketball league in his hometown, and completed an independent research project on the experience of black males at BC. After completing his degree, he planned to manage the basketball league he founded in Brockton and teach English in Providence as a part of Teach for America.

Summarized by Amelia Scott from the 5/6/10 article in *The Heights* by Ana Lopez.

### **SocialEyes: New Sociology Undergraduate Journal**

*SocialEyes* is a new campus journal featuring original sociological theorizing and research by undergraduate students. Launched online in early Spring semester '10, the journal is the product of many months of hard work by a group of dedicated undergraduate students. The first issue of this exciting journal reflects a variety of sociological research and analyses, from an analysis of the culture and process of veganism to a creative writing piece on a dream sequence that raises questions about egocentrism. (See our url, below, for the full issue.)



The process of creating the journal began as a result of an undergraduate curriculum committee meeting where faculty and students discussed ways to bring students interested in sociology together to share academic work, extracurricular interests, and personal talents. Sociology majors John Skinner '10 and Stafford Oliver '10 and Visiting Sociology Professor Deborah Piatelli subsequently developed the idea of the undergraduate journal and began the long series of tasks required to make it a reality: organizing a naming contest, recruiting staff, marketing for submissions, developing an editorial board and guidelines, and coordinating the review process. Kiersten Abate '11, Lena

Park '11, Dan Kenny '10, Henisha Patel '12, and Kristin Reed '10 volunteered their time and talents to the first issue. While everyone was assigned certain tasks to accomplish, in reality everyone did a little of everything. It has truly been a team effort, and has allowed those involved to read some wonderful papers and learn more about the interests and passions of students at BC (whether or not they are sociology majors). Just as important, the editorial process has provided experience on academic writing standards and formatting and effective editorial critique, while giving the students an opportunity to advance sociological critical thinking skills.

Since that time, the journal has been covered in *The Heights* and *ASA Footnotes*, and the staff has continued to grow. *SocialEyes* welcomes essays, academic papers, journal entries, poetry, photographs, and multi-media formats that engage sociological thinking on just about any issue. We hope you find *SocialEyes* as engaging as we do! You can view issues of *SocialEyes* as well as other important information at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/sociology/socialeyes.html>.

Adapted by Jean Lovett from an article by Deborah Piatelli.

# Ritchie Lowry: An Idealistic Machiavelli Quasi-Retires

By Sarah Woodside and Jean Lovett



PHOTO FROM SOCIOLOGY DEPT ARCHIVES

To hear Professor Ritchie Lowry's personal history is to gain insight into American history itself - from World War II to the current recession - and to understand the growth of Boston College from a local campus to one with national gravitas. Lowry's life and career also illustrate a particular approach to social change, one that is nuanced, strategic, and realistic, based on the reconciliation of divergent perspectives. In this sense, his ideas offer a kind of corrective not only to specific problems in contemporary America, but to the ideological purity that has made those problems so difficult to solve.

Professor Lowry was in the Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II, spent a year and a half working for an international company in Japan, and used the GI bill to attend UC Berkeley. He was recruited into the sociology Ph.D. program there, and examined in his dissertation the ineffectuality and alienation caused by the failure of communication between leadership groups in Chico, California. This work formed the basis for his first book, *Who's Running this Town? Community Leadership and Social Change*, and the issues it highlights clearly remain relevant in the current polarized political climate.

While finishing his PhD, Lowry taught at CSU Chico and then moved to DC in the 1960s, swept up by the potential for social and political change in the Kennedy era. From 1964-1966 he was Senior Research Scientist at the Army's Special Operations Research Office. His team, funded to study the Vietnam War, quickly became critics of that war. When their findings went unheeded and their work was widely misrepresented and censored, Ritchie left DC to rejoin academia.

Despite offers from prominent universities, Lowry was drawn to Boston College, in part because of the ambitious agenda planned by the Jesuits. BC had originally been a small, working-class Catholic college, but after WWII, when post-secondary education became more accessible and affordable, the school lost its niche. The Jesuits realized BC would fail if it didn't become more prestigious, and the AVP at the time, Rev. Charles Donovan, SJ, hired Lowry to help make that happen. "We want you to build the department," Donovan said, "and if you don't, we're going to cancel Sociology."

Lowry, with his unique combination of idealism and realism and his remarkable talent for strategizing, was the perfect candidate to transform the department and advance the university's aims. Even as a new professor, he spoke with the administration about the "tradition" of segregating classes by gender, and managed to integrate classrooms virtually overnight. A year after his hire he was appointed as Department Chair, and during his tenure (1967-1970), Lowry, Severyn Bruyn and others determined that the department would distinguish itself from other sociology departments by basing the program on the Jesuit's own mission: social and economic justice. Not only was BC sociology unique in its substantive focus, but the faculty had committed to being "multi-theoretical," willing to abide any theoretical perspective.

As his dissertation had theorized, tolerance and flexibility resulted in a high level of effectiveness: during his 3-year tenure, Lowry oversaw the hiring of five new faculty members and hosted distinguished visiting professors Ben Alper and Everett C. Hughes. He recruited resources and students and obtained approval for a Ph.D. program, which began in 1970 and has since seen nearly 200 people achieve their doctorates. He's even responsible for our enviable location on the 4th floor of McGuinn. All of us are indebted to Ritchie for his dedication and talent for political maneuvering in the early days of the department. "You think Washington is something!" he says. "You've got to try academic politics!"

Along with teaching courses and helping to build the department, Lowry has continued to research, publish, and engage in activism. The most recent of his seven published books, *Good Money: a Guide to Profitable Social Investing in the '90s*, and his associated for-profit business, Good Money, Inc., continue his attempt to effect change by reconciling opposing practices - in this case, by making and encouraging socially responsible investments within a capitalist framework. Once again, his combination of realism and idealism has turned out to be successful: when the market crashed, Lowry's socially responsible investments dipped slightly, bounced back, and are now higher than ever.

The money has enabled Lowry to establish an extremely generous new fellowship (a projected \$250,000) to support ongoing graduate student research in two areas he believes are crucial to society's future: social economy and the proper use of military force. After a year of research and then "retirement," he also plans to update his public policy book and write *A Citizen's Guide to Military Force*, while continuing to teach his seminar on the Roots of War. Just as he played a prominent role in building the department in the past, Ritchie continues to support and influence its development in the future; funding, mentoring, and teaching students while engaging in research and activism that are relevant to and potentially transformative of the most central and contentious issues of our time.

# Lynda Lytle Holmstrom: Cutting Edge Retiree

by Sarah Woodside

Trailblazer. Pioneer. Cutting-edge researcher. These are all apt descriptions of Professor Lynda Lytle Holmstrom, who has retired from the Department of Sociology as Professor Emerita after forty years of service at Boston College, seven published books, and more than forty scholarly articles.

Throughout her career Professor Holmstrom has been attracted to topics that were later to become mainstream - but were understudied when she fixed her lens on them. As she herself wrote with great understatement, "I seem to have a preference for studying new topics." However, in situating her various studies into a complete body of research, coherent themes appear. Her areas of study have all explored the relationship between individuals and institutions - how people navigate or are processed by institutional structures. And most often, the individuals she studied are women.

Her early work focused on two-career families, the pressures women faced in their multiple roles, and how wives were both framed by and interacted with the institution of marriage. Familiar to us today, the subject of two-careers was invisible at the time. Holmstrom's book *The Two-Career Family* (1972) helped launch a now-established literature.

Her subsequent focus on the issue of rape led to many further publications, including *Rape: Crisis and Recovery* (with Ann Wolbert Burgess, 1979) that received a Book of the Year Award. Feminism had surfaced the issue, but little research existed to document and explore women's experience of rape. Professors Holmstrom and Burgess arranged with a local hospital to be contacted when a rape victim arrived at the Emergency Room, at which point they would head to the hospital. Through observations and interviews at the hospital, after release, and in court if applicable, they constructed a study of the experience of the victim/survivor as she was processed by police, hospital, and court institutions.

Equally path breaking - and still a work of great import as evidenced by its easy availability on Amazon! - was the research Professor Holmstrom conducted that resulted in the book *Mixed Blessings* (with Jeanne Harley Guillemín, 1986). Their research explored physicians' decisions about the use of neonatal intensive care in the wake of the burgeoning field of newly available medical technologies. Their focus was on the social context of medical decision-making when confronted with gut-wrenching decisions about how aggressively to pursue medical interventions on the critically ill newborn and the effects of these decisions on the infant and the family.

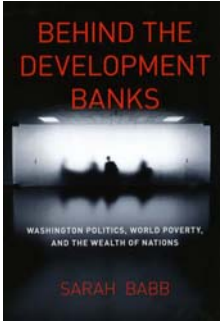
Professor Holmstrom's work has been cutting-edge not only in its focus on the location of individuals in relation to institutions, but also in its concern for women's experiences in particular as they navigate institutional pressures and challenges. In fact, her own career has been in the forefront of these shifting relationships. She was the first woman in the Sociology Department to be granted tenure, the first to be promoted to Full Professor, and the first to serve as Department Chair. A mentee of Everett Hughes, she has served as a mentor for her students who themselves are being recognized, in paper competition awards in particular. And as of 2009, Professor Holmstrom has an award established in her name: the Lynda Lytle Holmstrom Award for the best Boston College undergraduate research paper on gender.

Professor Holmstrom's ability to investigate such new fields of study has not been despite a lack of appropriate research methods, but in conjunction with a focus on developing solid and reliable methods with which to do this work. Thus Professor Holmstrom has refined the use of interviews and participatory action research, and is recognized for her expertise in the "how" of research as well as the "what." For example, her research on rape victims aligned with her co-founding (with Burgess) of a Victim Counseling Program at a Boston hospital where they counseled victims, conducted training on victim counseling, and later continued to train professionals in victim counseling. Furthermore, she testified at hearings and on a House Bill to redefine the crime of rape.

Currently at work on at least two new areas of research, Professor Holmstrom is not mistaking retirement for relaxation. With David Karp and Paul Gray, she is continuing to study the experience of the whole family during the process of a child's application to college. And she has become fascinated not only with her own genealogy but in using it to gain insight into the lives of women in pioneer time as they navigated the terrain of settler life. The lives of pioneer women remain largely undocumented, not least because they are difficult to track in census and other records since women's last names changed through marriage. Professor Holmstrom has labeled this investigation into pioneer women ancestors "social genealogy."

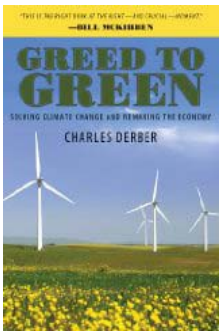
Thus, she is again attracted to something new, yet so consistent with the themes that have grabbed her all of these years and enriched the field so fully: the relationship of individuals to institutions and the social experiences of women.

## Faculty Updates



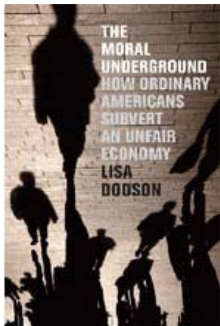
**Sarah Babb** published *Behind the Development Banks: Washington Politics, World Poverty, and the Wealth of Nations* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

The multilateral development banks (the World Bank and the regional development banks) are major players in the controversial field of economic development, and shape the economic policies of governments around the world. For many observers, the banks are best viewed as bastions of professional expertise, and changes in their prescriptions can be traced to trends in the ideas of development experts - particularly those of economists, the pre-eminent profession within the World Bank. Babb takes another approach, drawing on a range of sociological theories and empirical sources to argue that political dynamics in Washington have played a decisive role in shaping conventional wisdoms about economic development over the past 30 years.



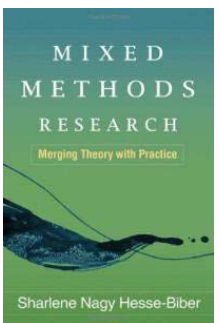
**Charlie Derber** published *Greed to Green: Solving Global Warming and Remaking the Economy* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2010).

Derber notes that climate change remains intractable because our socioeconomic system shrinks our time horizons and paralyzes our ability to respond to long term problems. A solution to climate change thus "has to help us change our current experience of time as part of a broader remaking of our economy and culture... Climate change - and the pathology of our short-term mind-set - is so intertwined with our crisis-riddled economy that solutions to global warming cannot happen without rapid systematic changes in our capitalist order." As Juliet Schor observes, "His proposed greening of our economy, politics, and society ingeniously relies on short-term windows to enact long-term change" and his analysis brings "clarity to some heretofore muddled discussions."



**Lisa Dodson** published *The Moral Underground: How Ordinary Americans Subvert an Unfair Economy* (The New Press, 2009).

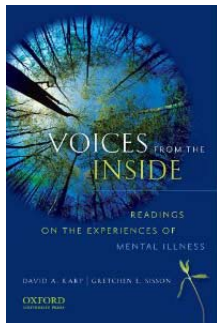
Based on seven years of mixed-method research, the book examines moral dilemmas and economic disobedience among middle-class and working-poor people, in response to unsustainable wages and deepening economic disparity. The book has received a great deal of media attention. It was reviewed in *Time* magazine, was called a "fascinating exploration of economic civil disobedience" by *Publishers Weekly*, and was selected as the "Writer as Witness" text to be read and discussed by the class of 2014 at American University. Dodson was interviewed on NPR's *Marketplace* and featured in the *Boston Globe*, and a brief video interview with her can be viewed on the Boston College Sociology website, [bc.edu/sociology](http://bc.edu/sociology).



**Sharlene Hesse-Biber** published *Mixed Methods Research: Merging Theory with Practice* (Guilford Publications, 2010).

This accessibly written book is ideal for use in graduate courses or by practicing researchers and evaluators. The author puts the research problem at center stage, showing how mixed methods designs can fruitfully address different types of research questions. She illustrates the discussion with examples of mixed methods studies from a variety of disciplines and qualitative approaches (interpretative, feminist, and postmodern). The text demonstrates how to navigate ethical issues; gather, analyze, and interpret data; and write up the results, including an in-depth example with step-by-step commentary. Special features include "researcher standpoint" reflections from leading scholars and practical strategies to help users develop their own research perspectives. (Summary from Amazon.com.)

## Faculty Updates, continued



**David Karp** edited, with Gretchen Sisson, *Voices from the Inside: Readings on the Experiences of Mental Illness* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

One of sociology's most important missions is giving voice to those whose experiences are typically blunted, marginalized, or simply ignored. Featuring first-person accounts of mentally ill individuals, *Voices from the Inside* allows students to connect directly with real-life "experts" who know mental illness all too intimately. This unique anthology addresses a variety of central topics surrounding mental illness, including suicide, hospitalization, the meanings of medication, the experiences of caregivers, and the stigma attached to mental illness. Each section of readings opens with an introduction that outlines key questions, specific matters for student consideration, and ways in which social scientists approach relevant substantive issues. (Summary from Amazon.com.)

**Michael Malec** co-founded and became Vice President of the American Association of University Professors.

**Sara Moorman** became Principal Investigator, along with Deborah Carr, of "Factors Affecting Adults' Knowledge of their Partner's Medical Treatment Preferences," for Couple-Based Measurement Pilot Data Collection sponsored by the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University.

**Deborah Piatelli** is the faculty advisor for the new undergraduate sociology newsletter, SocialEyes, which has been featured in ASA's *Footnotes* and BC's *The Heights*. She has also continued to work with Lisa Dodson and Shawn McGuffey on the Poverty, Families, and Social Policy program (see the 2008-9 issue of Sociology Speaks).



**Juliet Schor** published *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth* (The Penguin Press, 2010).

Responding to our current moment, *Plenitude* puts sustainability at its core, but it is not a paradigm of sacrifice. Instead, it's an argument that through a major shift to new sources of wealth, green technologies, and different ways of living, individuals and the country as a whole can actually be better off and more economically secure. And as Schor observes, plenitude is already emerging. In pockets around the country and the world, people are busy creating lifestyles that offer a way out of the work and spend cycle. These pioneers' lives are scarce in conventional consumer goods and rich in the newly abundant resources of time, information, creativity, and community. Urban farmers, do-it-yourself renovators, Craigslist users - all are spreading their risk and establishing novel sources of income and outlets for procuring consumer goods. Taken together, these trends represent a movement away from the conventional market and offer a way toward an efficient, rewarding life in an era of high prices and traditional resource scarcity. (Summary from Amazon.com.)

**Eve Spangler** was selected to receive the **Reverend John R. Trzaska, S.J. Award**, recognizing a faculty advisor who has contributed to student life at Boston College, as part of the 32nd Annual Student Leadership Awards ceremony.

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