

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom
Research/Areas of Specialization

Areas of Specialization: Medical Sociology, Family, Violence Against Women

Research: Professor Holmstrom's main interests lie in the areas of medical sociology, the family, and gender violence. She has written widely on these subjects and regularly teaches courses on them. She was among the first researchers to write about the dilemmas posed by two-career families. In the 1970s Professor Holmstrom wrote a number of books (with Burgess) on the victims of rape and sexual assault which had a significant impact on theory and social policy. More recently she brought her ethnographic skills to a study of the use of technology on a neonatal intensive care unit (along with Jeanne Guillemin). Currently, she is collaborating with other departmental members (Gray and Karp) on a study of family dynamics during the college application process.

Current Projects: She is presently doing research, with David A. Karp and Paul S. Gray. The project is called "Getting In: Family Dynamics and the College Application Process." They believe that the college application process is a critical turning point in American society for thousands upon thousands of high school seniors and their families. Given the importance of the process, there is a need for research that looks, in a holistic way, at what the process means subjectively for the participants themselves.

A present side project on what she calls "social genealogy" will probably turn into her next main project. At least two of her ancestors were in the New World in the 1700's and all branches of the family had arrived by the time of the Civil War. All four grandparents were pioneers in the white settlement of the Pacific Northwest, specifically, in Idaho (near Coeur d' Alene) and Bellingham, Washington (near the Canadian border). As a child she was interested in and asked questions about her ancestors. Her parents were not particularly interested in the subject, but they provided information, and her mother connected her with two relatives who helped her write down a basic list of names and relationships.