

The logo for the Society for Women Sociologists (SWS), consisting of the letters 'SWS' in a stylized, bold, italicized font.

WINTER 2009 • VOLUME XXVI NO. 4

Network*news*

The Newsletter of Sociologist for Women in Society

A high-angle photograph of Santa Barbara, California, showing a dense residential area with white buildings and red-tiled roofs. In the foreground, a large, curved red-tiled roof is prominent. The background shows a valley with more buildings and distant mountains under a clear blue sky.

Winter Meetings:
Santa Barbara

Fact Sheet:
Gendered Violence

Update:
Election Results



President's Message:

SWS: Viable, Visible, Vital

By Shirley A. Hill
SWS President

I was stunned to be elected President of SWS. Sure, I'd served on several committees, attended a few winter meetings over the years and, of course, allowed myself to be persuaded to run for the office. But actually *winning* the election was another matter. Once elected I was eager to get a broader view of the organization, and included in my winter meeting a panel of the founders of our journal, *Gender & Society*, who are often also those who started SWS. I learned how a group of passionate, courageous women demanded that gender scholarship and women be taken seriously in the academy and in the discipline—and they succeeded. SWS is especially fortunate to have many of the founding members still actively involved in the organization. They have achieved successful careers and influence in the discipline, and they bring to SWS a sense of its historic mission, a commitment to its continued existence, vital social capital, and some very important organizational skills that contribute to our success.

In reflecting on their contributions, I began to think about what was needed to insure the continued success of SWS, from the basics of being viable to being vital, or energized and relevant. Money and members are two key factors in our viability: We now have nearly 1100 members, a healthy budget, and a leading gender (and sociology) journal. There is a willingness of people to step into service: From a slate of great candidates, we recently elected 16 chairs, officers, and committee members. Welcome aboard! Over the past two years, I have been impressed with the judicious decision-making of EOB and Council, especially when it comes to spending SWS money, and that is also a factor in viability. *Gender & Society* is the source of most of that money, and I extend a special thanks to the publications committee and its subcommittee for their skillful negotiation of our new contract with Sage, which promises to sustain us for years to come. Our viability also is related to our continual examination of the efficiency of our overall operations, and to that end we are currently recruiting members for a Task Force

EOB/Council Structure and Governance.

Our members, committees, and Council are a fount of new ideas and initiatives aimed at fulfilling our mission of improving the quality of life for women. Currently, we are in discussion with ASA about the possibility of enhancing our support for their Minority Fellowship Program. The Committee on Academic Justice is exploring some new ways to

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uncover gender issues in the academy that require further research, and the Social Action Committee is selling stainless steel water bottles and will donate the proceeds to the St. James Infirmary, which offers medical and social services to sex workers. In terms of enhancing our visibility and active engagement in timely issues, Joey Sprague has worked tirelessly to put together a mainstreaming team of academic experts who can speak to the media on

issues that pertain to women (and all issues do!). This will help us become “public sociologists,” and be seen as the “place to go” for up-to-date, cutting edge information on gender issues. To further that goal we are redesigning our webpage and logo, and we have also created and filled the positions of Media Specialist (Theda Pavis) and Communications Officer (Jessica Sherwood) and are in the process of writing a media plan. Council also agreed to create a Journalism Award to be given to a reporter/journalist/writer for a work that contributes to understanding women's lives.

Ensuring our continuing viability, however, requires that we address some ongoing issues, one of which is the turnover in membership. While we have a decent number of members, the Membership Committee is exploring why people choose not to attend meetings or make SWS a venue of active participation. For example, while many of our founding members are still active in SWS, many senior feminist scholars are not. Part of the reason may be that we are victims of our own success: Sociology is now one of the most feminized of the social sciences. Data from the ASA website reveal that in 2007 more than 63% of all doctorates in sociology were awarded to women (only psychology was ahead of us, with nearly 73% of all doctorates). In sociology and joint sociology departmental programs, women are now 46% of full-time faculty members and are increasingly at the helms of sociology departments, universities, and colleges. Women now have many ways to participate in the discipline, so the question becomes how their careers and the projects they pursue are benefitted by membership in SWS. In corporate jargon, what's the “value added”?

That question also pertains to recruiting and maintaining new members, as there are people who attend a meeting or two and then fall away from SWS. I think we do a lot to create a warm and welcoming environment (e.g., organizing dinners at meetings, offering opportunities for service) and we offer some good support for newer members (e.g., professional mentoring relationships, funds for establishing local chapters). Yet there is still a divide between

SWS **Networknews**

Published and distributed by Sociologists for Women in Society, an international organization of more than 1,000 social scientists, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, sociology practitioners and independent scholars who share a dedication to social equality.

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Material for publication (including advertisements) should be submitted to *Networknews*

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Deadlines for submission:

Summer - May 15; Fall - September 15;
Winter - November 15; Spring - March 15

Attention: For those submitting time sensitive materials, target dates for publication and mailing are: Summer-June 15, Fall-October 15, Winter-December 15, Spring-April 15.

Fee schedule for advertisements: Full page-\$200.00; Half-page-\$100.00; Quarter-page or less-\$50.00; Job announcements-\$25.00.

Invoices will be sent after announcements appear.

Please send membership and change of address information to: SWS Executive Office, URI Sociology, Chafee Social Science Center
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“insiders” and the rest, often based on generation and/or race-ethnicity. I confess that my own participation in SWS waned for a few years because I often felt like I was at somebody else’s sorority meeting. Despite some good efforts, it’s not always easy to connect with SWS. Beyond merely recruiting new members, there is a need to create a balance between utilizing the much needed organizational wisdom and expertise of our senior members and mentoring new people into positions of responsibility. Although our current structure and election cycles insure continuity of operations and support for new office holders—and having Jessica as EO helps a lot—there is a need for new members to invest a little in the organization and learn more about it before taking on leadership roles. But trying to put this into operation often results in perceptions of exclusivity.

Truly energizing SWS with vitality rests in our ability to evaluate what we do in terms of effectiveness and remain open to new strategies and initiatives. As I noted earlier, there is no shortage of activities at SWS, but we might do more to assess their effectiveness. For example, a lot of work goes into the production of fact sheets, but

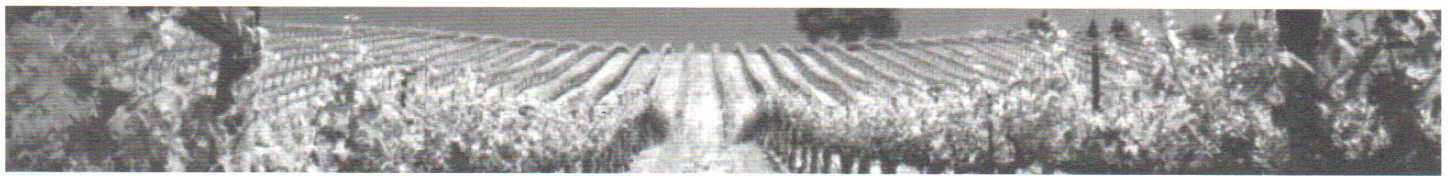
are they a significantly useful resource for our members? Hard work has gone into the online health care wiki, but how often is it accessed? And why are there so few people being nominated for some of our major awards, such as the Feminist Activist and the Feminist Lecturer award? I recall a paucity of applications for these awards years ago when I was on the awards committee, but I think this is the first time that we simply failed to get a nomination for Feminist Lecturer. My intent here is not to single out specific initiatives that are no longer useful, since I have no data on which to make such determinations. Rather, my intent is to point out that amid the ever-expanding list of activities and new initiatives, we need not be wedded to outmoded traditions. Instead, we can assess existing projects to see what is no longer serving us while remaining open to new, timely, and relevant activities.

So, my presidency has taught me that there are so many great things about SWS, and some continuing challenges. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know many of you better, and I appreciate all the support you’ve shown. Best...



A Greener Winter Meeting

As a follow-up to our successful sale of SWS beverage containers at the summer meeting in San Francisco, the Social Action Committee will offer the thermos-style beverage containers for sale in Santa Barbara! The containers are stainless steel, can hold hot or cold beverages and feature the SWS logo. The price remains competitive at \$14 per bottle! All proceeds from the sale of the bottles will be donated to St. James Infirmary, a San Francisco based health care clinic for sex workers. This project is supported by the SWS Board of Directors as part of our shared mission of creating social change through feminist activism. For more information contact Jodie Lawston (SAC Chair) at jlawston@depaul.edu or Elizabeth Sternke (SAC committee member) at sternke@purdue.edu.



Winter Meetings in Santa Barbara

By Denise A. Segura
SWS President-Elect

I feel much honored by the confidence the SWS membership has shown in me by electing me to the presidency of the organization. As a Chicana feminist sociologist I have striven to develop scholarship and, teach and engage in service that validates connections to historically disenfranchised communities and centers on women's voices and experiences. I am proud to be a member of a sociology department with strong intellectual and political feminist leadership. When I became the President-Elect of SWS, I immediately emailed my colleagues and asked them if they felt we could have the Winter Meetings at Santa Barbara. All of them enthusiastically said, "yes." Moreover, they committed themselves to working on the program. Because we have so many feminist scholars at UC Santa Barbara both faculty and graduate students, I have merged the local arrangements and program committees into one. In addition, Ronni Tichenor is organizing the SWS Auction and our Auctioneer will be my colleague, Sarah Fenstermaker.

The Winter Meetings will be in Santa Barbara at the Mar Monte Hotel from February 4-7, 2009. In collaboration with my colleagues, we developed this year's theme, "Left Coast Feminisms: Reimagining Borders, Bodies and the Law." The theme is designed to tap into global, national, and local debates on race-ethnicity and women's bodies, sexualities, and so-called "legal" or "illegal" status. I use the term "left coast feminisms" not to specify one particular place but to emphasize the need to implement "left" or progressive feminist perspectives on critical social issues from coast-to-coast in every continent on the globe. The roundtables will highlight research by SWS members on current social debates. The keynote speaker on Friday morning will be award-winning feminist sociologist Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, author of *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence* (2001),

Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration (1994), and numerous edited volumes and articles, who will offer a feminist perspective on migration and nativism. Also on Friday and Saturday we will have a number of workshops, some co-organized by the program committee and the SWS standing committees on such issues as "Women's Double Work in the Academy," "Negotiating Motherhood in the Academy," "Women of



Color in the Academy," and "Managing Personal Relationships." SWS' standing committees are proposing to offer a number of workshops such as "Teaching Portfolios for the Job Market & Promotion/Tenure Cases," "The Life of the Academic Paper: From Seminar to Publication," and "Academic Justice in the Era of Budget Cuts," among others. The International Committee is also preparing a workshop on their work with the UN and other organizations. I should note that the program is still very much in progress so don't be surprised if you see a lot more than this on your final program!

On Saturday morning, the thematic panel organized by Verta Taylor will critically analyze Proposition 8, (the so-called "California Marriage Protection Act") which was passed in the November 2008 state elections and legally limits marriage to heterosexual unions between men and women. Social movements surrounding Prop. 8 and the ongoing need for organizing to assert civil rights for all will be discussed.

Although the meeting and Saturday night

auction/banquet will be held at the Mar Monte Hotel, we are arranging a half-day field trip to the University of California, Santa Barbara. At UC Santa Barbara we will have lunch. As we enjoy dessert we will hear from my colleague, Nikki Jones, who will discuss the criminalization of youth with an emphasis on girls of color. Nikki was awarded the 2009 New Scholar award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on People of Color and Crime and has just published *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence*, Rutgers University Press, (2009). After the luncheon, SWS members who signed up in pre-registration for "The REEF Tour," will enjoy UCSB's interactive hands-on aquarium at the Marine Science Institute. Other SWS members can either tour the campus or enjoy the lagoon/beach area where we will be having lunch.

In addition to the workshops and thematic panels and speakers, we anticipate you will take some time to enjoy beautiful Santa Barbara. The program committee is organizing Friday night dinners that will include a scholar or two who are familiar with Santa Barbara and can introduce SWSers to culinary delights and perhaps other local landmarks. The graduate student members of the program committee have put together a wonderful resource guide of possible excursions, restaurants, and bars for you to consider. The Mar Monte Hotel is across the street from the ocean and all conference attendees can enjoy the beach during break times or walk to the pier (if you bring good walking shoes since it's about a mile away) to enjoy sunrise or sunsets which are simply spectacular.

Finally, the contributions of Alice Rossi, a pioneer in feminist studies and the first president of SWS, will be recognized. Alice recently passed away and Beth Schneider is organizing a tribute in her memory. While our feminisms are multi-faceted, respect for foundational feminist scholars is important. So, come to Santa Barbara with an open heart and a voice to share your left coast feminisms!



Winter Meeting Registration Form

February 4-7, 2010
Santa Barbara, California

Name _____ email _____

Pre-Registration Fee

- \$160.00 (student rate)
- \$220.00 (non-students)

Fee includes:

- welcoming reception Thursday;
- catered breaks;
- **all meals** (except dinner Friday) through breakfast Sunday.

On-Site Registration Fee:
 \$190.00 (student rate)
 \$260.00 (non-students)

← Higher, so pre-register while you can!

Does not include accommodations;
see <http://www.socwomen.org/meetings.php> for information on booking a room.

Banquet Meal Preference:

- Vegan
- Chicken

Payment must be received in the EO by Friday, January 29, 2010.

Make checks payable to Sociologists for Women in Society, or pay by credit card:

Credit Card Type: MasterCard Visa

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

Mail, fax, or email this form with payment to:

SWS Executive Office
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 URI Sociology
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 Kingston, RI 02881

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 swseo@socwomen.org

Please contact us if you have special needs.

See below for a link to request childcare, and other program information.

Options

Hand Program

- This will be my first SWS Winter Meeting; please match me with a returning member.
- This is not my first SWS Winter Meeting, and I'll volunteer to be matched with a first-timer.

Ocean's Alive REEF Tour

The REEF, UCSB's interactive aquarium, provides a "HANDS-ON" introduction to local marine organisms and the role the marine environment plays in our lives. There are over 100 different species of marine plants and animals to experience and learn about at The REEF.

Participation is free but limited to 35 participants. If you'd like to sign up, please email meeting@socwomen.org **by December 31, 2009**.

Roommate Matching

If you need a roommate, please email gladys_garcia@umail.ucsb.edu **by December 31, 2009**. In that message, please indicate whether or not you've booked a room, how many roommates you want, what nights you'll be there, smoking preference and any other considerations.

On-Site Childcare

will be available by pre-arrangement. Please submit childcare requests by emailing meeting@socwomen.org **by December 31, 2009**. Include your name, contact information (e-mail and a phone number), the number and age(s) of your child/ren, and which days and hours you would like care provision.

Auction

When you pack for Santa Barbara, please include an item for our annual auction, which will benefit a nonprofit working on behalf of area women. For further information, email the auction coordinator, Ronni Tichenor: tichenv@sunyit.edu.

Reimbursement Schedule for Winter Meeting: *The Winter Meeting Reimbursement Program is intended to enable members who would not otherwise be able to attend the Winter Meetings to do so. Please seek alternative sources of funding before you apply for SWS reimbursement. SWS will reimburse **MEMBERS** who participate in our meetings for their accommodations and/or major transportation expenses (airfare) over and above an amount of "cost share" determined according to income, up to a maximum of \$300. (\$500 maximum for officers and committee chairs.) Please use the reimbursement form available at the Business Meetings in Santa Barbara. This policy applies to everyone regardless of student or employment status.*

The Women's 1969 Sociology Caucus, Sociologists for Women in Society and the ASA: A Forty Year Retrospective of Women on the Move,¹

Pamela Ann Roby,
SWS President, 1978-1980;
Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

To really understand the meaning of the Women's Sociology Caucus held forty years ago at Glide Memorial Church and the San Francisco Hilton, one needs a sense of what life was like for women in sociology before 1969. When I began graduate school in 1964, there was no SWS – Sociologists for Women in Society. There were no ASA or regional sociological association Committees on the Status of Women. There were no women on the ASA's eleven member Executive Committee or thirty member Council, and this was not a new occurrence. There were no sociology classes on women. There were less than a handful of sociological books and articles written on women over the past thirty years. There was no ASA Section on Sex and Gender, and no International Sociological Association Research Committee 32 on Women in Society. There was no journal on *Gender & Society*. And there appeared, to those of us who talked about this back then, to be little place for women at the ASA's annual meetings except as companions of men.

At least as importantly, there was simply no place for the discussion of women's issues; and no organized audience for papers, articles and books on the sociological study of either women or gender. Furthermore, the expanding job market for sociologists failed to open doors for women in our field.² Within the larger context of the Women's Movement, the Civil Rights Movement and the Peace Movement, we turned to organizing.

The '69 Sociology Women's Caucus:

I remember well the September 1969 Women's Caucus. A dozen UC Berkeley women graduate students had obtained a room, not at the ASA hotel, the San Francisco Hilton – the ASA wouldn't let us meet there, but in the basement of Glide Memorial Church nearby. Once there, I felt lucky to have learned of the meeting that I had not heard of before leaving NYU for San Francisco. Anticipation filled the room. I'm not good at estimating numbers, but Carol Brown recalls about 200 of us being there (p. 47).

Our senior colleagues, Gertrude Jaeger Selznick and Alice Rossi told us personal stories about their experiences as women and wives in the profession. Gertrude was at the time a Lecturer without stipend in the Berkeley Department of Sociology, a position to which she had been appointed in 1967 after years as a Research Associate at and the mainstay of the UC, Berkeley, Survey Research Center (Jaeger, 1; Robert Bellah, 1; Blauner, Hochschild and Lowenthal, 131). Decades earlier, while a high school student, Gertrude had been "forced to wrap her school books under plain covers so that her mother who

¹ I dedicate this article to the memory of Alice S. Rossi, who served as our founding SWS President from 1971-1972 (Alice was born September 24, 1922 and died November 3, 2009; cf. Fox). It is a revised version of a paper I presented at The Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 8, 2009. I thank Rhonda Levine and ASA President Patricia Hill Collins for inviting me to address this topic, and Rhonda and Rachel Bryant-Anderson for their assistance with the paper. For more history concerning SWS, see Roby 1992.

² The ASA's membership doubled between 1950 and 1960 and more than doubled again between 1960 and 1970.

wanted her to be a secretary might not know she was taking mathematics." Finding her family climate intellectually too confining, "she left home at seventeen, supporting herself through secretarial and similar work, and taking college courses at night" (Blauner, Hochschild, and Lowenthal, p. 130). At the caucus meeting, Dr. Selznick appeared glad to see the organizing that was taking place and the possibility of a new reality for women. Three years later in 1972, she was the first woman elected "president of the Pacific Sociological Association and moved quickly to establish" a P.S.A. Committee on the Status of Women (Philip Selznick quoted in Bellah, 1979, 1; cf. Gertrude J. Selznick 1969).

Along with the personal sharing of stories that was a bonding experience, Berkeley graduate students who called themselves radical feminists gave us tips for obtaining jobs as well as their perspectives on the profession. Knowing that I would be going on the job market during the coming year, I absorbed their advice including how to sit in order to look confident during job interviews. I also knew that I would continue with this group in one way or another for the rest of my life.

Like me, Arlene Kaplan Daniels was in the audience. Then an assistant professor at San Francisco State, Arlene, who was to become a friend, recalls, "I became intensely involved in the outpouring of emotion by the speakers, who talked about their difficulties in finishing their studies and finding careers against the odds of institutionalized and explicit sexism. Suddenly, I recognized the larger pattern in all the slights, snubs, omissions, and patronizing acts that I had shrugged off as my paranoia or my just deserts. *I resolved to help younger women, to protect them against the systematic frustration and neglect that I had experienced*" (36).

Next, Alice Rossi reported on her recent study of the representation or rather the lack or representation of women within graduate sociology faculties (1970). As planned, we in the room finalized and approved a "Women's Caucus Statement and Resolutions." We presented these to the ASA's General Business meeting September 3rd. The statement read in part:

We have already gathered the empirical facts concerning the distribution of women among students and faculty of graduate sociology departments. What we seek is effective and dramatic action: an unbiased policy in the selection of stipend support of students; a concerted commitment to the hiring and promotion of women sociologists to right the imbalance that is represented by the current situation in which 67 percent of the women graduate students in this country do not have a single woman sociology professor of senior rank during the course of their graduate training, and when we participate in an association of sociologists in which NO woman will sit on the 1970 council, NO woman is included among the associate editors of the American Sociological Review, or the advisory board of the American Journal of Sociology, and NO woman sits on the committees on publications and nominations.

We urge that every sociology department give priority to the hiring and promotion of women faculty until the proportion and rank distribution of women faculty at least equals the sex ratio among graduate students with a long-range goal of increasing the proportion of women among graduate students. In working toward such a goal, this must supplement rather than detract from department efforts to train, hire, and promote black and Third World personnel and students.

Although a day later we scattered ourselves around the ASA business meeting of over 600 and were prepared to stare down anyone who spoke against our resolutions, the latter action was not needed. Someone quickly called the question. All the nonvoting members and all but two of the voting members endorsed the spirit of the resolutions. Shortly after the meeting, the ASA Council did the same. It also urged all sociology departments to study the resolutions, which it voted to publish along with the "Women's Caucus Statement" as part of the convention proceedings in *The American Sociologist*.

I later learned more about how the UCB women graduate students, Pauline Bart and Alice Rossi, came to organize the 1969 Women's Caucus meetings. Arlie Hochschild called the UC Berkeley sociology women together in meetings that were precursors to the Caucus. She recalls:

In 1968, I was a [graduate student] instructor in the [UC Berkeley Sociology] department, with a master's degree three years behind me. A series of women had come into my office in the fall of that year, each talking casually about dropping out of graduate school. When one highly able student, Alice Abarbinal, said she planned to drop out, I remember dropping what I was doing. Why would Alice drop out? ... It was one of those grains of sand that made me question the universe. A week later, after talking with friends, I invited women graduate students to my apartment on Virginia Street. Besides Alice – who did eventually drop out to become a psychotherapist—those who came included Judy Gavin, Dair Gillespie, Sue Greenwald, Suellen Huntington, Carol Joffe, Ann Lefler, Anita Micossi, Margaret (later Rivka) Polotnick, Marijean Suelzle, and Ann Swidler. The late Gertrude Jaeger, then a lecturer in the department, [also] came to that first meeting..."

That evening, we sat in a circle on the living room floor, drank coffee and beer, ate a lot of potato chips, and felt a certain excitement. I remember asking whether there was some problem we shared as women that is causing us to become discouraged. One by one we went around the circle: "No." "No." "No." [the women replied and then went on to describe issues they were confronting.] "No one hinted that there might be a link between these issues, dropping out, and being a woman. I remember turning to a friend and confiding, 'Never mind, we tried.'" But after adjourning the meeting, a curious thing happened: no one left. Two hours later, graduate students were huddled in animated groups, buzzing about professors, courses, housing, boyfriends. An invisible barrier had disappeared.

Apart from Gertrude Jaeger [who was a lecturer], no professors in our department were women. Yet a fifth of the graduate students were women, hoping one day to become professors. How was this to happen? That was the question our meeting allowed us to unbury. After that first meeting, we met periodically for several years. (135-136)

Across the country, after working for fifteen years in various research positions, Alice Rossi at age 47 was about to assume her first academic faculty position as an associate professor at Goucher College (1988, p. 47). She was already an active feminist scholar. In the early sixties, as Alice later wrote, she had had her "first consciously defined experience with sex discrimination" when a University of Chicago Professor of Anthropology seeing "a good thing in a study" she had designed, supervised the field work for and begun to analyze, fired her as a research associate days after the National Science Foundation funded the proposal she had drafted (1990, p. 308; 1988, p. 45). Alice's resulting burn inspired her "first sociological study of gender and first feminist

publication," the ovarial 1964 *Daedalus* article, "Equality Between the Sexes: An Immodest Proposal" (1990, p. 309). Withstanding collegial warnings against her doing so, she also plunged "into abortion law reform in Illinois" in 1960 (Rossi, 1985, p. 2) and founding NOW [the National Organization for Women] with twenty other women in 1966" (Rossi, 1990, p. 309).

That spring of 1969, Pauline Bart among others wrote Alice proposing they "do" something about the status of women in sociology by organizing "some kind of political action at the annual meetings in San Francisco that summer" (Bart p. 6). They wrote Alice because they did not want to see a repetition of colleagues' sexist laughter that occurred when Cynthia Epstein recommended at the 1968 ASA business meeting that ASA address discrimination against women. During the next months Alice prepared for some action by designing, conducting, and analyzing a survey of sociology department chairpersons on the gender distribution of their graduate students and faculty at all ranks.³ The survey had a 78 percent response rate. With the results in hand, correspondence flew back and forth between Berkeley and Baltimore in preparation for the August 1969 meeting. In Berkeley, graduate students made posters with long lists of departments with NO women on their faculty to compare with the much shorter lists of "good" departments; fact sheets for ASA Committee meeting rooms showing the proportion of women on the given committee over the last several years, usually a big ZERO; and summary reports of the survey on graduate departments. We used all these resources to good effect at the '69 meetings.

In contrast to the Glide meeting, Alice has recalled other Women's Caucus actions such as the following that were challenging.

... we had requested and been denied any meeting space for the Women's Caucus, which I made known at a meeting at Glide Church (across the street from the Hilton, where meetings of the Berkeley Women's Sociology Caucus and the Radical Women's Caucus of the Sociology Liberation Movement were held that year). The Glide Church group decided to "force" the issue by insisting on access to a large ballroom (scheduled for lunchtime roundtables) "or else" we would hold such a meeting on the ground floor lobby of the hotel. This would have triggered the hotel to call in the local police, a tactic ASA agreed to in order to keep the proceeding as orderly as possible under the politically charged atmosphere that year. President [Ralph] Turner reluctantly agreed to the demand for a large ball room, reluctantly because it meant cancelling the session for roundtable discussions in the regular program. It was a memorable occasion on many counts. The room had been cleared of round tables and chairs, so those who came to the caucus meeting sat on the floor, while around the walls were less sympathetic observers who came to participate in roundtable discussions that did not take place. I chaired that meeting, aware of and sympathetic toward our speakers, who spoke about the position of women at various stages of a sociological career (1985, 3).

³ Alice later observed: "It seemed to me preferable to have the "facts" in advance of any political action, for two reasons: for one, it would help forestall setting up an ASA committee to do this fact-gathering, a step sure to dull the edge and postpone the bit of "doing" something instead of merely "studying" something. Second, I was convinced that a survey would get a higher response rate if it preceded rather than followed political action" (1985, p. 2).

With Alice chairing the meeting, the speakers discussed their own and other women's experiences at their stage of professional life. Ann Leffler, who was among those at the early meeting in Arlie's home, and Lucy Sells, whose UCB sociology dissertation data showed that the number of graduate women who dropped out of the UCB sociology department decreased after they formed a caucus, reported on women graduate students' experiences. Arlie Hochschild and Barbara Laslett represented women in first academic positions. Marlene Dixon and Alice represented those in later stages of their academic careers (Rossi 1985, 3).

Frustrated, one of the sociologists who had not been able to present his roundtable paper, later in the day "literally spat" in Alice's face "as he furiously rejected our 'women-libber' action." His spitting was only one of a number of equally flagrant although varied reactions "colleagues" directed at Alice (1985, 3).

Solidifying Our Efforts:

A year after the 1969 Women's Caucus, I myself remember many of us who were at the Caucus again meeting at the ASA, this time in Washington, D.C. where others joined us. We debated what to call our group and very deliberately, and at long length, decided to call ourselves Sociologists for Women in Society so that our organization could include all feminist sociologists, men as well as women; and so that our goals would not be limited to the liberation of women in sociology but extend to the liberation of all women. We also wrote petitions to create the ASA Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology and the ASA Section on Sex Roles as well as deciding to hold a mid-year meeting for the continuance of our work. In that one winter meeting held February 12-14, 1971, thanks largely to Alice Rossi's circulating model by-laws during the Fall, twenty SWS members finalized by-laws and selected acting officers in an effort to solidify the new organization into one that might have ongoing effectiveness.⁴

I remember quite a different scene at the 1972 ASA meetings in New Orleans. Over a hundred of us SWSers, including Tony Cline, then President of the Russell Sage Foundation, sat in with local NOW members for several days at the convention hotel's all male lunch room where policy makers often met. Not leaving a stone unturned, we proposed resolutions at the ASA business meeting resulting in a delegation of ASA officers calling on the Monteleone Hotel management to change their policy (J. Milton Yinger, p. 6). September 18th, 1972, the hotel manager responded with a letter, printed in *The American Sociologist*, that included his stating, "I am very pleased to announce that our management has changed this policy and women will be allowed in all of our public rooms and there will be no discriminatory policies" (Editor, October 1972, p. 6).

SWS participated in other local feminist demonstrations near the ASA meetings as well. I remember our picketing Macy's in New York City because Macy's sold Stevens sheets. The Stevens Corporation had held out for over a year against Chicanas striking and pressing for a union and decent working conditions in the Southwest. Later, in 1978, SWS voted to move its August 1980 meeting from Atlanta to a state that had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. Initially the ASA Council refused to do the same, but then after hours and hours and months of debate, the Council voted to bring the issue to the membership that voted in a mail referendum to withdraw the 1980 meeting from Atlanta. We met in New York (Roby, 1978; Editor *ASA Footnotes*, 1978). In addition to

⁴ The group enthusiastically chose and Alice agreed to serve as SWS's first Acting President (Rossi, 1985, p. 3).

supporting causes we considered important, our participation in these and other social issues helped us as women sociologists to remember that our daily confrontations with sexism were part of a larger effort.

Within sociology, we organized, organized, organized. We founded new committees and nominated and elected feminists to the executive councils of the ASA and regional professional associations. We set up a model child care program at the 1972 ASA meeting and challenged the Association to do the same in the future (Howe *et al*). We taught our colleagues about the importance of gender neutral language and having diverse intellectual orientations represented on editorial boards. (American Sociological Association 36-7).

We much improved the quality of ASA Annual Meetings for ourselves by creating the SWS room where we could and still do drop by at any time to find, meet and relax with other women sociologists and a few feminist men. We also taught ourselves many skills by exchanging information in "SWS How To Sessions." Each winter we came and continue to come together for the SWS "Mid-Year" meeting that is part party, part formal meeting and always a time of much informal sharing (cf. Lorber). Through SWS and/or the ISA Research Committee 32 on Women in Society, dozens of us also met with and learned from women in Bulgaria, Cuba, China and elsewhere (Hunt). We networked, formed the SWS Job Market Committee and SWS Job List, and encouraged the ASA to develop a fuller "Employment Bulletin" modeled after our own as well as to conduct audits of women and minorities in sociology departments.

We launched local and regional SWS chapters, and engaged in promotion struggles. Not days of struggle, but months and months and sometimes years and thousands of dollars of effort. There were successful cases involving not only the promotion but the tenuring of women faculty. These included those of Arlie Hochschild at UC Berkeley in the 'seventies and Nancy Stoller Shaw at UC Santa Cruz, my own institution, in the 'eighties (Linden).

Achievements and Ongoing Action:

Much has been accomplished. Today 40 years following the 1969 caucuses and 38 since the founding of SWS, through our pressing for changes in the ASA and sociology, much work, and the will to stand up and to keep standing until we were heard, we now have:

- ASA and regional annual meeting sessions on an array of issues related to women,
- a considerable and still growing body of published feminist sociological research,
- feminist theorizing (Ferree, *et al.*) and courses on the sociology of women,
- an increase in the number of women heading the ASA from one in its first sixty-eight years to eleven over the past thirty-seven.⁵ In 2008-2009, Patricia Hill-Collins, the ASA's 100th president, was the first woman of color to serve in this position. This year, 2009-2010, Evelyn Nakano Glenn is its second.⁶

⁵ Dorothy Swaine Thomas was elected ASA president in 1952.

⁶ Mirra Komarovsky (1972-73) was the second woman to serve as president of ASA, which was founded in 1905. The membership subsequently elected Alice S. Rossi, Matilda White Riley, Joan Huber, Maureen T. Hallinan, Jill Quadagno, Barbara F. Reskin, Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, Francis Fox Piven, Patricia Hill-Collins and Evelyn Nakano Glenn, who serves today, to its highest office.
http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/governance/past_officers/presidents_by_date

- the ASA regularly collecting and publishing information on the status of women in sociology (Spalter-Roth and Risman);
- The percentage of sociology graduate faculty members who are women increased from 9 percent in 1970 to 48 percent in 2007 (Roby 28; Spalter-Roth and Scelza).⁷

We also have:

- The ASA Sections on Sex and Gender, and on Race, Gender and Class;
- the ASA Jessie Bernard Award in recognition of scholarly work on women in society (Bernard; Martin; Roby 2004) as well as dissertation, paper and book section awards;
- the SWS e-list and journal *Gender & Society*;
- the SWS political issue targets, currently universal health care in the United States, with an ever expanding wiki and sessions among other action components (Sherwood); and
- SWS itself which made much of this possible, and which continues to press for better conditions for women inside and outside of sociology.⁸

Conclusion:

Since 1969 a sizeable segment of women in sociology and other professions has advanced in rank and income. For many reasons, this is not an unimportant accomplishment.

At the same time, due to legislative and presidential actions, the federal minimum wage effective after this past July 24th increase, is still two dollars and twenty-five cents an hour less in real dollars than it was in 1968, and for this and other reasons, women with incomes and wealth in the lowest deciles of the U.S. income and wealth distributions have significantly less financial resource today than they did in 1969.⁹

What did we learn from our feminist organizing during the 'sixties and 'seventies that might be of use today as we and others strive to create a humane, just and sustainable society in the midst of this hurtful, awkwardly collapsing capitalist economy? First, we learned to listen to one another with respect about our personal and professional lives. Arlie Hochschild listened to Alice Abarbinal and then created a space for a dozen Berkeley women sociology graduate students to speak and listen to one another. These Berkeley women and Alice Rossi created a space for a much larger number of us to speak and listen to one another in the basement of Glide Memorial Church and the Hilton Hotel. And SWS among other groups has continued to create spaces for us to do the same. By speaking and listening to one another's stories, we were, in C. Wright Mills' words, able to connect our personal troubles to larger social issues affecting women throughout society.

⁷ In 2007, women earned 64 percent of all doctoral degrees awarded in sociology in the United States. Spalter-Roth and Scelza.

⁸ The ASA Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology was founded in 1970, and SWS, which included most of the women who had participated in the 1969 Women's Caucus, was founded in 1971. For a report on SWS's recent political action see Sherwood.

⁹ Welfare restructuring and regressive changes in estate taxes are other examples of legislatively and administratively determined policies that negatively affect women's standard of living (cf. Morgen *et al.*). Simultaneously, legislatures, governors and the Bush administration have drastically cut resources for higher education and all forms of social services.

Second, we saw the importance of informing ourselves about and making visible our past and present conditions as women. We did so, for example, by listening to one another as I just described, by conducting surveys and other research concerning the conditions of women in sociology, presenting resolutions at professional business meetings, and creating journals, book series, e-lists, web-sites, and wikis for dissemination of our findings, and publishing in them.

Third, we learned that in order to achieve many goals it is necessary to work collectively. While working together we learned that we could sometimes achieve our explicit goals, but even when we didn't, in acting together we formed valued friendships and gained knowledge helpful in our next efforts. We also learned that collective actions generally begin with some one individual making a decision to act and acting. I appreciate Arlie's inviting other Berkeley women graduate students to her home in 1968 for what was to be the first of ongoing meetings that were precursors to the 1969 Sociology Women's Caucus and eventually SWS. I appreciate Alice Rossi, who was already parenting three children and preparing for her new full-time teaching job, conducting the first ever study of the status of women in graduate departments of sociology in preparation for the 1969 Sociology Women's Caucus. I appreciate Pauline Bart writing to Alice suggesting that we call a meeting of a Woman's Caucus at the next ASA meeting so that we'd no longer have to deal with laughter when calling for an end to discrimination against women. And I appreciate all of us who have contributed since then in a multitude of ways to women's liberation efforts inside and outside of sociology.

The organizing of women and others during the next decades will differ from that of the past forty, just as the feminist organizing since 1969 differs from that before. But three actions: listening respectfully to one another about each others' lives; gathering and making visible information about our conditions; and individually deciding to act and inviting others to join us in acting collectively toward the end of achieving shared goals are each likely to be part of effective future efforts.

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Gendered Violence

Fact Sheet

Distributed by Sociologists for Women in Society, December 2009
Prepared by Laurel Westbrook, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Grand Valley State University

Gendered Violence

The study of gendered violence interrogates the processes through which violence is shaped by gendered beliefs and practices. Gendered constructions situate masculinity—and males—as strong, aggressive, powerful, and violent. By contrast, femininity—and females—are constructed as weak, vulnerable, and submissive. These formations influence beliefs about the appropriateness of using violence, including who should be violent and when to use violence to enforce gender norms. Gendered conceptions—which intersect with systems of race, class and sexuality—shape a wide variety of violences: male violence against other men; women’s violence; violence against gay, lesbian, and transgendered people; and institutional and state violence ranging from genital surgery on intersex infants to police actions and war.

Facts on Gendered Violence

Men, on average, experience more physical violence in their lifetimes than women.

- Adult men in the United States are twice as likely as women to have been punched or beaten in their lifetime.ⁱ
- Men are almost 4 times more likely than women to be murdered in the United States.ⁱⁱ

Men and women experience different kinds of violence.

- Women are most likely to be killed by a romantic partner or ex-partner. These sorts of killings account for 30% of murders of females and only 5% of murders of males.ⁱⁱ
- Men are most likely to be killed by a male friend or casual acquaintance.ⁱⁱ
- Women are more likely to experience (or report experiencing) a sexual assault than men. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in the United States between 1992 and 2000 94% of reported rape victims were women.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Women are much more likely to experience violence from someone they know than are men. In 1994, 62% of female victims, compared to 37% of male victims, of reported incidents of violent crime knew their perpetrator.^{iv}

Men are much more likely to commit violent acts than women.

- Men are almost 10 times more likely than women to commit murder.ⁱⁱ
- Men are more than 6 times more likely than women to be the perpetrator of a non-fatal violent crime.^v

Men are more likely to engage in non-fatal violence against men. Women are more likely to engage in non-fatal violence against women.

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics: “Violent offenders most often victimized persons of the same gender. More than 3 out of 4 female offenders had a female victim; about 7 out of 10 males had a male victim. About 29% of violent offenders had a victim of a different gender; 9 out of 10 of these offenders were males with female victims.”^v
- The trend is different for homicides, where both men and women are more likely to kill males.ⁱⁱ The gender pattern is different for homicides in part because, when women kill, they are four times more likely than men to kill a spouse,^v and most women in the United States who are partnered, are partnered with men.

Violence against lesbians and gay men is gendered.

- Men commit most violent crimes against lesbians and gay men. In one recent survey, 77% of the known assailants were men.^{vi}
- Most of the victims of assaults on lesbians and gay men are men (about 65%).^{vi}
- This violence is often triggered by gender non-conformity; assailants attack masculine women and feminine men, assuming they are homosexual.^{vii}

Violence against transgender people is shaped by gender and sexuality.

- Most murders of transgender people are perpetrated by non-transgender men, and most victims are transgender women.^{viii}
- Violence against transgender people is often triggered by anger or fear about gender non-conformity. Murder of transgender people occurs most often in sexual encounters where the perpetrator of violence feels “deceived” by the transgender person’s gender presentation.^{vii}

School bullying is gendered and has serious consequences.

- Boys are more likely to both bully others and be victims of bullies.^{ix}
- Boys who are bullied are more likely to report being hit, slapped, or pushed, while girls report experiencing bullying in the form of rumors and sexual comments.^x
- Boys who are bullied tend to be “physically weaker” than their peers.^{ix}
- The vast majority of school shootings in the United States are committed by boys. Many of these young men have been bullied by others and commit violence in an attempt to prove their masculinity.^{xi}

Arenas in which men are violent against other men can foster a culture that results in violence against women.

- Men’s participation in highly masculinized spaces in which men are violent against other men has been shown to increase the likelihood that men will be violent against women.
- Men’s sports often value male aggression and violence. These values can affect relationships off the field, such as increasing the likelihood of male athletes’ violence against their romantic partners.^{xii}
- Similarly, other violent arenas, such as the military and law enforcement, have been shown to foster high rates of domestic violence. For example, about 40% of male law enforcement officers have been shown to commit domestic abuse.^{xiii}

Teaching Resources: Films on Gendered Violence

- *The Brandon Teena Story*. 1998. 89 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by Bless Bless Productions.
 - A deeply troubling documentary about the violences done to Brandon Teena, a female bodied person who lived as a man in Nebraska and was raped and murdered for his “gender deception.” More fact based, and slightly drier, than the fictionalized film *Boys Don’t Cry*, made about the same events.
- *Girl Trouble*. 2004. 74 or 57 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by New Day Films.
 - This documentary explores the violences done by and against three young women in San Francisco. It highlights how women can be violent and how experiencing violence can lead to one acting violently. For more information on the film, including suggested uses in the classroom, see the review by Wetzel et. al. in *Teaching Sociology* (2005) 33(4): p. 425.
- *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. 2006. 61 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by the Media Education Foundation.
 - Exploring the construction of black masculinity and femininity in hip-hop music and culture, this film highlights the dangers of valorizing a violent black masculinity that all too often takes other black men, as well as black women, as its target. Includes a discussion on the use of overt homophobia to construct a masculine identity. For more information on the film, including suggested uses in the classroom, see the review by Susan Alexander in *Teaching Sociology* (2007) 35(3): pp. 287-9.
- *Southern Comfort*. 2001. 90 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by Next Wave Films.
 - A deeply touching documentary about the life and death of Robert Eads, a self-identified “hillbilly” and female-to-male transsexual. The film follows Eads as he falls deeply in love with Lola Cola, a male-to-female transsexual, and then dies of ovarian cancer after doctors refuse to treat him because he is trans. The documentary highlights gendered violence done by members of the medical profession
- *Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity*. 1999. 82 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by the Media Education Foundation.
 - This film explores the construction of violent masculinity in the media and argues that a wide variety of violences done by men, including school shootings, need to be understood as part of a “crisis in masculinity.”
- *Wrestling with Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering*. 2002. 60 minutes. [DVD]. Distributed by the Media Education Foundation.
 - In this film Sut Jhally and Jackson Katz trace links between ideas of masculinity constructed by professional wrestling and school bullying, homophobia, and violence against women by men.
- *Yellow for Hermaphrodites: Mani’s Story*. 2004. 60 minutes. [DVD]. Produced by Greenstone Pictures, distributed by Accord Alliance.
 - Told in Mani Mitchell’s own words, this documentary tells her story about being diagnosed “intersex” and the surgeries forced upon her as a child to make her body conform to current sex norms. Like *Southern Comfort*, this film addresses gendered violence done by those in the medical profession.
 - For more recommendations of teaching films on intersexuality, please see the *Intersex Fact Sheet*, prepared by Maura Kelly for SWS (Spring 2007).

Suggested Readings

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For more information on violence against women, please see the SWS fact sheet "Violence Against Women," prepared by Kristenne Robinson and published in Spring 2009.

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- ⁱ In the General Social Survey conducted in 1994 (the most recent year in which the question was asked) 53% of men said they had ever been punched or beaten by another person, while 26% of women responded yes to the same question. For all years the question has been asked, the percentage is about the same, with an average of 53% of men and 22% of women saying "yes."
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Announcement:

People and Places

Mary Bernstein has been elected chair of the ASA Section on Sexualities and secretary-treasurer of the Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements.

Kris De Welde was interviewed for Northwest Public Radio on the low numbers of women in science and engineering fields <http://www.nwpr.org/07/HomepageArticles/Article.aspx?n=6237>) - air date

10.07.09. This story was then picked up internationally on Voice of America (<http://www.voanews.com/english/Science/2009-10-30-voa39.cfm>) - air date 10.30.09.

Article:

SWS Partnerships Program: Ready for Submissions

By Marina Karides

SWS is seeking to build its international ties, particularly to nations in the global south. As part of this effort SWS is pleased to welcome applications for the SWS Partnerships Program. Our hope is to build connections with up to two research centers/institutes/programs per year from each of the following regions: Asia, Africa, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin American/Caribbean and the Middle East. The Partnerships Program reflects the commitment of SWS to foster activism and advocacy for and by women, support research by women and on gender issues, increase organizational inclusiveness, and build organizational strength by increasing our visibility in the discipline of sociology, on campuses, and in society. Thanks to the efforts of the SWS members who nominated them, SWS presently has three partnerships established: The Centre for Intercultural Psychology and Education at ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary,

nominated by Joan Spade, the Women & Family Studies Center at the Zhejiang Academy of Social Science (ZASS) in China, nominated by Esther Chow, and recently established Gender Center at the University of Trento in Italy nominated by Patricia Yancey Martin. We are seeking nominations from current SWS members of women studies, feminist, or gender centers, research programs, and advocacy and research collectives as well as centers or institutes that may not be totally devoted to gender or women's issues but have a significant gender component or program. University or college affiliation is not required. The program includes the following (and will be provided to a single person in the organization who will be responsible for sharing benefits):

One-year membership to SWS, One-year subscription to *Gender and Society* (the official publication of SWS), Subscription to the SWS listserv. (The listserv provides a forum to exchange teaching tips, research advice and assistance, and news and events

related to feminism).

The program also requires that the partnership organization provide an article to *Network News* (the newsletter of SWS) on its work and on gender issues in the organization's region. *Application and Review Process:* SWS members interested in nominating a program or center in one of the regions listed above should submit a one-page letter outlining the work of the program and how it would benefit from an SWS membership. The director or affiliate of the nominating center should send a one-page letter confirming its willingness to accept the sponsorship and to submit an article to *Network News*. Both letters should be attached to one email to Marina Karides, Chair of the Partnerships Program subcommittee. The subcommittee will review applications collectively. The subcommittee chair will notify SWS nominating member of selection initiating the process of affiliation for the partnership organization.

Article:

Task Force on EOB/Council and Governance

We are currently putting together a Task Force on EOB/Council and Governance and would like to hear from those who are interested in serving on the Task Force. The initial charge of the Task Force is to examine (including comparing with other organizations) the charges, composition, and procedures of both EOB and Council.

After this charge is completed, the Task Force will make recommendations to Council for pursuing a second stage of activity that will include a review of all SWS committees. The recommendations of the Task Force will address issues such as minimizing overlaps of membership and responsibilities and clarifying lines of

accountability among them, including decision-making, reporting, policy discussions, and documentation. Please let us know by February 1, 2010, if you are interested in serving on this Task Force by emailing your contact information to Jessica Holden Sherwood at jessicasherwood@mail.uri.edu.

Clarification:

Vice President's Report Fall Issue *Network News*

Although a question was raised concerning the usefulness of the SWS ASA candidate survey, all agreed that this was something

that SWS members believed was still of value and will continue to do. Thanks and apologies for not making that clear in the

original VP report.

By Susan Farrell, SWS Vice President.

Article:

News from the United Nations

By Susan Lee

**"Beijing +15" Global Forum for Women
February 27 and 28, 2010, New York
City**

2010 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing, China. In recognition of this anniversary, the United Nations will review and appraise the Beijing Platform for Action, the comprehensive program aiming to improve women's equality around the world. The review will take place during the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in early March 2010. Just before the Commission session, non-governmental organizations will participate in a Global Forum for Women entitled "Through Her Eyes: Renewing Commitment to Equality, Peace, and Development." All women are invited to this Forum that will take place in New York City on February 27 and 28, 2010. SWS will be represented by our UN delegates and we would be happy to have other SWS members join us. More information is available at <http://www.ngocsw.org>. The Beijing Platform for Action may be viewed at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/index.html>.

**CEDAW Observes 30th Anniversary –
Still Without U.S. Participation**

The international treaty promoting women's rights globally is CEDAW (pronounced see-daw), the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It was first initiated by the UN General Assembly thirty years ago in December 1979. The treaty defines discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end discrimination. Countries that accept the Convention agree to incorporate the principle of the equality of men and women in their national laws and to establish public institutions to protect women from discrimination. The treaty sets up a framework for ending violence against women, ensuring girls' access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation. The text of the treaty may be accessed at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>.

President Jimmy Carter signed the Convention on behalf of the United States in early 1980. Under the U.S. Constitution, however, treaties must be ratified by the U.S. Senate before coming into force. The U.S. Senate has never ratified CEDAW. Over 95% of UN member states have ratified CEDAW, a total of one hundred eighty-six countries. The U.S. is the only democracy in the world to hold out on the women's treaty. Other countries that have not ratified include

Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Nauru, Palau and Tonga.

Women's organizations sponsored a National CEDAW Ratification Call-in Day this past August to contact U.S. Senators and urge them to support ratification. As a resident of Massachusetts, I contacted Sen. John Kerry, the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, responsible for ratifying treaties. His staff told me that both Sen. Kerry and President Obama are strong supporters of CEDAW and wish to see it ratified. Sen. Barbara Boxer is the head of the Foreign Relations subcommittee with responsibility for CEDAW. She wants to see the U.S. ratify CEDAW without any reservations – a tactic states use to wriggle out of CEDAW's demanding commitments. The challenge is to line up 67 U.S. Senators willing to sign the women's treaty in the context of the current Congress, beleaguered with economic crises, health care struggles, and partisan divides. So far women have not ranked high in Congressional priorities.

I encourage you to contact your U.S. Senators and ask them their position on CEDAW, including whether they support a "clean" CEDAW without reservations. The Senate switchboard is 202-224-3121. I would be very interested to hear the responses you get; please contact me at susanlee@bu.edu. As a nationwide organization, we have residents in many states and a great base to gather information and advocate for CEDAW ratification.

Article:

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-Fourth Session 1-12 March 2010

Statement submitted by Sociologists for Women in Society, non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Statement

Submitted for SWS by Susan Lee, Barret Katuna, Hara Bastas, and Helen Raisz.

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) is an international organization of sociologists dedicated to improving women's lives and creating feminist social

change. Through our teaching, research, publications, and activism, we educate and sensitize the sociological profession, other scholars, and the public to the social, political and economic problems of women. We publish a highly regarded professional journal, *Gender & Society*, a quarterly newsletter, *Network News*, and maintain a website, www.socwomen.org that publicizes resources for the sociological community and beyond. Recent scholarly work in *Gender & Society* examines women and war (Najafizadeh 2003,

Murphy 2009), intimate partner violence (Schrock and Padavic 2007, Téllez 2008), human trafficking and prostitution (Tamborini 2005, Tambiah 2005), female genital mutilation (Wade 2009), and women in United States prisons (Lawston 2009).

As sociologists dedicated to improving women's lives, we strongly affirm the Beijing Platform for Action in its efforts, in Strategic Objective D.1, to prevent and eliminate physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women and girls. Sociological research has underlined the

social origins of violence against women and girls (Berns 2001, Ampofo et al 2004) and the need for government intervention to protect vulnerable members of society (Mirchandani 2006). In this regard we express dismay over continuing and egregious violence against women and girls in the situation of armed conflict, particularly the vicious sexual attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These organized attacks have targeted young girls as well as women, inflicting massive physical, psychological, and social damage on women's and girls' health and well-being (Steiner et al 2009). Armed combatants attack with impunity, assured that they will not be held accountable by police or judicial authorities (Longombe et al 2008). The international response to such blatant and organized use of rape as a weapon of war has been inadequate and ineffective, as illustrated by the Rwandan case (Bijleveld et al. 2009). The Beijing Platform for Action in Strategic Objective D.1 calls on States to prevent and punish acts of violence against women and we strongly emphasize the pressing need for States to fulfil their responsibilities towards women and girls in conflict situations. To improve the international response to violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other situations of armed conflict, we urge renewed attention to Beijing Platform for Action Strategic Objective E1, to increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation. The Beijing Platform for Action's ten subsections 142-149 provide the comprehensive agenda needed to achieve that objective.

The vulnerability of women to rape and other forms of violence begins in girlhood. A girl-child is denied access to a healthy and meaningful life through such mechanisms as sexual abuse (Nelson and Oliver 1998), incest (Atwood 2007), rape (Jewkes et al. 2002), limited educational opportunities (Hannum 2003), early entry into the labor-market, both paid and unpaid (Dodson and Dickert 2004), early marriage (Clark 2004, Singh and Samara 1996) and early pregnancy (Guijarro et al. 1999). Gender discrimination in health and nutrition occurs throughout the life-course of a girl-child. For instance, the under-five mortality rate for girls exceeds that of boys in South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific, resulting in millions of "missing girls" in

these regions (UNIFEM 2008). Malnutrition affects girls much more than boys, stunting future physical and mental growth (Choudhoury et al. 2000). Increasing rates of relationship violence (Hall 2000) and sexual harassment of the girl-child impede a healthy relationship with her body and prevent her from making her maximum potential contribution to society. We urge renewed attention to the Beijing Platform for Action's call, in Strategic Objective L.5, for the elimination of discrimination against girls in health and nutrition, and in Strategic Objective L.7, for the elimination of violence against girls.

When girls are subjected to systematic maltreatment and exploitation, the stage is set for abusive attacks on women such as rape in the situation of armed conflict. We applaud Security Council resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, which according to Rachel Mayanja, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues "changed the image of women in conflict situations from that of exclusively victims of war to that of active participants as peacemakers, peace-builders and negotiators." (Mayanja 2005). SWS looks forward to the tenth anniversary of the implementation of resolution 1325 and can assist the international community in the areas which Ms. Mayanja identifies as needing improvement: raising awareness of gender disparities, incorporating gender perspectives into decision-making, and advocating for women and girls.

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Think Globally, Act Locally, and Mediate Transnationally

International Gender Conference in China

By Esther Ngan-ling Chow¹

An international conference, "Gender and Social Transformation: Global, Transnational and Local Realities and Perspectives," was held on July 17-19, 2009 in Beijing, China. This conference was three years in the making. Dr. Tan Lin, Director of the Women's Studies Institute of China (WSIC), and I co-organized the conference that was co-sponsored by her institute and the Chinese Women's Research Society (CWRS) of the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF). It was also financially supported by 12 organizations inside and outside of China. Besides travel funding from my institution, America University, I received a conference grant from the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline of the American Sociological Association to subsidize conference participation of nine sociologists and a small grant from SWS to support a publication after the conference.

The goal of the conference was to provide an international forum in which to examine how women and gender relations are shaped by societal transformation economically, politically, socially and culturally in global, transnational, and local contexts. The conference explored how dynamic processes of globalization and transnationalism affected women's lives, as they had challenged and even altered gender relations on the ground. It promoted theory, method, and practice by emphasizing how theory and research on women and gender inform public debates, policy, and praxis; contributed to empirically grounded studies; advanced feminist scholarship; and inspired women's agency and collective action.

The conference covered a plethora of themes and subthemes, from theorizing globalization and transnationalism to women's agency, activism, and social movements. A wide range of topics include nexus between the global and the local, migration, human rights, citizenship, poverty, family in transition, women's empowerment, civil engagement, gender justice, and women's movements. Timely research such as war, political conflicts,

and peace also found their way on the program. Topics often considered as taboo in China, such as homosexuality, bisexuality, and sex workers, were openly discussed.

The mostly positive feedback showed consensus on several unique features of this conference. First, unlike some conferences dominated by scholars from the US and Western Europe, this one was indeed international. Of the more than 200 conference participants, 75 were international participants from 24 countries outside of China and the remaining participants were from 27 provinces within China. 14 of us were members of SWS. Myra Ferree marveled, "The conference was ...impressive in how it was truly international, not just US/UK and China!" Judith Lorber also added, "For me, it was refreshingly unusual to be, along with those from Canada and Europe, in the minority. In addition to hearing interesting data on many aspects of Chinese feminist scholarship, I...heard the life stories of women from many parts of the world. My attendance at the conference enriched my professional life...."

Sylvia Walby, Judith Lorber, Myra Ferree, and Peggy Levitt were the keynote speakers in the first plenary session. "Their presentation showcased their highly acclaimed research on cutting-edge topics in sociology, gender studies and the social sciences more generally such as globalization and economic development, migration and transnationalism, stratification, intersectionality and their impact on women and gender relations around the world," remarked by Mary Osirim. The transnational dimension of gender transformation was firmly introduced to the audience. As Ferree added, "I particularly appreciated Peggy Levitt's plenary talk, since it came from a disciplinary area of migration and transnationalism..., but connected well with gender issues as I approach them."

Two plenary sessions followed that focused exclusively on the latest women/gender scholarship in China. Speakers reported on the effects of the economic crisis on women, gendered occupational segregation, feminist politics, gender discourse in popular culture, and women and development in Yunnan, a minority

region in Southwestern China. Many heated discussions emerged in the "question and answer" sessions. One of them addressed various cross-provincial projects on training women to be elected politically to official positions in rural China.

The whole conference program consisted of 13 paper sessions, including one workshop on doing collaborative research across borders. Mary Osirim and I organized this workshop, "Border Crossing: Doing Research on Gender and Social Transformation," to promote feminist scholarship and gender research globally. It examined the collaborative and/or comparative research experiences of six feminist scholars from China, Brazil, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Canada, and the USA. Josephine Beoku-Betts, Akosua Admoko Ampofo, Neuma Aguiar, Marilyn Porter, Tan Lin, and Christine E. Bose served on this distinguished panel. They explored the challenges (e.g., language and translation, culture, "insider/outside," professional networks, and institutional factors) that occur in the field and the strategies that were most effective in conducting their projects across national, cultural, and disciplinary borders.

As I planned, the conference reflected the intricate linkages among theory, research, and practice. As Cynthia Bragg keenly observed, "The conference adeptly made this connection... presenters placed emphasis on civil rights and social justice: specific to improvement of the quality of life where inequalities exist, in the context of race, class, gender, and ethnicity." One session was devoted exclusively to a national policy-related project that examines the embeddedness of patriarchy to explain and then combat the unbalanced sex ratio at birth by using participatory action research among a group of Chinese feminists. Christine E. Bose was intrigued by the extensive use of participatory action research in China, which is commonly used in Latin America as well.

One of the main purposes of this conference was to shift the hegemonic, western-centric feminist paradigm to one with multiple nuclei by bringing feminist scholarship and gender research from the margin

“全球背景下的性别平等与社会转型：基于全球的、跨国的及各 International Conference on Gender and Social Transformation: Global, Transnational

中国·北京 2009年7月17-19日

July 17-19, 2009 B



of Global South to the center in the Global North. Ferree especially pointed out a study by Jin Yihong on women in Chinese popular culture “as a really nice illustration of how globalization is not just Americanization,” but also involves Japanization and Koreanization. Several comparative studies also contributed to understand the similarities and differences in gender mainstreaming (China and Turkey), mother-daughter relationships (Indonesia and Canada), domestic violence (China and UK), poverty (Poland), domestic migrant workers (Indonesia and Hong Kong), women’s entrepreneurship (China and Spain), and persistence of gender inequality in different national contexts.

The effort of integrating the Global South and North was evident in the ways in which the conference sessions are organized. Osirim observed that, “Most of the sessions that I attended included papers from China as well as the US and/or Europe, Canada and Global South nations. The panels ...were usually co-chaired by presenters representing at least two different nations/regions.”

“Besides the high quality of the program, English-Chinese simultaneous translation greatly facilitated the communication and transnational networking throughout the conference. Living in the same hotel and dining together at three meals (free of charge) daily for three days greatly enhanced opportunities to engage in dia-

logues which might lead to long-lasting relationships. The great diversity of conference participants generated immeasurable professional networking. It may facilitate collaborative, comparative research across borders in the future.

The conference was not without drawbacks. The very strength of the wide coverage of topics and high participation created problems of over crowdedness in most of the sessions. The time allotment of 10-12 minutes in presentation for each paper was hardly sufficient to develop much depth in discussion. Some conscientious participants continued their discussions outside of the sessions and during meal times. Laura Toussaint was amazed that there were so many sessions to choose and she hardly had time to go to all sessions because many of them were concurrently run.

In addition to the substantive information reported above, Peggy Levitt conveyed to me that conceptual thinking, method and analysis of many Chinese studies were quite different from those done by western-educated scholars. Such differences may pose some difficulties in theorizing across borders. For example, many Chinese studies were pragmatic in problem solving and policy-oriented. She concluded, “That’s why a conference such as this offers us an opportunity to take a step back and examine what the national assumptions are about what good research

is and what we use it for—the culture of social scientific inquiry.”

Finally, the concrete conference outcomes will include three book publications to promote women studies and gender scholarship worldwide. One edited volume will be published in China while two other English-language ones will be published in the USA/UK. Marcia Segal and I are currently working on one of these English-language edited volumes, which will be published in the *Advances in Gender Research* series in UK, 2011.

To sum it up, Laura Toussaint puts it simply, “The conference was buzzing with the excitement of scholars sharing their work and establishing new connections with others. It was the result of the hard work and dedication of the organizing committee from inside and outside of China that put into place the vision for a gathering where scholars could share their work and passion for global transformations from diverse perspectives. Old friendships were renewed, new ones were made, and the possibilities for the future of global feminist sociology seemed limitless.”

This article, although is written by me, benefitted from contributions a group of SWSers who participated in this conference. Thanks to some SWSers who gave me encouragement and support, but could not participate for a variety of reasons.

Nominate Your Students: SWS Awards

Cheryl Allyn Miller Award for Research on Women and Work

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) has established an award for graduate students and recent Ph.D.s working in the area of women and paid work — employment and self-employment, informal market work, illegal work. The award is supported by a bequest from the family of the late Cheryl Allyn Miller, a sociologist and feminist who studied women and paid work.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a sociology graduate student or a recent doctorate whose research or activism constitutes an outstanding contribution to the field of women and work. This contribution may take the form of scholarly or policy research or activism. It may be completed work or work in progress, but should not be a proposal for future work, and should be sufficiently close to completion that the applicant can concisely describe and contextualize the contribution to the field.

The award is \$500, and will be presented at the Banquet at the August SWS meeting (held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the ASA). In addition to the \$500 award, air travel to the meeting and a ticket to the banquet will be paid by SWS.

Applicants must be graduate students or have received their Ph.D. in 2009 or 2010. Applicants must belong to SWS, and may join at the same time they apply for the award. Submissions must include a 2-3 page curriculum vitae, a cover page with the author's name, affiliation, and contact information, an abstract and paper of article length (no more than 30 double-spaced pages, including bibliography) in a style suitable for submission to a scholarly journal. The abstract/cover page should include applicant's name, address, telephone number, email address, and, for applicants with their Ph.D., the date the Ph.D. was completed. Applicants must submit materials on their own behalf. Do not include any nominating letters. Please submit required materials via email to Laura West Steck (lsteck@ycp.edu). Submission of MSWord or MSWord compatible document files is appreciated. The deadline is April 1, 2010.

Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a continuing graduate student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student in an accredited PhD program in sociology in the United States is eligible to apply if she or he studied for at least one full academic year at a two-year college in the US before transferring to complete a BA.

The Scholarship carries a stipend of \$3500 from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) to be used to support the pursuit of graduate studies as well as a one-year membership in SWS (including a subscription to *Gender & Society*) The Scholarship will be awarded at the Summer Meeting of SWS. Recognizing Beth Hess's significant contributions to the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) and the American Sociological Association (ASA) as well, these organizations join SWS in supporting and celebrating the awardee at their Annual Meetings, August 13-17, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. The awardee's economy class airfare, train fare or driving mileage/tolls will be paid jointly by

SSSP and SWS. ASA also supports applicants for this award via their student travel award program (more than one such award may be given, but students must apply to ASA separately). Each association will also waive its meeting registration and provide complementary banquet and/or reception tickets for the awardee.

To honor Beth Hess's career, the committee will be looking for Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other institution serving less-privileged students.

Research and/or activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology being especially positive.

Service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring.

High quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

An application for the award should contain:

- a letter of application (no more than 2 pages) that describes the student's decision to study sociology, career goals, research, activism and service that would help the committee to see how the Scholarship would be a fitting honor
- a letter confirming enrollment in a sociology Ph.D. program (and aid award if any)
- a letter of recommendation from a sociologist (original and five copies in a sealed envelope, signed on the seal) full curriculum vitae, including all schools, degrees awarded, years of study, and full or part-time status in each
- (Optional) a one-page letter describing a community college faculty member who particularly contributed in a significant way to the decision to study sociology or pursue higher education

A cover sheet with:

- Name and full contact information, including phone and email
- Current academic or organizational affiliation, with years
- If not currently enrolled, future Ph.D. program and date of entry Community college attended, with years and credits taken OR transcript
- Name and contact information for graduate faculty reference
- If included, name of honored faculty member

Six complete copies of the application should be submitted by April 1, 2010 to:

Dr. Denise Copelton, Department of Sociology
The College at Brockport, State University of NY
350 New Campus Dr.

Brockport, NY 14420

For further information contact Denise Copelton at dcopelto@brockport.edu

Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship

Sociologists for Women in Society, has worked hard to build a coalition of women scholars who share concerns about the status of women both domestically and internationally. In keeping with that mission, SWS established a Women of Color Scholarship at its annual meeting in February 2007. The primary purposes of the

scholarship are: 1) To offer support to female scholars who are from underrepresented groups and are studying concerns that women of color face domestically and/or internationally; and 2) To increase the participation of students of color in SWS.

Selection Criteria

- 1) Student must be a woman from a racial/ethnic group facing racial discrimination in the United States.
- 2) Dissertation must be sociologically relevant, and utilize scholarship that addresses the experiences and concerns of Women of Color, domestically and/or internationally.
- 3) Student must be in the early stages of writing a dissertation.
- 4) Student must be "All But Dissertation" (ABD) by the time the term of the award begins. (Must be certified by the student's advisor or Graduate Director)
- 5) Applicants must demonstrate a financial need for the award.
- 6) Domestic and international students are eligible to apply.

Funding

The winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship, a plaque and SWS membership for one year. In addition the recipient will receive free registration for both the summer and winter meetings, along with an additional \$500 grant to enable attendance at the winter meeting.

Student Application Process

Complete application packets should be submitted electronically to the SWS Executive Office at the address below. Each packet must include:

- 1) A personal statement (no more than 3 pages) which details short and long-term career and research goals. The letter must also state which racial/ethnic group(s) the applicant represents.
- 2) A resume or Curriculum Vitae (no more than 2 pages)
- 3) Proposal (not to exceed 5 pages) for the dissertation research which outlines:
 - Purpose of research
 - Work to be accomplished through scholarship sponsorship
 - Time line for completing dissertation
- 4) Two letters of recommendation addressing the content and quality of the student's work and progress in the program. One of these letters must be from the Graduate Director or Advisor,

who should address the financial need of the applicant as well as certify the date on which the applicant became or will become ABD. The letters of recommendation must be sent separately from the material submitted by the student. **BOTH LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE APRIL 1, 2010 DEADLINE.** The email containing the letter of recommendation should include "WOCDS" and the student's full name in the subject line.

Responsibilities of Recipient

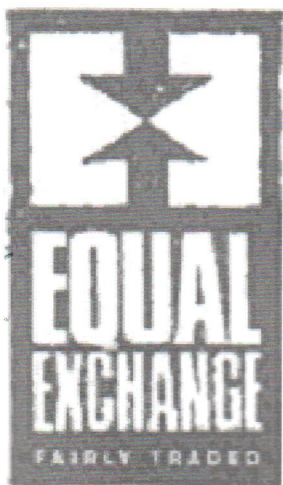
- 1) Attend the summer and winter meetings. Free registration and a \$500 stipend will be available to the winner for this purpose.
- 2) Submit a brief report (3 pages max) on the work completed during the scholarship year, no later than 1 month after the end of the award period. This report should be mailed to the SWS executive office to the attention of the 'Women of Color Scholarship Committee.'

All application materials, including the two letters of recommendation, must be submitted electronically by April 1, 2010 to: submission@socwomen.org. Students should not submit recommendation letters; these documents should be sent separately. Applicants must submit all other materials on their own behalf. The files should be submitted as one PDF document if possible. If creating one document is not feasible, the student application materials should be sent in one email with multiple PDF attachments that are clearly labeled. In the email subject line indicate that the material is for "WOCDS" and include your full name. In the message include your preferred email, street address and phone contact information.

Questions regarding the Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship should be directed to:
Marcia Hernandez
Department of Sociology
University of the Pacific - Wendell Phillips Center 204
3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95211
mhernandez@pacific.edu

Article:

SWS: Making Change with Investment Dollars



SWS is committed to Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), and our advisors and our portfolio reflect that commitment. In this quarter we made a unique and delicious addition to our portfolio: Equal Exchange, specializing in fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and snacks.

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned co-operative, building a food system that is direct, transparent, and empowers small-scale farmers. This work includes financing micro-loans for women's farming co-operatives. At their blog www.smallfarmersbigchange.coop, Equal Exchange pledges to "take steps to reduce our environmental footprint, help farmers save their local ecosystems, and advocate for agriculture and trade policies that

actually benefit small-scale producers and workers instead of corporations." You may know their red and white logo from your local coffee shop. However, you won't find them on any Stock Exchange. As a co-op, Equal Exchange offers shares only at certain times to certain buyers. Thanks to our advisor Donna Clifford of Rainbow Solutions (www.rainbowsolutions.us), Equal Exchange is now registered to sell shares in Rhode Island (home of the SWS executive office), and SWS is now the proud owner of a piece of this unique and delicious company.

Nominate Your Colleagues for SWS Awards

SWS Feminist Mentoring Award

The mentoring award was established in 1990 to honor an SWS member who is an outstanding feminist mentor. While the word "mentoring" is commonly used to describe a faculty-student relationship, this award has shown the breadth of ways that feminists do mentoring. In establishing the award, SWS recognized that feminist mentoring is an important and concrete way to encourage feminist scholarship.

Feminist mentoring includes not only anticipating needs and providing concrete guidance and feedback for junior colleagues, but also: compassion and guidance with regard to feminist concerns, helping colleagues (junior and senior) to write and effectively communicate as authors, activists and teachers; providing support, strategies and models for balancing family and work; offering gendered understandings of institutional biases and strategies for overcoming them; building formal and informal institutions that support feminist interests (personal, career research, and teaching); and a philosophy and practice of inclusion inside academia, especially with those most marginalized.

Nominators should gather supporting letters from people with a variety of perspectives about the nominee and include a cover letter summarizing the supporting material. Current officers and officers-elect of SWS are not eligible for nomination for this award, nor is the Editor of *Gender & Society*. Please remember that the nominee must be a current member of SWS.

The award will be presented during the SWS summer banquet during the ASA Annual Meeting. Committee members are past winners Linda Grant, Barbara Risman, and Marcia Texler Segal. If you have questions about the materials or procedures, please contact me at brisman@uic.edu. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent electronically as a single pdf to Barbara Risman at the email address above (preferred) or to: Barbara Risman, Department of Sociology, 1007 W Harrison Street, Suite 4112, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 60607. The deadline is March 1, 2010.

SWS Feminist Activism Award

The Feminist Activism Award is presented annually to an SWS member who has notably and consistently used sociology to improve conditions for women in society. The award honors outstanding feminist advocacy efforts that embody the goal of service to women and that have identifiably improved women's lives. Recipients are recognized for their activist contributions rather than occupational and academic achievements. SWS awards the recipient a one-time honorarium of \$1,000 and a travel budget of \$1,500 for presentations (lectures, workshops, or training sessions) related to their field of activism at two selected campus sites.

The recipient of the Feminist Activism Award should be a SWS member who has used sociology to better the lives of women. The individual is honored as an activist, rather than as a function of her place of employment or academic achieve-

ments. Thus, recipients could include volunteers, non-volunteers, academicians, and private/public sector employees. The emphasis of this award is on advocacy and outreach efforts.

While there are no set guidelines for a nomination packet, a winning packet tends to have these elements: A document (e.g., curriculum vitae, brief biography) providing an accounting of the activist contributions and their impact, testimonials from those benefiting from or witnessing the activism, and any other supporting documents, such as newspaper clippings. Most importantly, the nomination packet should clearly indicate how these activities have improved conditions for women in society. Please take a few moments to send us your recommendation so that we can recognize those who help us fulfill our mission as sociologists for women in society.

Send a letter of nomination and any supporting materials to

Andrea Miller, Ph.D.
Director, Center for the
Study of Human Rights
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave
St. Louis, MO 63119
314-246-8698
andreamiller31@webster.edu

SWS 2010 Distinguished Feminist Lecturer

It is time to nominate your favorite scholar for the 2010 edition of the **SWS Distinguished Feminist Lectureship**. This program was founded in 1985 as a way of (a) recognizing our members whose scholarship employs a feminist perspective and (b) making this feminist scholar available to campus sites that are isolated, rural, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, or characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. A key goal of the program is to provide a feminist voice on campuses where such a perspective is unusual or unwelcome. The 2010 lecturer, our twenty-sixth, will receive an honorarium from SWS of \$1000 and will commit to presenting her/his lecture at the Summer 2010 SWS meeting at one or two U. S. campuses that meet the above-noted criteria between August 2010 and June 2011. [Please see **SWS web page**, www.socwomen.org/ for a history of the award and list of awardees; the 2009 honoree is Dr. Paula England, and a cover sheet for proposals for campus visits accompanies this call for nominations.] An article-length version of the lecture will be published in *Gender & Society*. Submit electronic nomination (one digital copy of nominating letter plus the nominee's CV) to lbrush@pitt.edu Lisa D. Brush, Department of Sociology, 2425 WWPB, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Additional letters are welcomed but not necessary. Lisa will gladly assist you or answer questions if you contact her.

A Long-Overdue Thank You Note

As our thoughts turn to the Winter 2010 meeting, we finally close the books on the Winter 2009 meeting. As you might recall, there were two payment options for that meeting in Savannah: the full fee, and a fee subsidized by \$50 to ensure that everyone could participate. The following people chose to pay the full fee, effectively making a \$50 donation to SWS.

Chardie Baird
Josephine Beoku-Betts
Sharon Bird
Chris Bobel
Sarah Jane Brubaker
Vicky Demos
Manisha Desai
Susan Farrell
Abby Ferber
Kathryn Fessler
Shirley Hill
Leslie Hossfeld
Shamus Khan
Julia McQuillan
Andrea Miller
Patricia O'Brien
Anastasia Prokos
Helen Raisz
Aileen Schulte
Marcia Texler Segal
Constance Shehan
Tracey Steele
Jan Thomas
Ronni Tichenor
Margaret Vitullo
Regina Werum
Judith Wittner

With support like this, SWS promotes and recognizes feminist scholarship and activism, and produces two exciting conferences every year. Many thanks to these members for their participation and support.

Election Results

The Nominations Committee sends out a huge "Thank You!" to every SWSer who agreed to stand for election. We all have lots of balls to juggle in our professional and personal lives.

Members who were willing to risk taking on additional responsibilities for the sake of SWS provide an essential service to our organization. Thanks also to everyone who participated in the election by suggesting people to run, reading the candidates' statements and voting. Now, here are some folks who will be doing a bit more ball juggling in the near future. Please join me in congratulating the winners of the election:

Officers

President Elect Tracy Ore
Deputy Treasurer Kristen Myers
Secretary Shirley Jackson
Student Representative Rachel Allison

Committee Chairs or Co-Chairs

Awards Heather Laube
Discrimination Katja M. Guenther
International. Clare Weber
Sister to Sister Ronni Tichenor

Committee Members

Awards Vrushali Patil
Career Development Laura West Steck
Membership. Lisette Garcia & Tamara Smith
Nominations Orit Avishai & Judith Howard
Publications Cecilia Ridgeway & Barbara Risman

Thanks to the members of the Nominations Committee for their hard work, positive energy, and cooperative spirit: Patricia Richards, Mangala Subramaniam, Gail Wallace, and Cathy Zimmer. Thanks also to Jessica Holden Sherwood and her crack team at the Executive Office who have been ever at the ready with answers to questions and made our online voting process accessible and reliable.

Announcement:

Campus Visits Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Paula England

The 2009 Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, Paula England, will be visiting two campuses to deliver her lecture. Gretchen Webber and Jackie Elle of Middle Tennessee State University will put Dr. England to especially good use to provide a strong feminist presence in the form of the keynote at their annual

Undergraduate Social Science Symposium. Elizabeth E. Chute and Kay Satre of Carroll College in Helena, Montana, noted that hosting Dr. England will provide "a major shot-in-the-arm" for feminist and women's/gender studies on campus, and Dr. England will be visiting there in the Spring 2010. On behalf of the Feminist

Lecturer Award Committee, the SWS Awards Committee, and the entire organization, we send congratulations, and hope the students, faculty, and community at Middle Tennessee State University and Carroll College enjoy Dr. England's visit and lecture.

Announcement:

Thank You Authors

By Jessica Sherwood
Executive Officer

Did you know that some book authors have opted to donate their royalty payments to SWS?

SWS is the grateful recipient of royalties from books by SWS members? All together, these donations over the past two years have totaled more than \$1700 for SWS's operations. SWS is grateful for these donations – and all donations – from our members.

SWS Member Book Royalty Donations From:

Esther Ngan-Lin Chow

Pauline Bart

Judith Lorber & Susan Farrell

Kristen Myers, Cynthia Anderson & Barbara Risman.

The Myers et al. donation is especially apt since the book evolved from exchanges on the powerful SWS Listserv.

Remember Growing Pains



In this feature, *Network News* and the Sister-to-Sister Committee encourages members to raise issues of language, behavior, expectations, etc. that they experience in some way that is discordant to them. We will not identify the author(s) of these personal observations, because we would like our members to focus on issue being raised, not the characteristics of the individual(s). Old and new members, women of all colors, ages and sexualities are invited to bring up the specific things they find painful, not to place blame, but for all of us to grow from the sharing. Send your brief observations to the Sister-to-Sister Committee c/o mferree@ssc.wisc.edu for them to be edited anonymously by this group and presented here.

SWS Winter 2010
MEETINGS

***LEFT COAST FEMINISMS:
Reimagining Borders, Bodies and the Law***



DATES: February 4-7, 2010

PLACE: Hotel Mar Monte,
1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd,
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

www.hotelmarmonte.com

Editor's Note:

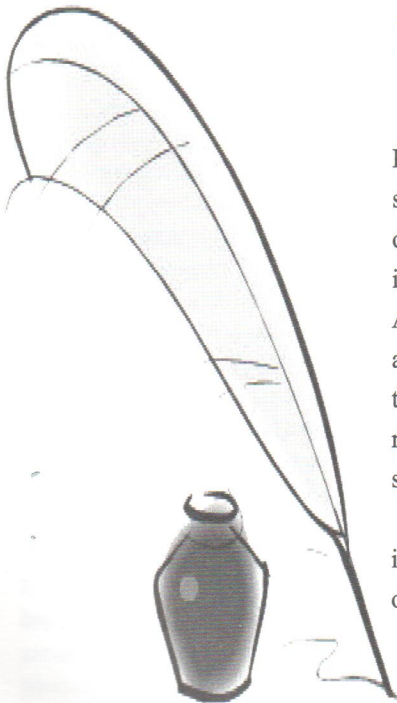
**Final Network News from the University of
North Carolina Wilmington**

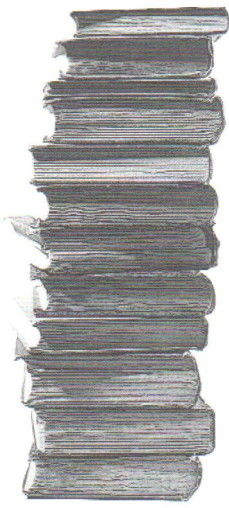
By Leslie Hossfeld

Outgoing Editor Network News

What an incredible issue to bring to close one's Editorship: the inspiring reflections of our outgoing President; the rousing message from our incoming President about our new initiatives; and the impressive work of our International Committee and the United Nations Beijing +15 - Committee on the Status of Women, demonstrating how the vision of SWS has broadened over the years. But perhaps most inspiring, the article by Pamela Roby on the formation of Sociologists for Women in Society and the work of Alice Rossi and all our founding members, who made SWS and gender scholarship what it is today. I am delighted to have been a part of the service to SWS, if only in a small way. We forget, I'm afraid, the incredible climate in which SWS was born and Pamela's tribute brings us full circle to our beginnings. As we bring to close this year, let us stop and reflect upon the remarkable tenacity, vision and struggle of our founding members.

Thanks to all of you who make this organization so vital to our discipline and to society. Let us move into the New Year with the verve and vitality of our foremothers, and continue to make a difference in our world.





Members' Bookshelf

Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with New Media

By Mizuko Ito, Sonja Baumer, Matteo Bittanti, danah boyd, Rachel Cody, Becky Herr-Stephenson, Heather A. Horst, Patricia G. Lange, Dilan Mahendran, Katynka Z. Martinez, C. J. Pascoe, Dan Perkel, Laura Robinson, Christo Sims and Lisa Tripp - MIT Press, 2009

Conventional wisdom about young people's use of digital technology often equates generational identity with technology identity: today's teens seem constantly plugged in to video games, social networks sites, and text messaging. Yet there is little actual research that investigates the intricate dynamics of youth's social and recreational use of digital media. *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* fills this gap, reporting on an ambitious three-year ethnographic investigation into how young people are living and learning with new media in varied settings—at home, in after school programs, and in online spaces. By focusing on media practices in the everyday contexts of family and peer interaction, the book views the relationship of youth and new media not simply in terms of technology trends but situated within the broader structural conditions of childhood and the negotiations with adults that frame the experience of youth in the United States. Integrating twenty-three different case studies—which include Harry Potter podcasting, video-game playing, music-sharing, and online romantic breakups—in a unique collaborative authorship style, *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* is distinctive for its combination of in-depth description of specif-

ic group dynamics with conceptual analysis.

This book was written as a collaborative effort by members of the Digital Youth Project, a three-year research effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and conducted at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California.

Marketing Dreams, Manufacturing Heroes – The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers

By Anna Romina Guevarra
Rutgers University Press, 2009

In a globalized economy heavily sustained by the labor of immigrants, why are certain nations defined as “ideal” labor resources and why do certain groups dominate a particular labor force? The Philippines has emerged as a lucrative source of labor for countries around the world. In *Marketing Dreams, Manufacturing Heroes – The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers* Anna Romina Guevarra focuses on the Philippines and the multilevel brokering process that manages and sends workers worldwide. Guevarra unravels the transnational production of Filipinos as ideal migrant workers by the state and explores how race, color, class, and gender operate. At the core of this book is the experience of Filipino nurses and domestic workers—two of the country's prized exports—depicted by interviews with employees at labor brokering agencies, state officials from governmental organizations in the Philippines, and nurses working in the United States. Guevarra reveals the disciplinary power that state and employment agencies exercise over care workers—managing migration and garnering wages—to govern social conduct, and brings this isolated yet widespread social problem to life.

Announcement:

Job Opportunity

Salem State College's sociology department is seeking to fill a full-time tenure track faculty position in the area of research methods and statistics for the 2010-2011 academic year. Faculty members, as a part of a cooperative and collegial campus community, will advise students, perform college service and pursue research. The successful applicant will also conduct research, advise students and serve on departmental and college-wide committees. This position is advertised subject to available funding. Required qualifications include Ph.D in Sociology or related field. Preferred qualifications include: one-year full time university/college teaching experience in research methods and statistics; experience in and

commitment to teaching in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic environment with students of diverse backgrounds and learning styles; and experience in distance learning and instructional technologies. Candidates who enjoy serving as role models and mentors for a diverse student body are preferred. The salary is competitive, and commensurate with education and experience. Salem State College is a comprehensive, publicly supported institution of higher learning located approximately 15 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts. The college enrolls over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students representing 27 states and 65 nations, and is one of the largest state colleges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its mis-

sion is to educate and prepare a diverse community of learners to contribute responsibly to our global society. To see the full list of benefits, review the complete job description and to apply online, please visit <https://jobs.salemstate.edu/applicants/Cent1?quickFind=50944> and attach your CV/résumé and cover letter. Appropriate original transcripts and three letters of reference should be sent to: Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970. Salem State College is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Persons of color, women and persons with disabilities are strongly urged to apply.

Announcement:

Opportunities to Participate

11th Annual White Privilege Conference: Health Inequities: Strategies. Action. Liberation. April 7-10, 2010 La Crosse, Wisconsin www.uccs.edu/wpc. A venue for fostering difficult and critical dialogues around white privilege, diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social & economic justice, and intersecting systems of privilege and oppression. Participants return home with new information, resources & strategies for addressing issues of privilege and oppression. More than 75% plan to attend future conferences and will recommend it to others. Attracts approximately 1000 participants each year from all sectors of the workforce, education, activism, and faith communities. Includes a High School Youth

leadership Conference; Day-long Institutes; Keynote addresses by leaders in the field; Film Series; More than 100 concurrent workshops; Caucuses for: People of Color, White Anti-Racist Activists, self-identified Jewish people, Youth, LGBTQ & Ally folks; Support groups; Meet the Speakers & Book Signing Reception; CEUs as well as both undergraduate and graduate university credit available.

Knapsack Institute: Transforming Teaching and Learning June 2-5, 2010 Information and applications at: <http://www.uccs.edu/~knapsack/>. The Knapsack Institute supports educators across the nation as they create curriculum and pedagogy to integrate race/eth-

nicity, gender, sexuality, class and other forms of social inequality into their work. *The Knapsack Institute* is a program of *The Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion*. **The Knapsack Institute** provides educators with a framework for teaching about the matrix of privilege and oppression. The Institute welcomes **all** educators (K-12, higher education, diversity trainers, non-profit staff, etc.). Alumni include faculty, teachers, and facilitators at many levels, from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and organizations. Contact Abby L. Ferber Director, The Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion Professor, Department of Sociology.

Announcement:

News from Local Chapters

Michigan State Local Chapter

By Linda Gjakaj

We held a Potluck gathering in October for networking, welcoming several new members, and planning future events. On November 5th, some members also attended a film screening of "Made in LA" at Michigan State University. On December 4th, we will gather again for "Food and Article Night" in which we will focus our discussion on academia and professional development. We also have a Facebook group page for our local chapter.

NIU-SWS Chapter

By Ilana Demantas

After several informal discussions between students we decided that we wanted to have our own local SWS chapter on campus. NIU has a group for people interested in criminology, several groups with an interest in Women's and LGBT issues but we wanted something that related Sociology, gender and sexuality. With the support of Dr. Kristen Myers, we made flyers and talked about the chapter to students around campus. We had our official first meeting in October. During the meeting, we

talked about what makes SWS different from the other groups available. We found *Public Sociology* to be a controversial topic. We talked about social activism opportunities that are available locally, including working with the Women's Resource Center on campus and *Hope Haven*, the local homeless shelter. Hope Heaven hosts two different programs, one is an emergency shelter program for families needing temporary housing and other is an intensive housing program geared towards people who need multiple services, including special services for children and single mothers. As a part of the intensive housing program residents are taught job and saving money skills. Hope Heaven provides numerous volunteer opportunities for the students and social groups like ours. Next semester, we are going to host a miniature local conference with a focus on gender, sexuality, social inequality and activism. It will include several thematic roundtable discussions. The conference will feature sociological works of students and faculty from the Sociology, Women's studies and LGBT Studies departments. We are very excited for our new chapter and look forward to seeing some of you at the national meetings. Anyone who is interested in joining NIU-

SWS listserv can contact Ilana Demantas (z080809@students.niu.edu), Megan Joe'l Hart (mjhart0405@gmail.com) or Kristen Myers (km Myers@niu.edu).

Tallahassee Chapter

By Janice McCabe and Erica Toothman

The Tallahassee chapter has had a fabulous Fall semester. We had two meetings, both well-attended and full of rich discussion. Our first meeting of the semester featured the research of three graduate students. Abraham Pena, Miriam Sessions, and Christian Vaccaro led a discussion centered on the events and ideas leading to each of their qualitative research projects. This meeting was especially helpful to undergraduates and first year graduate students interested in either qualitative work, or research about gender, masculinity, and sexuality. Our second meeting in early November featured Dr. Brian Starks, who led a fascinating discussion about the use of gender in various translations of the Bible. We're looking forward to a great spring! Many of our members will be attending SWS in Santa Barbara this year, we hope to see you there!

2009 Membership
(Effective Jan 1-Dec 31, 2009)



Sociologists for Women in Society
Federal Tax ID: 23-2162891

Please Print:

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School (if applicable) Department (if applicable)

Check here to **include** school as part of your mailing address.

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City State Zip Code Country

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- I do **NOT** want my name included when SWS rents its membership list (usually to publishers)
- I do **NOT** want to be included in the members' directory
- I do **NOT** want to receive the *Gender & Society* journal (available online)
- I do **NOT** want to receive the *Network News* newsletter (available online)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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- Income \$15,000-\$19,999 \$21
- Income \$20,000-\$29,999 \$31
- Income \$30,000-\$39,999 \$41
- Income \$40,000-\$49,999 \$46
- Income \$50,000+ \$51
- Sustaining Member \$100
- Life Membership : \$1800
- payable in equal installments over (1) (2) (3) (4) yrs \$ _____
- Library Rate Only (*Network News* Only) \$19

you may ALSO check:

- Gift Membership (*please fill out information on reverse*) \$14

Contribution Options

- Please keep my donation anonymous.
- \$ _____ SWS operations
- \$ _____ Natalie Allon Fund (discrimination support)
- \$ _____ Barbara Rosenblum Fund (cancer-related dissertation)
- \$ _____ Beth Hess Scholarship
- \$ _____ Feminist Activism Award
- \$ _____ Feminist Lectureship
- \$ _____ Mentoring Award
- \$ _____ SWS-MFP (ASA Minority Fellowship Program)
- \$ _____ Undergraduate Social Action Award
- \$ _____ Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship

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URI Sociology
10 Chafee Road
Kingston, RI 02881

Fax: 401-874-2588
Phone: 401-874-9510

Email: sws@etal.uri.edu
Website: www.socwomen.org

CHARGE WILL SHOW AS SWS/UNIV. OF RHODE ISLAND

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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- This is a gift that I am paying for – payment information above.
 Free gift, as this is my third year in a row as a dues-paying (or life) member.

The EO will confirm your 2007, 2008, and 2009 memberships, and your one free gift membership coupon will be e-mailed to your recipient.

NOTE: This program was designed to bring new members to SWS.

2.) Gift Recipient's Information please print:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

SWS INTERESTS

SWS works on fostering feminism in sociology and society in several ways. Which of the following two or three are most interesting to you personally?

- Publishing feminist scholarship
 Fighting discrimination against feminists in the academy
 Supporting the careers of feminist sociologists
 Helping make feminist social change
 Providing resources for feminist teachers
 Building membership
 Giving scholarships and awards to outstanding feminists

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

(consistent with ASA)

List 3 areas in order of importance: #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Application and Practice

- A.1. Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research
A.2. Communication and Information Technologies
A.3. Policy Analysis
A.4. Social Welfare/Social Work
A.5. Sociological Practice
A.6. Teaching and Learning in Sociology

Comparative and Historical Approaches

- B.1. Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology
B.2. Development

Family, Life Course, and Society

- C.1. Aging/Social Gerontology
C.2. Animals and Society
C.3. Children and Youth
C.4. Family

Gender and Sexuality

- D.1. Sex and Gender
D.2. Sexualities

Inequalities and Stratification

- E.1. Disabilities
E.2. Education
E.3. Race, Class and Gender
E.4. Stratification/Mobility

Medicine and Health

- F.1. Alcohol and Drugs
F.2. Medical Sociology
F.3. Mental Health

Place and Environment

- G.1. Community
G.2. Environmental Sociology
G.3. Rural Sociology
G.4. Urban Sociology

Politics and Social Change

- H.1. Collective Behavior/Social Movements
H.2. Marxist Sociology
H.3. Military Sociology
H.4. Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution
H.5. Political Economy
H.6. Political Sociology
H.7. Public Policy
H.8. Social Change

Population and Ecology

- I.1. Biosociology
I.2. Demography
I.3. Human Ecology

Race and Ethnicity

- J.1. Asians/Asian-Americans
J.2. Latina/o Sociology
J.3. Migration/Immigration
J.4. Racial and Ethnic Relations

Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance

- K.1. Criminal Justice
K.2. Criminology/Delinquency
K.3. Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization
K.4. Law and Society
K.5. Penology/Corrections
K.6. Social Control

Social Psychology and Interaction

- L.1. Emotions
L.2. Small Groups
L.3. Social Psychology
L.4. Socialization

Sociology of Culture

- M.1. Art/Music
M.2. Cultural Sociology
M.3. Leisure/Sports/Recreation
M.4. Mass Communication/Public Opinion
M.5. Religion
M.6. Visual Sociology
Theory, Knowledge, Science
N.1. History of Sociology/Social Thought
N.2. Knowledge
N.3. Rational Choice
N.4. Science and Technology
N.5. Theory

Work, Economy and Organizations

- O.1. Economic Sociology
O.2. Labor and Labor Movements
O.3. Occupations/Professions
O.4. Organizations, Formal and Complex
O.5. Social Organization
O.6. Work and Labor Markets

Qualitative Approaches

- P.1. Ethnography (Anthropology)
P.2. Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis
P.3. Language/Social Linguistics
P.4. Qualitative Methodology

Quantitative Approaches

- Q.1. Mathematical Sociology
Q.2. Quantitative Methodology
Q.3. Social Networks
Q.4. Statistics
Q.5. Micro-computing

Local and Regional Chapters

ACTIVE STATUS

(Meet on a regular basis)

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Erica Toothman (elt03c@fsu.edu)
Janice McCabe (jmccabe@mailers.fsu.edu)

LANSING, MICHIGAN

Lori Baralt (baraltlo@msu.edu)
Linda Gjokaj (gjokajli@msu.edu)

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

(<http://www.unlv.edu/faculty2/jkeene/SWS/>)
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Jackie Skiles (jsnyc@yahoo.com)

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Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu)

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CHICAGO

Kimberly Fox (kfox1@luc.edu.edu) (abrain2@uic.edu)

MINNESOTA

Teresa Toguchi Swartz (tswartz@umn.edu)

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TUCSON

Cindy Cain (ccain@u.arizona.edu)

KENT STATE

(mjacobs2@kent.edu)

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WEST (SWS-WEST)

Mary Virnoche (mary.virnoche@humboldt.edu)

EAST (SWS-EAST)

Laura Steck (lsteck@ycp.edu)

NORTH CENTRAL (SWS-NCSA)

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Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu)

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Sally Dear (sdear@binghamton.edu)

PHILADELPHIA AREA

Elizabeth Borland (borland@tncj.edu)

Please send chapter updates to ERIN ANDERSON (eanderson3@washcoll.edu)



Sociologists for Women in Society

Leslie Hossfeld, Editor
Department of Sociology and Criminology
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Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

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www.socwomen.org/members Click "Update Contact Information"**