PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Left Coast Feminisms and SWS
by Denise Segura, SWS President

This past February I was proud to welcome SWSers and guests to lovely Santa Barbara for the SWS Winter Meeting. The weather was changeable, with a mix of rain, marvelous cloud formations hanging off the coast, and more than a few rainbows! We in Santa Barbara knew that our intrepid members would first weather the storms and then enjoy what sunshine they could throughout the weekend.

One of the highlights for me at this meeting was being presented with the gavel of the presidency by Shirley Hill. I would like to thank Shirley for her visionary presidency. Shirley’s leadership in the area of health and health policy informed last year’s meetings and are now institutionalized within the fabric of SWS through the Health Wiki and the mainstreaming team’s agenda. Shirley guided SWS through a year of

(continued on page 9)
What Does a Media Specialist Do?

Meet SWS Consultant Theta Pavis

Much like a reporter, it’s hard to get bored working as a Media Specialist for SWS. One day I’m monitoring our very active listserv and helping a member prepare for a television interview, the next I can be advising on an Op-Ed about right-wing, radical anti-abortion groups or drafting a press release.

As a result of the Mainstreaming Feminist Sociology project that SWS has been working on for the last three years, SWS created the positions of Director of Communications (Jessica Holden Sherwood) and Media Specialist. Our goal is not only to help members handle press inquiries but to increase the profile of the organization – and feminist sociology – in the mainstream press and in the public consciousness.

I’ve been working with SWS since September of last year. In that short time I’ve been involved in numerous efforts. In February I attended the Winter Meeting and helped put together a well-received panel on “What to Say and When to Say It: Making the Mass Media Work for You.” I also held a breakfast session where members could drop by and ask me questions about their website (or getting one started.)

Our biggest push has been to find a talented web designer and work with her to overhaul our website. We expect to unveil the new site this summer in Atlanta. At the Winter Meeting members also voted on three finalists for a new SWS logo, something I have worked on with Jessica.

I’ve been working as a journalist for almost 20 years, but bring a unique background to the role of Media Specialist. I have a history of working on women’s issues, including pro-choice causes. After graduating from UCLA, where I had an unofficial minor in Women’s Studies and edited the campus feminist newsmagazine, I worked for two years at the Los Angeles Women’s Foundation (now the California Women’s Foundation.) After graduate school in journalism at Columbia University (where my thesis was on the plight of battered immigrant women) I worked overseas on stories about reproductive technology in Finland and human rights in Russia.

For many years I worked at newspapers, magazines and in radio, but I have also freelanced a great deal, especially on the topic of technology. I also went back to my roots and have worked off and on for more than a decade with the Women’s International League of Peace & Freedom, editing their national member magazine, among other publications. I continue to be very involved with the Internet, social networking and blogging.

I have been impressed and profoundly inspired by the women I have met at SWS and look forward to meeting many more of you. We have exciting plans to continue promoting SWS and helping members get recognition for their critical work.

SWS:

Making Change with Investment Dollars

by Jessica Holden Sherwood

SWS is committed to Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), and our advisors and our portfolio reflect that commitment. This space spotlights the good works of some of the companies in our investment portfolio.

We’ve seen shareholders of several companies propose an addition to annual meeting voting: a vote on executive compensation. Although these votes are generally non-binding advisory votes, they give shareholders a voice about executive compensation. Shareholders have been clamoring for this especially since the financial meltdown of 2008. It shouldn’t surprise sociologists to learn that some boards recommend against these proposals, preferring to continue to set compensation with no oversight.

One of the companies we’re invested in is Colgate-Palmolive. Colgate-Palmolive just announced that its Board of Directors has approved providing shareholders with a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation at its Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 7, 2010.

SWS applauds this step in the right direction. And when we see boards recommending against “Say On Pay” proposals, rest assured that we still cast our vote for them.
Profile of SWS President-Elect Tracy Ore

by Shawna Arnold

SWS has been a source of motivation and support for much of Tracy Ore’s career. Now, she is president-elect; something she could not have foreseen as a first-generation college student whose main objective was to get through undergrad.

College was not something Ore’s family supported; in fact, her father discouraged her attendance.

“When my father wasn’t telling me that going to college was pointless, he was telling me that women had no reason going to college unless they were looking for a husband.”

College, as Ore puts it, was a goal she had to achieve on her own volition. Her father’s skepticism only pushed her harder to find purposive knowledge in college and produce positive social change.

Now, Ore has her PhD and is a professor at St. Cloud University in Minnesota. She is also a published writer with her book in its fourth edition. Ore says she is happy she was able to publish something that is a useful tool for those who wish to teach and understand issues of social inequality. Providing such a tool was her main source of motivation in writing. Ore’s book, The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality, also includes many works by SWS members, something she said is happy she could incorporate.

Ore has been a member of SWS since 1999. She has served as the chair of the Social Action Committee and the Awards Committee. Through her leadership on these committees and general involvement in SWS, she believes, she demonstrates her commitment to social justice. Through her work as SWS president, Ore plans to continue to support new and continuing ways for SWS to improve the lives of women in society and to create feminist social change.

When Ore found out she was the next president of SWS, she says she was both honored and overwhelmed; SWS is an important part of her life. As president, Ore plans to continue her commitment to furthering the mission of SWS; she looks forward to continuing her dedication to the organization.

Ask anyone about Ore, and you’ll get a true testament to her character and her dedication to sociology and social justice.

“[Ore’s] passion for social justice and commitment to enhancing opportunities for all people is evident in all that she does,” says Sharon Bird, member of SWS. “I know she is determined to ensure that the organization continues to grow. I know she will do her best to ensure that the organization’s rich history continues to be celebrated, while also bringing [in] new voices.”

Ore has a passion for her work that is apparent in everything she says, and everything anyone says of her. Ore says her motivation comes from putting her sociological knowledge to use in a way that improves the quality of life of others.

“I am happy each time I see excitement in my students when they gain a new understanding of their life and their place in the world…when they express a desire to work for positive social change.”

Ore not only strives to improve the quality of life of her students and colleagues, but also her community. For the past five years, she has been working in the community garden movement in her area. She aided in establishing a community garden in partnership with her campus and the city of St. Cloud in 2005. She also consults with area agencies and organizations in their efforts to establish their own gardens.

Ore’s motivation for the community garden rests in her devotion to social justice. The garden came from a desire to cultivate community connections in St. Cloud, as city residents were experiencing increasing alienation in part as a result of rapid demographic change.

(continued on page 13)
With Thanks from the American Sociological Association

On behalf of the American Sociological Association, we want to express our most sincere thanks to the leadership and membership of SWS for their generous contribution to the Leadership Campaign for the Minority Fellowship Program. SWS has been a long-time partner in this program, having supported one of the MFP scholars for several years. This latest contribution will help ensure that ASA can continue to support students who enhance the diversity of our discipline. We thank you most sincerely on behalf of the students and the community of MFP supporters.

Evelyn Nakano Glenn, President, ASA
Margaret L. Andersen, Immediate Past Vice President, ASA
Sally Hillsman, Executive Officer, ASA
Jean Shin, Director, Minority Affairs Program, ASA

Call for Papers:
Sociology of Diagnosis

Volume 13 of Advances in Medical Sociology

Barbara Katz Rothman (CUNY), series editor
Editors: PJ McGann and David J. Hutson (University of Michigan)

ABSTRACTS DUE: April 5, 2010

The Advances in Medical Sociology series seeks submissions for a new volume on Sociology of Diagnosis. Diagnosis is central to medical practice, medical knowledge and research, medicalization dynamics, and health and illness experience. Embedded in social relations, diagnoses reflect and shape social dynamics and cultural concerns. Diagnoses are integral to resource allocation, form the basis for identities and action, and may become a focal point of turf battles and contested authority. Some diagnoses are willingly embraced, whereas others are strenuously resisted. Sometimes diagnoses come and go as fashions, yet some diagnoses persist. A sociological approach to diagnosis thus occupies a complex intersection of diverse subfields including medical sociology, sociology of knowledge, mental health, deviance and social control, sociology of science, social movements, the body, sexualities, gender, and the sociology of health and illness. Yet, despite path-breaking early statements (M. Blaxter 1978, P. Brown 1990) and suggestive recent work informed by feminist, Foucauldian, and cultural theories, the sociology of diagnosis is yet to cohere. With this in mind we envision Volume 13 as a touchstone text of sociologically informed empirical reports, conceptual pieces, and theoretical statements that define and survey the broad terrain of diagnosis-related inquiry. Accordingly we seek submissions that explore diagnosis as a social category and/or those that investigate diagnostic processes. Given the potential breadth of the field we are interested in a wide variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Social activism and diagnostic categories
- Expansion & contraction of diagnostic boundaries
- Lay diagnosis
- Diagnoses and medical authority
- Contested diagnoses
- Diagnosis and stigma
- Embodiment and diagnosis
- Diagnosis and reality construction
- Diagnosis and social control
- Role of diagnosis in medicalization processes
- Collective identity, politics, and diagnosis
- Time- and culture-bound syndromes
- Existentiality of diagnostic categories
- Globalization of diagnosis

Interested contributors should email a 300-500 word abstract no later than April 5, 2010 to the editors at soc-of-diagnosis@umich.edu.

Inquiries are also welcome at this address. Please include the name(s), affiliation(s), and full contact information for the author(s) with the abstract. The editors will contact authors regarding their submissions by May 21, 2010. The deadline for full submissions (7500-8500 words) is November 15, 2010. The target date for publication of Volume 13 is late 2011/early 2012.
Call for Proposals

Social Action Fact Sheets 2011
Proposals due June 1, 2010

The Social Action Committee of the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) is issuing a call for proposals from persons (graduate students and junior faculty especially encouraged) interested in compiling Fact Sheets for the calendar year 2011 on the following topics:

- Gender and Immigration
- Discrimination in the Academy
- Gender and Sport
- Gender and Environment
- Heteronormativity
- Open: A proposal for the open category may address a topic not listed on this call.

Fact sheets will be distributed to SWS members quarterly via the Network News in 2011 and will be made available on the web at the SWS website.

The purpose of fact sheets is to aid people in the streets and trenches of our communities educating and working for social justice. Fact sheets are intended to be useful sources of information for teaching, social action, and other areas where succinct, accessible information is needed. To that end, it is important that facts sheets be concise (2-4 pages), easily readable, and manageable. In addition, fact sheets should include:

- Current data (tables are helpful)
- Important activist and/or community organizations (websites, etc.)
- Sources for further information
- Suggested reading (for instructors, practitioners, students)
- Suggested videos
- Teaching applications
- Suggested videos
- Teaching applications

Proposals are due June 1, 2010

Proposals are 1-2 page documents that include:

- The topic to be addressed
- The type of information to be included
- Expected length of fact sheet
- Qualifications of the author for addressing the proposed topic

Send proposals and questions to:
Jodie M. Lawston
jlawston@depaul.edu
Chair, SWS Social Action Committee

The timeline for completion will be negotiated upon acceptance of proposals. Decisions are made by the Social Action Committee. SWS will pay an honorarium of $750.00 for completed fact sheets.

The Association For Humanist Sociology

2010 Annual Meeting
November 3 – 7
The Lodge at Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

MEETING AT THE CROSSROADS
HOW THEN SHALL WE PROCEED?

We live in a distinct time—war in the midst of the call for peace, economic recession during unprecedented growth of corporate wealth, continued environmental devastation as oil dependency heightens, food insecurity amidst gluttony, and the entrenchment of institutionalized inequality when we seek justice. At this historical juncture, how then shall we proceed? Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the U.S., provides a unique meeting place to vision the future. Literally, Santa Fe is the crossroads of the Pueblo, the Navajo, the Mexican, the Spaniard and the Anglo people. Santa Fe is also the hub of art in the southwest: all forms and styles of sculpture, painting, photography and music coalesce here. Please join us to examine this distinct time, to explore these crossroads, and to forge a way forward.

Direct submissions to:
Steve McGuire, 2010 AHS Program Chair Sociology, Muskingum University
163 Stormont St.
New Concord, OH 43725
740.826.8288
smcguire@muskingum.edu
Submission deadline: June 15, 2010

Direct other inquiries to:
Emma Bailey, 2010 AHS President
Western New Mexico University
P.O. Box 680
Silver City, NM 88062
575.538.6824
baileye@wnmu.edu

The Lodge at Santa Fe
750 North St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
888.LODGESF / 505.992.5800
http://www.hhandr.com/santafe.php
Room Rate: single & double $105
Please make reservations by October 13, 2010
Chapters

SWS has several local and regional chapters, run autonomously by local volunteers. For a list of chapters, and information on how to start your own, click here: http://www.socwomen.org/index.php?ss=30

NEVADA:
SWS-UNLV chapter held a graduate student discussion on Peggy McIntosh's white privilege article, and the intersections of gender privilege and heterosexual privilege. We discussed how to teach about inequalities without alienating or depressing students, and how our own privileges & oppressions impact our roles as sociologists. Our meeting was timely considering that some graduate students themselves were dealing with explicit experiences of racism and sexism on campus. We have tentative plans to hold a workshop on inequality, privilege, and oppression with faculty and graduate students later this spring.

NORTH CAROLINA:
It has been an exciting year for our North Carolina State University SWS chapter. We have spent the year founding the organization, recruiting members, and getting the organization up and running. This semester we did our first service project. We held a fundraiser for the Women's Center of Wake County. Our goal was to receive enough non-perishable food donations and enough financial donations to host a lunch at the center for approximately 50 women. The NCSU-SWS students took donations for four weeks and provided information to raise awareness for the center and for women's issues. Twelve student members cooked lunch for local homeless women who rarely get warm prepared meals. Students prepared and served pasta, salad, fruit, vegetables, and desserts to the women. The event was a great success and we plan on organizing this event biannually.

Our chapter also hosted our first workshop on March 12th. After informally discussing teaching with several graduate teaching assistants in the department, we decided that there was a decent amount of apprehension to teaching controversial subjects in our classes. To help foster discussion and to provide strategies for dealing with resistance in the classroom, we had Professor Sherryl Kleinman from the University of North Carolina over to conduct a teaching workshop. The event was well attended and promoted a lively exchange of ideas!

FLORIDA:
The Tallahassee chapter, in existence since 1987, will meet twice this spring. Our January meeting was both a reception for Barrie Thorne, who was FSU Sociology's first colloquium speaker of the year, and a showcase of graduate student research on education. Three sociology graduate students gave short talks about their research on primary and secondary education. Tara Stamm discussed her research on whether a new home computer, with free internet access, improves the standardized test scores of middle school children; Patrick McGrady discussed the causes and consequences of racial mismatch between teachers and students for white, black, Hispanic, and Asian high school students; Melissa Bamford discussed masculine culture, how it varies across schools, and how it affects students' academic engagement in high schools.

At our March meeting, Jill Quadagno will lead a discussion on gender and racial inequalities in health care. Many of our members will be attending the SSS meetings in Atlanta – we look forward to seeing you there! We also had a strong presence at the Winter Meetings with Santa Barbara on the cover; was the final issue under editor Leslie Hossfeld. I’m sure I can speak for all of SWS in offering praise and gratitude for her excellent work as newsletter editor.

I’m taking over as Newsletter editor, and making two changes right away. First, like ASA’s Footnotes newsletter, the newsletter will be issued online. In 2009 SWS defaulted to mailing the newsletter with an option to opt out. Starting with the 2010 membership form, this is reversed: default to announcing the new online issue, with an option to continue to receive hardcopy.

Our newsletter model is a holdover from the days before everyone routinely accessed websites. The second change comes as we redesign our website: some items that have appeared in our newsletter will appear there instead. These include, for example, paid job advertisements, and—in the members’ only section—minutes of meetings.

For the moment, the newsletter is a .pdf appearing online, with the new issue announced by email to all members. A third change I plan next is to convert the newsletter to true web documents and include “clickable” headlines in the announcement email.

Having never edited a newsletter before, I’m trying not to tackle everything at once! Thanks for joining me in this new era; happy reading, clicking, and sharing.

Editor’s Note
by Jessica Holden Sherwood

Welcome to 2010: You are viewing on your screen, or perhaps holding in your hands, the first issue in a new era of SWS’s newsletter, Network News.

The Winter 2009 issue of Network News, with Santa Barbara on the cover, was the final issue under editor Leslie Hossfeld. I’m sure I can speak for all of SWS in offering praise and gratitude for her excellent work as newsletter editor.

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tweet tweet!

Members of SWS are all over old media and new media. Here are some of Jessica Sherwood’s March tweets—very short updates, available at www.twitter.com/socwomen. You can also see there the people that follow socwomen, and the feminist people and organizations that Jessica follows.

#SWS member Tracy Weitz just killed on @maddow saying that abortion “is* health care, which 1 of 3 US women uses.


http://bit.ly/aGfTGL says over-teaching is “common mistake #9,” ratemyprofessors.com, and you can hire a nag! Who knew?

Congratulations to #SWS member Chloe Bird, now a Deputy Editor Elect at the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

#SWS sends its Distinguished Feminist Lecturer far and wide: http://www.carroll.edu/about/pressreleases.php?id=13224

*I* have a chapter in The Intersectional Approach - can’t believe I never linked it before! http://bit.ly/d7tnoY


#SWS member Michael Kimmel’s “Dispatches from Guyland” @MsMagazine Blog: http://bit.ly/anSMcO

Check out Ms. Magazine’s new blog...we have some SWS members who are among the bloggers! http://bit.ly/dDi1YK

Retweeted sobieraj :: woot! to #SWS member @jessfields for the great review of her book, Risky Lessons, in this issue of AJS.

Retweeted Shelia_Cotten :: Article in B’ham Magazine - my colleague Patricia Drentea and I are both quoted - the dating game: http://bit.ly/c1BEpd

New by #SWS member Michael Kimmel @huffingtonpost Flying Fat http://bit.ly/d1K5GD - democracy can be inconvenient. Tough.

Retweeted JessieNYC :: I keep a wiki of #documentary films useful for teaching #sociology here: http://sociologythroughdocumentaryfilm.pbworks.com/


Want to learn how feminists work across national borders? Read “Making Transnational Feminism” from #SWS memb MThayer: http://bit.ly/b0aJ1X

A 2010 #SWS Undergraduate Social Action Award winner is profiled here: www2.stetson.edu/pr/econnect/?p=467

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Congrats Flor!
JOB POSTING

Honors Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College

The Barrett Honors College of Arizona State University invites applications for a faculty position as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, or Principal Lecturer. The faculty of the honors college, comprised of non-tenure track Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, and Principal Lecturers most on three-year renewable and rolling appointments, normally teach three to four seminar classes of fewer than 20 students each semester. Most of these classes are sections of a first-year, two-semester interdisciplinary examination of important ideas from the earliest writing to the present. They are discussion-based seminars taught by the faculty from their different perspectives of natural science, social science or humanities. Special attention is given to critical thinking and argumentative writing skills. Barrett Honors College students represent the top six percent of undergraduates at ASU, with average entering SATs of 1320 and over one-third of each class are National Scholars.

We seek to fill a full-time, multi-year faculty position to teach the first-year seminar, preferably from the point of view of a social science discipline, but others in natural sciences and humanities may apply. The position begins August, 2010; the nine-month salary will be based on education and experience.

Qualifications: A PhD in any field of social or natural sciences and humanities as defined at ASU is required at time of hire, as is prior teaching experience at the college level. Experience in leading discussion seminars is desirable.

Application: Please send: (1) letter of application detailing teaching philosophy and experience, disciplinary training and research, and how your discipline can contribute to honors education, (2) C.V., (3) a sample syllabus for The Human Event our first-year seminar, second semester HON272/273/274 (samples can be found under faculty profiles on the college website), and (4) three letters of references from people who can address teaching experience. Send application materials and have letters of reference sent to: Faculty Search Committee, Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University, PO Box 871612, Tempe AZ 85287-1612 or electronically to John.Lynch@asu.edu. Questions about the position may be addressed to: John Lynch, Chair, Faculty Search Committee, at the same address. Review will begin on March 17, 2010 on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

ASU is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer in policy and practice.

JOB POSTING

Call for Proposals: Gender & Society Editor

The Publications Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society announces a search for the next Editor of our journal, Gender & Society. The Editor will serve a four-year term beginning August 2011 (transition from May-July 2011), and ending with Volume 29 in December 2015 (with a possible discretionary fifth year). The Publications Committee seeks an Editor with a vision and strategy for maintaining and strengthening Gender & Society as a prestigious interdisciplinary specialty journal. The publisher and organization provide significant resources to the editorial office, but the institution that hosts the journal will also be expected to provide support for both the Editor and the office. The proposal should indicate the expected institutional support. The proposal must also formally specify the details of the proposed editorial structure, including names and qualifications of all editors who will be actively involved in the reviewing and editing processes.

Gender & Society operates on an electronic platform (Manuscript Central) through which the editor manages all aspects of the publication and review process. It is the editor’s responsibility to work with the publisher to ensure timely and accurate delivery of manuscripts for publication.

A preliminary discussion of resources provided and expected is strongly encouraged, either with the Chair of the Search Committee, Jan Thomas (thomasj@kenyon.edu), or the current Editor, Dana Britton (brittn@ksu.edu). Members of SWS are encouraged to apply and/or suggest colleagues who might be encouraged to apply.

Applicants should send a cover letter of application including a vision for the future of the journal, detailed outline of the proposed editorial structure, documentation of institutional support, and curriculum vita of the proposed Editor(s) and any Deputy Editors by June 1, 2010 to:

Jan E. Thomas
Department of Sociology
Ralston House
Kenyon College
Gambier, OH 43022
740.427.5097
thomasj@kenyon.edu

Electronic submissions and inquiries are encouraged via email to thomasj@kenyon.edu
significant events: first and foremost, SWS approved a gift of $100,000 to the ASA’s Minority Fellowship Program. This program has offered critical support to young scholars of color whose goal is to enter the professoriate. Last year’s ASA president, Patricia Hill Collins, and Shirley Hill, are two MFP alums and point to the outstanding work of the MFP program. I am proud to have been able to support Shirley’s leadership in making this gift happen. It is tremendously rewarding to be part of an organization whose generosity of spirit backed up the opening of its purse strings!

A second achievement of Shirley’s presidency is the naming of the SWS Women of Color Dissertation Fellowship in honor of long-time activist-scholars Mareyjoyce Green and Esther Ngan-ling Chow. I commend also the vision of the Sister-to-Sister committee co-chaired by Marlese Durr and Marcia Hernandez for their outstanding proposal and leadership to make this happen. Mareyjoyce was unfortunately unable to be with us, but those of you who were present at the Winter Meeting will doubtless never forget the standing ovation the membership gave to Esther Chow whose intellectual vitality and generosity of spirit have been inspirational to us all.

Shirley’s leadership flowed throughout the year in the many meetings of the SWS Council as we discussed ways to help the organization run more effectively to advocate for feminist activism in the academy. I am honored to have been able to work with Shirley and look forward to her continuing mentorship.

The program occasioned other highlights as members discussed and debated the many facets of “Left Coast Feminisms: Reimagining Borders, Bodies, and the Law.” The range of discussions and the outstanding quality of the presentations re-energized many of us for our return to the daily work of academic feminist-activism. I felt buoyed by the tremendous generosity of friends and colleagues who gave life to a theme that defies easy explanation. Some asked whether “left coast feminisms” was simply a cute way of describing the West coast. Not so, the program committee members and I replied and the multiple meanings of our theme manifested themselves throughout the meeting. I hope that the range of the discussion showed that the concerns of the “left”de-center parochial regional interests in favor of a broader analysis that makes connections among women and their communities.

Left coast feminisms emphasize sexual, class, and race-ethnic differences that defy the tendencies of some social analysts to craft social agendas under the aegis of a gendered lens eliding important experiential differences into one. As a woman of color whose parents worked in California’s fields in their youth, and who were prevented from participating in many school activities and sometimes even school, I was raised with an appreciation for their struggles and unrealized dreams. But one dream their love and generosity helped make happen: my college education. My mother once told me as she took my hands in hers, “I love it that your hands are soft. Mine are hard and ugly so that yours can be soft.” She said this without a trace of irony but rather with love that her sacrifice could be gainfully built upon as I work and teach hundreds of students to
interrogate social hierarchies and devise social change agendas.

Intersectional perspectives that shed light on the resistance of working class and subaltern women across the globe and in our home communities are essential to authentic knowledge. Left coast feminisms delineate racial struggle and the resistance of youth of color, communities of color, and immigrants from the Global South. For me it was important to share with all SWSers the agendas of antiracist feminisms from coast-to-coast and internationally, concerning immigration, the increasing criminalization of youth of color, and contestations over conventional heteronormative sex and marriage.

The featured speakers challenged our minds and touched our hearts. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo reminded us of watershed moments in the struggle for immigrant rights and the backlash against democratic inclusion that would have our “undocumented” sisters and brothers live in the shadows. Her analysis of five different streams in the field of gender and migration was both enlightening and alarming. She discussed how research has moved from “carrying the flag” to situating gender at the heart of migration studies, including global care chains, sexualities, and sex trafficking. Left coast feminisms center on immigrant agency as opposed to victimization but without losing sight of patriarchal and class oppressions throughout international borderlands. In light of increased border militarization and continuing harassment of immigrant women, men and children, it is critical for researchers and activists to talk to one another more. This is so even as new fields of inquiry emerge to reconsider what promotes or impedes immigrant integration and the gendered aspects of their political participation and economic well-being.

Left coast feminisms explored the politics of same sex marriage in the panel organized by Verta Taylor and Leila Rupp. Kathryn Olivero exposed the sensationalist tactics of performance and embodiment within the visual vocabulary deployed by conventional ideologues where race and gender idioms are exploited to suggest that children and people of color will be harmed by same sex marriage. Kathryn decried the tactic of associating queerness with “social death” raised by images of gay pedophiles “masquerading” as teachers. Such sensationalist tactics seek to frame the cultural health of the nation as “at risk.” Katrina Kimport’s analysis of the different meanings ascribed to marriage by gender furthered our understanding of what is at stake in the minds of the larger population. Mary Bernstein’s rousing discussion of the politics of marriage and whether it should be a goal of the LGBTQ movement provoked animated and significant discussion. Finally, Nancy Naples analyzed racially gendered laws demonstrating how the intersection of immigrant restrictionism, family definition, asylum regulations and HIV status discriminate against gay and lesbian immigrants and restrict further the rights of same-sex relationships. This panel further enlightened us on the ways that visual and legal discourse, including law, seeks to reproduce white, middle-class normative forms of sexual citizenship.

Our second featured speaker, Nikki Jones, shared with a lively audience her research on the rise and some of the consequences of the intensified criminalization of youth of color, with a focus on girls. She pointed out that counter to popular belief, there has not been an increase in girls engaging in violence. Rather, girls of color, particularly in low income urban spaces, are preoccupied with protecting themselves and trying to organize their social world to avoid challenges to their safety. Nikki argues
that the need for youth of color to overcome danger pose important gender challenges that we as left coast feminists must strive to better understand and support. Nikki further argues—and I hope we all concur—that it is not acceptable that nearly half of the girls in secure detention in the U.S. are African American. Moreover, there have been dramatic increases in the arrests and incarceration of girls and women of color disproportionately for personal assault. She asked us, “what would a feminist do?” I agree with her that left coast feminists do not believe in the “hype” and challenge the mean girl/violent girl calls to panic. Rather, as feminists we are responsible for finding the real story as opposed to defining young girls of color as a nebulous “other” and for challenging the criminalization of youth of color and their families.

Other dimensions of the theme were explored within the roundtables, panels, and workshops. One of the constraints of the conference was the inability to be in more than one place at a time! Thus, I was not able to attend as many of the outstanding sessions as I would have liked, but I hope that the brief discussion of the thematic lectures and panel gives all of you a sense of the theme and how so many of our members are striving to make a difference in the world. The spirit of giving was particularly active in this year’s auction organized by Ronni Tichenor with guest auctioneer Sarah Fenstermaker which netted nearly $3,000 for the Mariposa Program of Santa Barbara. This program provides mentorship and support to offer alternative paths to empowerment and future success to young Latinas who are negotiating difficult challenges and risks on a daily basis in the local community.

The SWS Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship has been renamed in honor of Marey-joyce Green (pictured here) and Esther Chow.

CEDAW and the only nation that has signed but not ratified
- Only 6 other UN members have not ratified, including Iran, Sudan, and Somalia
- The US has diminished credibility internationally for promoting women’s right when we have not ratified the women’s treaty ourselves
- Women’s rights are key to achieving broad US goals such as reducing poverty, increasing democratic governance, and promoting economic growth
- Ratification would allow the US to nominate an expert to sit on the CEDAW committee, to which country reports are made, giving the US more international leverage on women’s issues
- The women’s treaty commits the US to work towards eliminating discrimination against women but does not supersede US law. Only Congress can pass laws for the United States.
- The treaty makes no mention of controversial issues such as abortion or same-sex marriage and would not commit the US to any action on these issues
- In the past, there has been broad bipartisan support in Congress on human rights instruments such as the
women’s treaty. Women’s rights are not a partisan issue.

Sample e-mail or letter:
Dear Senator,

I write to urge your support for women’s human rights globally by ratifying the women’s treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The women’s treaty provides a fundamental framework for ending violence against women, ensuring girls’ access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation for women. To date, 186 countries have ratified CEDAW. The United States is the only democratic nation that has failed to do so and places us in the company of countries such as Sudan, Iran and Somalia.

Ratification of the women’s treaty would express the firm commitment of the United States to women’s rights and would place our country once again in a leadership role on this issue. As it is, we have diminished credibility on women’s rights internationally when we ourselves have not ratified CEDAW. Failure to ratify makes the United States appear indifferent to women’s human rights.

Yet we cannot achieve our broad national goals without women’s rights. The United States is committed to reducing poverty, increasing democratic governance, and promoting economic growth around the world. Women’s involvement is critically necessary to each of these important endeavors so intrinsic to our national values.

I urge you to reassert the historic leadership role of the United States on human rights and commit to prompt ratification of the women’s treaty.

Yours sincerely,

Dr./Prof./Ms. X
Title
Institution

More information:

More information on the women’s treaty and the effort to ratify it this year can be found at http://www.womenstreaty.org.

(Tracy Ore continued from page 3)

“This is one of the most exciting projects that I have ever been involved with, as we grow not just food, but community,” says Ore.

The garden contains vegetables and fruit to provide food for the community and flowers for pure enjoyment. Ore has a passion for connecting food, community, and sociology; a course she teaches at St. Cloud demonstrates this. “Sociology and the Global Politics of Food” is a course that resulted from her increasing interest in food justice. Ore says that as a teaching tool, food is an excellent device for teaching about sociological issues.

Ore explains, “since food is something that we all consume, discussing the connections between food and things like labor, globalization, the economy, gender, culture, and the like is an effective way to get people to understand how our everyday actions impact and are impacted by things outside ourselves.”

Ore imagines her friends, colleagues, and students would describe her as determined, strong-willed, fair, and maybe even a bit stubborn. She contributes the work of a few individuals in influencing who she is, what she believes in, and what she is committed to in her work and life. Her mother influenced her strongly in the way that she figured out how to keep feeding and clothing Ore and her brothers after her parents divorced. She says her college professors, such as Don Luidens at Hope College, helped her to realize the passion she has for sociology.

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One person in particular who has made a significant impact on Ore is Grace Lee Boggs, “a Chinese-American author, anti-racist activist, feminist, and organic intellectual,” she describes. Ore met Boggs while working with Detroit Summer, a multicultural youth group aimed at “rebuilding, redefining and respiriting Detroit.”

“[Boggs] has taught me a great deal about strategies and philosophies of creating anti-racist, feminist social change and I often hear her voice challenging me to do more,” says Ore.

A very important mentor, advisor, and friend to Ore within sociology and SWS was Carla Howery, a former president of SWS and executive officer and director of ASA. Of Howery, Ore says, “I miss her greatly and feel so fortunate to have been influenced by her.”

Leading SWS is something Ore could not have envisioned. As she describes thinking back as an undergraduate, she says, “I didn’t have the ability to look much further than [graduating]. I never imagined going to get a PhD, much less leading such a wonderful organization.”

And lead she will. Congratulations Tracy Ore on being elected SWS President for 2011!
SWS Fact Sheet 2010: Women and Nutrition
Michael Haedicks Ph.D., Joanna Nichols, and Nicole Taylor, Ph.D.

This fact sheet presents research in three areas. First, we examine how factors that limit access to nutritious food affect women. Next, we describe feminist advocacy for a vegetarian diet and offer strategies for healthy vegetarian options throughout women's life cycles. Third, we investigate connections between body image, disordered eating and nutrition among women.

Women, Food Security and Nutrition

Low food security, a term that indicates difficulty in obtaining food sufficient to support an active and healthy lifestyle, is a pressing problem that has a disproportionate impact on women. In the United States between the mid-1990s and 2007, approximately 11-12% of households experienced low or very low food security at some point during any given year (Roberts and Feld 2007). In 2008, this rate increased to nearly 15% of households (Nord, Andrews, and Carlson 2009). The prevalence of food insecurity varies considerably among household types. Importantly, households with children headed by a single woman have rates of food insecurity that exceed 37% (Nord, Andrews and Carlson 2009).

Households that experience low or very low food security engage in "coping strategies" such as skipping meals, substituting less nutritious canned or processed ingredients for fresh ingredients, and seeking food from other family members or emergency food sources (Roberts and Feld 2007; Seeffeldt and Castelli 2009). Not only hunger, but also poor nutrition and diet-related diseases such as obesity and diabetes are associated with low food security (Winne 2008).

Barriers to food access affecting women

Low food security is not the product of an inadequate food supply. Instead, problems in food security are the result of social and economic barriers, such as poverty and high prices, that restrict some peoples' access to adequate food (Sen 1982).

Women in particular face these social and economic barriers. Feminist researchers who study the "feminization of poverty" have demonstrated that women -- especially single mothers -- are more likely than other demographic groups to experience low-income, irregular work and household poverty in many societies (Bianchi 1990; Brady and Kall 2008; Pearson 1978). Economic hardship is an important predictor of household food insecurity, especially if a household’s income is not sufficient to cover other necessities, such as rent and utility bills, in addition to food.

Feminist scholarship about families has also demonstrated that ideologies of gender place pressure on women to defer to their husbands or male domestic partners’ preferences in food preparation and consumption (DeVault 1991). This is in spite of the fact that women are usually responsible for household food provision and preparation. Preference may affect women’s food security and nutritional intake within the family by causing women to bear the brunt of food shortages. Women also reduce their own nutritional intake in order to provide adequate food for their children (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2008).

Surprisingly, little research has directly examined within-household inequalities in food consumption and nutritional intake. This is partially because research about food security often treats the household as the primary unit of analysis. This approach assumes that households pursue strategies that maximize the welfare of all of the members (Hartmann 1981; Wolf 1997). Additional research is therefore needed about how low food security affects different members of households.

It is important to note that women may not always fare less well than men in situations of low food security. Some women may have improved coping strategies as a result of better shopping and cooking skills than men. For example, the USDA’s Overall Healthy Eating Scores are slightly higher among females than among males (Basiotis, Carlson, Corrier, Juan and Lino 2002).

Food assistance programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (www.fns.usda.gov) operates 15 food assistance programs, several of which are important resources for limited income women and their families. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which was formerly known as the food stamp program, provides supplemental income to households in need to assist with food purchases. Program participants access SNAP funds through electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which they may
use at most food retailers. In order to qualify for SNAP benefits, household members must document that they meet guidelines pertaining to work and income levels.

The state-operated Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutritious food, nutrition education and counseling and health services to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants (prior to their first birthday) and children (prior to their fifth birthday). The WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program provides funds to support the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at certain farmers’ markets in 45 states (USDA also funds a Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program for senior citizens). WIC services are limited by the size of the federal block grants that fund the program.

The National School Lunch Program provides discounted or free lunches in public and private schools and child care facilities. Families with children who participate in the school lunch program must document that their income does not exceed 130% of the federal poverty threshold (for free lunches) or 185% of the federal poverty threshold (for discounted lunches). USDA also operates a “farm to school” program that helps deliver fresh fruits and vegetables from small farms to local schools. Other similar programs include the School Breakfast Program and Summer Food Service Program. The Child and Adult Care Food Program subsidizes meals and snacks for children in day care facilities, emergency shelters and after school programs and for adults in day care facilities.

Nutrients needed for a healthy diet:

- Carbohydrates: the main and most important source of energy. Luckily, most of this nutrient is provided by plant foods. There are 3 types of carbohydrates: sugars (simple carbohydrates), starches (complex carbohydrates), and fiber. Sugars are found in fruit, milk, and table sugar. Refined sugar is best avoided because while it may provide a burst of energy, it has no fiber, vitamins, or minerals and causes teeth decay. Starches are found in cereals, grains and vegetables such as potatoes and carrots. It's possible for a slimming diet to contain starches because these foods are very filling (“Basic Nutrition”). Fiber is found in whole grain cereals, fruit, and vegetables. Eating fiber prevents digestive problems and can reduce blood cholesterol.

- Women need about 45g of protein a day. You can get protein through a variety of nuts, seeds, pulses (peas, beans, lentils, peanuts), grains and cereals, soy products (tofu, tempeh, veggie burgers, soy milk), dairy products, and eggs. Soy is an especially good source (“Protein”).

Women, Vegetarianism, and Nutrition

What do vegetarians and vegans eat?

Vegetarians enjoy a wide variety of foods. However, this diet excludes meat, fish, and poultry and may limit dairy products. Lacto-ovo vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, poultry, but do eat dairy products and eggs. Vegans do not eat any animal products, which include meat, fish, poultry, eggs, dairy products, honey, and gelatin and sometimes refined sugar.

Why to be a vegetarian or vegan: A Feminist critique

Feminists have long aligned themselves with the vegetarian and vegan lifestyle. Here are some of the reasons: Radical feminists might argue that women and animals are both oppressed through a patriarchal system. For example, female animals are the ones that produce milk, eggs, and offspring and thus experience enforced and frequent pregnancy throughout their lives. In a parallel way, women are treated as child bearers instead of individuals and are made to feel guilty and inadequate if they do not fulfill this role (Adams 1994). Ecofeminists might note that a traditionally Western diet including meat and dairy requires up to triple the resources of a vegetarian diet (Singer and Mason 2006). Factory farming overuses natural resources like water and oil, creates top soil erosion, and causes deforestation and a high volume of greenhouse gas emissions. Ecofeminists connect the abuse of the earth to women’s subordination to men. Spiritual feminists claim a harmony with the environment or ‘Mother Nature’ and argue that we are not entitled to torture and kill animals just because we have the ability to dominate them. Rather, we should foster a bond with animals. Socialist feminists explain that both women and meat are commodified. For example, in the advertising world, women are exploited for “sex appeal” and animals are exploited in terms of taste. We are asked to literally consume animals and figuratively consume the images of women. Socialist feminists also question whether the normalization of meat eating in the USDA food pyramid helps consumers make healthy choices or just sells a product (Adams 1994). It is important to note that feminists and environmentalists do not all agree about the merits of a vegetarian diet (for example, see Klein 2009).

Health benefits and risks

A vegetarian diet may help regulate metabolism, burn body fat, lower total cholesterol and blood pressure, help protect against heart disease and cancer, and promote digestive health. However, a vegetarian or vegan diet may create a variety of risks (Taubes 2007; Daniel 2005). One of the major health risks that vegetarians (especially young women) face is Anemia, which is caused by a lack of iron. Vegetable sources of iron are not as easily absorbed as animal sources, but a good intake of vitamin C will enhance absorption of iron. Additionally, vegetarians and vegans should take vitamin B12 supplements as this vitamin occurs in animal products. Teenagers (especially those with eating disorders) may adopt a vegetarian or vegan as a way to restrict their eating (“Vegetarian Children”). Because of this, they must be encouraged to eat in a healthful way.
A healthy vegetarian and vegan diet throughout life:

**Pregnancy:** When pregnant, women need extra energy and should try to have about 350-450 additional calories each day during the last two trimesters, especially foods with protein. In the first trimester, "morning sickness" may be made more manageable by eating frequent, small meals. This is because nausea may be triggered by hunger. Additionally, eating dry toast or fruit during the day will maintain blood sugar level. In the second trimester, cereals, nuts, seeds, and starchy vegetables may be eaten to provide extra calories. During the third trimester, the fetus takes up a lot of room and may push on the stomach and cause one to feel full more quickly. It is very important to stay hydrated during pregnancy. Anemia is a common problem for all pregnant women, so you may choose to take iron supplements. Pregnant women should ingest more Calcium and Vitamin D to ensure the baby’s bones develop properly, or simply take a high-quality, pre-natal multivitamin. Choline, a nutrient found in toasted wheat germ and egg yolks, and folic acid are also important for fetal brain growth. While it is common for women to experience cravings or aversions to foods, it is important to try to maintain a healthy, balanced diet (“Pregnancy”).

**Infancy:** Breastfeeding is the recommended feeding method for infants although exclusively breastfed babies may need extra vitamin D. Vegan and vegetarian breast milk is nutritionally comparable to that of non-vegetarian mothers. Vegetarian moms need to make sure that they eat vitamin B12-fortified cereals and soymilk or use a vegetarian support formula, nutritional yeast, or a supplement while nursing. Solid foods should be started mid-way through the first year of life. Usually, young children will start to eat iron fortified infant cereals, then vegetables, fruits, and protein foods (“Pregnancy”).

**Childhood:** Toddlers need more than 3 meals a day, and should be fed nutritious snacks like mashed beans, ground nuts, grains, fruits, and vegetables. However, they should be offered a variety of foods and not be forced to eat anything they are determined to resist, as this will create food aversions. Caretakers should also be alert to the potential for food allergies to exist. School-aged children may enjoy juices, vegetables, fruits, dairy free breads, and baked potatoes. Young children have small stomachs and high energy needs, so they should eat more frequently than adults. Calcium is important for bone growth. Vegan children should eat calcium-fortified juices, cereals, soy and rice beverages as well as low oxalate vegetables like collard greens and broccoli. They can also take chewable flavored supplements, which may be more appealing.

**Teenagers and Young Women:** Adolescents may make poor diet choices like French fries or cookies, which have a high amount of fat. Maintaining family meals and avoiding tense situations around food is recommended. You can also try offering healthy desserts such as yogurt, soy puddings, and rice pudding. Menstruating women need more a considerable amount more of iron due to the loss of blood and may want to take a supplement (“Healthy Eating for Vegetarians”).

**Middle-aged Women:** Increasing the amount of soy in your diet has been found to reduce the levels of LDL cholesterol and increase the level of HDL cholesterol, or "the good cholesterol" and to reduce the risk of breast cancer. It is also important to take vitamin D supplements.

**Post-menopausal Women:** Diets high in animal protein cause the body to excrete more calcium. Conversely, a vegetarian diet has been found to reduce the loss of bone mineral, which may reduce the risk of osteoporosis. This is important because women are more at risk for osteoporosis because their skeletons are smaller than those of men and their bone loss is accelerated when menopause starts.

- [ ] Fats and oils: necessary to keep our tissues in good repair. Unsaturated fat is better for your cholesterol level and is found in most plants. Mono-unsaturated fats such as olive oil or peanut oil are best (“Basic Nutrition”).
- [ ] Vitamin A (beta carotene) is found in red, orange, and yellow vegetables like carrots and tomatoes, leafy green vegetables, and fruits like apricots and peaches. B Vitamins (except B12) are in yeasts, whole cereals, nuts, seeds, pulses, and green vegetables. Vitamin C is present in fruit, leafy green vegetables, and potatoes. Vitamin D is found in milk, cheese, and butter. Vitamin E is in vegetable oil, whole grains, and eggs. Vitamin K is found in vegetables and cereals (“Basic Nutrition”).
- [ ] Minerals: Calcium is very important for healthy bones, teeth and blood pressure. It is present in dairy products, leafy green vegetables, bread, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, and cheese. Iron is needed to fortify red blood cells and is in leafy green vegetables, whole grains, molasses, eggs, dried and citrus fruits, lentils, and beans. Zinc is in green vegetables, cheese, sesame and pumpkin seeds, lentils, and white grain cereals. Iodine is in dairy products and vegetables (“Basic Nutrition”; “Calcium”; “Iron”; “Zinc”).

**Eating disorders, body image, and dieting**

Eating disorders are severe and chronic conditions that predominantly affect women, who make up 90% of individuals with eating disorders. The National Eating Disorders Association (www.nationaleatingdisorders.org) estimates that there are ten million women and one million men living with eating disorders in the United States. A far greater number live with sub-clinical levels of disordered eating, problematic dieting, food restricting and overexercising. These disorders produce psychological, physical, financial, and interpersonal problems for victims and their friends and families.

Eating disorders are considered a form of mental illness and are often closely related to underlying mood disorders like depression, anxiety, or substance abuse disorders. However, it is important not to just focus on what is "wrong" or "abnormal" about an
individual with an eating disorder. Though it is important to rule out the effect of underlying and comorbid mental illnesses in the development and maintenance of eating disorders, it is equally important to take a look at the sociocultural expectations of thinness and to encourage young girls and women to avoid buying into unrealistic body images that appear in the media (Bordo 2003).

The emphasis on thin bodies, as portrayed in magazines, on TV, in movies, and in advertisements is far-reaching and contributes to women's dissatisfaction with their bodies. On any given day, 45% of women and 25% of men report being on a diet (Smolak 1996). Among participants in a survey of a college campus, 91% of women had attempted to control their weight through dieting and 22% of men report being “often” or “always” (Kurth et al. 1993). Additionally, 42% of 1st-3rd grade girls want to be thinner (Collins 1991). Hesse-Biber (1989) found 59% of women in a college population were controlling their weight through fasting, vomiting, and laxative use. These numbers are far higher than the 1-3% of women who could be diagnosed with clinically significant levels of eating disorders.

While it was once believed that body dissatisfaction was a phenomenon among white, middle-class, adolescent girls, recent studies show this is changing. For example, one study revealed that 58% of Black women and 72% of White women who participated thought that they were overweight, while only 13% in both groups actually were overweight. Similar results are found in Asian, Hispanic, and Native American populations (Smith 2004).

One particularly dangerous new development is the development of websites which encourage eating disorders. Pro-anorexia (termed pro-ana) and pro-bulimia (pro-mia) websites have grown in popularity. Though website hosts may attempt to discourage the development of these online social networking sites, newer sites spring up in their place with more obscure code words. These sites are often a place for fellow anorexics or bulimics to post pictures of themselves at low weights for inspiration to others, offer advice on how to eat fewer calories, and share tips on purging strategies.

Since thinness is highly valued in the United States, many parents do not challenge the problematic behaviors of the young women in their lives and may even offer positive feedback for losing weight or praise for their ability to refuse food. Parents may consciously or unconsciously want their daughters to be thin and may avoid noticing, or attempting to intervene in, situations where a girl is engaging in unhealthy behaviors. Valuing girls and women for more than just their bodies and questioning our assumptions about body ideals is an important way to begin to change some of these destructive patterns. It is critical that girls be surrounded by women who are comfortable with their bodies and enjoy nourishing themselves with good food.

Suggestions for positive body image awareness activities:

- Avoid fashion magazines when possible.
- Avoid advertising campaigns that promote unrealistic body images.
- Surround yourself with images of healthy and realistic women.
- Seek out friends who value you for who you are and de-emphasize dieting.
- Avoid discussing diets, calories, exercise, weights, and sizes with friends.
- Create a “no-diet” zone in your home where disparaging body comments are not allowed.
- Support companies who strive to change the paradigm of unrealistic body images (e.g., Dove Real Beauty campaign).
- Strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle and attitude toward food.
- Discuss these issues with people you care about and try to spread the word to young women.

Clinical eating disorders from the DSM-IV-TR

- **Anorexia Nervosa**: Refusal to maintain body weight, intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat, disturbance in the way in which one's body weight or shape is experienced. Diagnosis occurs when one's body weight is less than 85% of expected weight and, in women, amenorrhea is experienced for at least 3 consecutive cycles.
- **Bulimia Nervosa**: Recurrent episodes of binge eating followed by inappropriate compensatory behaviors to prevent weight gain such as self-induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, diuretics or medications, fasting, or excessive exercise. These episodes must occur at least twice a week for 3 months to be diagnosed. Self-evaluation is unduly influenced by body shape and weight.
- **Eating Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (EDNOS)**: Disordered eating patterns that do not meet the criteria for a specific eating disorder.
- **Binge Eating Disorder (BED)**: A type of eating disorder not otherwise specified and is characterized by recurrent binge eating without the regular use of compensatory measures to counter the binge eating.

Disordered eating behaviors/ sub-clinical eating disturbances

- **Anorexic behaviors** in individuals who do not meet 85% weight requirement and/or amenorrhea
- **Bulimic binge-purge cycles** that occur less frequently than twice per week for 3 months
- **Exercise bulimia**: Using exercise as a compensatory behavior to physically dangerous extremes, usually over 4 hours per day
- **Orthorexia**: Obsession with healthy eating that may become all-consuming
- **Diabulimia**: Manipulation of insulin levels to manage weight
- **Chew and Spit**: Chewing food and spitting it out before swallowing it in an attempt to avoid caloric intake
- **Drunkorexia**: An emerging phenomenon where individuals avoid food to offset calories consumed through binge drinking
- **Chronic restrictive dieting** (also known as yo-yo dieting): May include irregular eating patterns, emotional eating, and adherence to fad diets. Cues of hunger and satiety are often ignored and a person's worth is tied to their diet
- **Faking stimulant medication or diet pills**, specifically containing ephedra.
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SWS Members’ News

ACTIVITIES

Judith Lorber, Professor Emerita, Graduate Center and Brooklyn College, CUNY, was a participant in an hour-long radio broadcast for China Today on International Women’s Day, March 8. It was broadcast to Beijing, in English. The other panelists were Lisa Rofel, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, University of California Santa Cruz, and Julia Broussard, Country Programme Manager, UNIFEM Project Office in China. The overall topic was women’s status today.

MOVES

Danielle Bessett will join the Department of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati as an Assistant Professor.

ARTICLES

“‘It’s Part of My Being’: Demand-Making and Discursive Protest by Feminist Sociologists Inside Academia,” by Heather Laube in Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change 30:3-41.

In the United States, rights-based laws have opened major social institutions to previously marginalized groups, altering the terrain on which social movements act, creating opportunities for disruption, and expanding the forms protest takes. This research is an attempt to add to our understanding of contemporary protest. I use data from 50 open-ended, loosely structured interviews with women feminist PhD sociologists working at U.S. (and 1 Canadian) colleges and universities as a lens through which to examine contemporary protest. These in-depth interviews reveal that the demand-making and discursive protest of feminists in academia is rooted in the empowering intersections of their collective feminist identities and disrupts hegemonic practices in the academy and beyond. My findings indicate that social movement theory must move beyond restrictive notions of potential movement targets, activist locations, and strategies; and past narrow conceptualizations of collective action and movement goals.

BOOKS

The First Thing and The Last (Plainview Press 2010) is the debut novel by Allan Johnson. The publisher says: “The lifelong effects of violent abuse and the healing they necessitate are told with delicacy, suspense, and a veracity rarely understood well enough to clearly tell.” www.agjohnson.us


On September 11, 1973, Army General Augusto Pinochet, with the help of the United States government, orchestrated a coup against democratically elected Marxist Salvador Allende. Pinochet stayed in power until 1990. Steve Stern (2004) maintains that during Pinochet’s reign a reasonable estimate for deaths and disappearances at the hands of state agents and those in their employ is 3,500–4,500, with political detentions between 150,000 and 200,000, and torture estimates surpassing 100,000. By the end of the dictatorship approximately one million Chileans, or one-tenth of the population, fled their country to every continent in the world. At least two hundred thousand left because they were politically forced from the country while the others fled because the economic situation under the dictatorship made life unlivable. Canada was one of the 140 countries where Chileans fled.

They Used to Call Us Witches is a study of women exiles who fled Chile for Canada during the dictatorship. Specifically, it uses a gendered lens to analyze the anti-Pinochet solidarity movement organized by Chilean exiles in Vancouver, British Columbia during the seventies and eighties and the feminist movement that followed in the nineties. Within this historical framework there are several specific issues addressed: The roles and experiences of Chilean women in the solidarity movement; the place of emotions in birthing the movement; the power of culture to articulate and sustain resistance; the intersection of emotions, gender, and culture with respect to organizational strategies, and the significance of feminism and feminist activism to Chilean women exiles, especially in the post-Pinochet period.


Making Transnational Feminism takes an “ant’s eye view” of global social movement relationships, seeking to understand what holds them together and what threatens to pull them apart at this historical moment. Using ethnography, the book begins with two feminist organizations in Northeast Brazil—a rural peasant women’s movement and an urban middle-class NGO, and traces the discursive, institutional, and economic ties that link them across class to one
another and across national boundaries to feminists in Europe and the United States. The book offers a hopeful story of shared commitments, while also sounding a warning about the insidious effects of the market on social movement relationships.

The book is part of the Perspectives on Gender Series, edited by Myra Marx Ferree.


The Sociology of Gender: A Brief Introduction, by Laura Kramer. The third edition is published by Oxford University Press. This text provides an overview of basic sociological concepts and perspectives on gender. Focusing primarily on the contemporary United States, it examines the current gender system and the ways in which macro-, middle-, and micro-level societal forces have changed that system over time. The Sociology of Gender explores how race, ethnicity, and social class affect the meaning of gender. Recent events have been incorporated in discussions: for example, 2008 Presidential (primary and general election) campaigns, and the economic crisis of the last several years. http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Sociology/SexGender/?view=usa&ci=9780195389289

The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex, and Sin in the New American Heartland (Routledge), is a new book by Barb Brents, Crystal Jackson, & Kate Hausbeck, that examines the development of Nevada’s legal brothel industry as a form of contemporary tourism.


Joan Spade and Kay Valentine are pleased to announce that The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns, and Possibilities will be coming out soon it its Third Edition from Sage/Pine Forge Press. Contact them for a review copy.


Drawing from a wide selection of classic and contemporary works, the 58 selections in this best-selling reader represent a plurality of voices and views within sociology. In addition to classic works by authors such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, C. Wright Mills, David Rosenhan, Philip Zimbardo, Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore, this anthology presents a wide range of contemporary and cutting edge scholarship, some of which provides new treatments of traditional concepts. By integrating issues of diversity throughout the book, Ferguson helps students see the interrelationships of race-ethnicity, social class, and gender, as well as the ways in which they have shaped the experiences of all people in society.

New to this Edition

- NEW classics added to this sixth edition include Elijah Anderson’s “The Cosmopolitan Canopy” and Steven P. Dandaneau’s “Religion and Society: Of Gods and Demons.”

- More than ten NEW selections of cutting-edge contemporary sociological research have been added to illustrate analyses of timely social issues and the intersections between race-ethnicity, social class, gender, and sexuality.

- These new selections examine the college hook up culture, illicit drug use in rural small towns, homophobia and masculinity in high schools, the commercialization of Asian Indian culture in the United States, binge drinking among college women, Muslim Americans in the media before and after 9/11, increased deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and homelessness, sociologists and religion, urban spaces and racial relations, and changing American social trends.

- Back by popular demand, Donna Gaines’ reading on teen suicide, “Teenage Wasteland,” has returned to this edition.

- Several readings were edited for length to make them more accessible to students.
Sociologist, Study Thyself: Reflections on the SWS Membership Survey

by Shannon Davis and Patti Giuffre, on behalf of the Membership Committee

You remember her. She came to one of those Winter Meetings a few years ago, maybe the one in Las Vegas, or was it Miami? She was the new member, attending her first meeting, trying to figure out whether SWS is all her graduate school friends said it was. She attended sessions, went to the banquet, though she couldn’t quite figure out the inside jokes at the auction.

Or maybe you don’t remember her, as you didn’t get a chance to talk to her and she never came back to another meeting. And you never really thought about it until now.

Why didn’t she come back? Did she maintain her membership but not attend any other meetings?

Analysis of membership data from 2002-2008 by the Membership Committee revealed that there is a high “churn rate” in SWS membership. Many people become members for one year and then do not renew their membership. The most common pattern, comprising nearly 1/5th of the data, is a student membership with no renewal, followed by a one time $51 membership. A consistent higher earning membership ($51 rate) for all six years was only 5% of the sample. One of the specific goals of the Membership Committee in 2009 was to determine why some members do not renew their memberships. Using a survey of lapsed members, we found that the four most cited reasons that people do not renew are (1) accidental, (2) financial concerns, (3) technical difficulties, and (4) perceived elitism.

The 2009 SWS Membership Survey was conceived as a vehicle for assessing why lapsed SWS members did not renew their memberships for 2009. The survey was fielded via the Web during fall 2009 by the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Julia McQuillan and Amanda Richardson developed, organized, conducted, and analyzed the results and wrote the report given to the Membership Committee and to Council: Thank you Julia and Amanda! A list of 343 lapsed SWS members was provided to BOSR (10 people were accidentally invited to do the survey who are actually current members). The overall completion rate for the survey was 52.3% (n = 173). The survey consisted of one question, asking respondents to select among potential reasons why they allowed their membership to lapse, along with an option to type in a response not included on the list as well as other comments. To see the full report, go to the “Members Only” section on the SWS website.

Of the 173 respondents, more than half (53%) selected “accidental: I didn’t mean to let my membership lapse” as their reason for non-renewal. Just over 1/4th said that they did not have enough money to renew. The qualitative comments suggest that some of those with financial barriers lived in other countries, though many were students. A substantial minority (14%) said that they did not have time to participate. A small group selected “I did not get enough out of it” (11%). Very few participants said that they had had a bad experience with a member of SWS (1%) or that they had had a bad experience at a meeting (5%). Yet seven former members wrote comments that suggest that they either had a bad experience with SWS, or that they are dismayed about elitism in SWS.

Excerpts of two of these qualitative comments follow:

"Sadly, SWS has become yet another organization run by a few elite members. I have been snubbed, ignored, and left out of various committees, task forces, and meetings, both formal and informal, when I really tried to contribute."

"After a lot of years of participating in SWS, I find it feels more elitist now. This is no doubt in part due to the fact that I am more of an outsider now, but the vibe is palpably different from what I experienced for so many years."

The other main reason respondents allowed their membership to lapse involved technical issues. Specifically, former members reported many technical difficulties (e.g., could not renew on line, hard to pay fees outside of the country, the website log in did not work). Others felt the reminder system did not work for them (e.g., wanting paper rather than email reminders). A few people were also overwhelmed by the emails from the listserv.

The overall picture from the quantitative results indicates that most of the lapsed members are accidental and most were quite happy with SWS. While there were many positive comments about SWS in the survey, we have developed some action items based upon the nonpositive comments, including suggesting ways to facilitate renewal and targeted renewal efforts. This includes reminding individuals of the Three Year – Free Year gift membership program, as well as the low cost of gift memberships in general. Overall, the biggest issue for “churn” seems to be just forgetting to renew. It is quite possible, however, that the almost 50% who did not do the survey had quite different reasons for not renewing. For example, they might be so unhappy with SWS that they would not even do the “worlds’ shortest survey.”
As an organization, we hope to be as inviting and inclusive as possible to those interested in feminist research, teaching, and activism. We believe that the Membership Survey as an evaluation tool raises some important questions to consider as we grow and transform as an organization. How can we be more inclusive in our meetings and events? How can we retain students and new professionals (and the under/unemployed) - all of whom would especially benefit from the networking in and support of the organization - in this difficult financial time? We see the findings of this survey as an opportunity to consider organizational changes that might be occurring in SWS, and a way to start a conversation about these changes. Please contact any members of the Membership Committee with comments or suggestions about the implications of the report.

**Membership Committee:**

Susan Farrell, Chair
Erin Anderson
Bernice Barnett
Jennifer Caputo
Shannon Davis
Lisette Garcia
Crystal Jackson
Julia McQuillan
Amanda Penn
Kristen Schilt
Miriam Sessions
Tamara Smith
Gail Wallace

### The Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship Now Named The Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Scholarship

Submitted by Marcia Hernandez and Marlese Durr

The Sister-to-Sister Committee proposed that Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship be named the Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship to reflect the important contributions they have made to the organization, and the discipline as a whole.

The name change reflects our desire to formally recognize the contributions that Women of Color have made to Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) through their scholarship, mentoring, and service.

Both Esther and Mareyjoyce were selected for their work within SWS which reflects the mission of organization and their recruitment efforts which has moved the number of Women of Color within SWS from a few to many.
Stay Connected With SWS!

* Join for 2010, if you haven’t yet:
  Visit www.socwomen.org to join online or print a form

* Fan us on Facebook:
  http://bit.ly/FacebookSWS

* Follow us on Twitter:
  www.twitter.com/socwomen

* See the feminist organizations and activists we’re already connected with, and join in the online action.

To update address or contact information with SWS please log on at:
www.socwomen.org/members and click "Update Contact Information"