By: Manisha Desai  
*SWS President*

I organized our winter meeting in New Orleans to reflect upon one of the worst social and political disasters in recent US history and to show our support to the local communities rebuilding against many odds. In the spirit of solidarity our meeting was held jointly with the 7th Annual Social Justice Conference of the University of New Orleans organized by Professor Jean Belkhir. This enabled our members to hear many more local voices and meet more local activists. The evaluations note it as “one of the most moving” and “one of the best SWS meetings I’ve ever attended.” What made this meeting so moving for most of us was being there to witness the devastation wrought not just by Hurricane Katrina and but also our racialized, classed, and gendered society. The not so hidden injuries of race and class were still visible 18 months after the landfall of Katrina. Because I wanted this to be a meeting that engaged the community, one of the first events we organized was a meeting at the Asia Baptist Church in a community that is still reeling from the aftermath of social injustices. Mayor Ray Nagin who was supposed to be present at this community meeting was not there but Pastor Kenneth Thibodeaux who sits on one of the city-wide reconstruction councils with the mayor welcomed us, provided us with food, and enlightened us for an hour on the struggles of his and other communities and the difficulties that lie ahead. The major one being housing and bringing back New Orleanians from the far corners of the US. The Road Home program, one of the new programs supported by Federal funds is so problematic that it has helped only about 40 families, out of 200,000 displaced, to return. This rude awakening continued throughout the three days we spent in New Orleans.

**Plenaries**

The three plenaries were organized to bring together local and transnational efforts around post-disaster reconstruction. The first plenary on Friday morning included presentations by Brenda Robichaux, the Principal Chief of the Houma Nation in Louisiana and Fatima Burnad, a dalit activist from Tamil Nadu Women’s Forum and Society for Rural Education and Development, Chennai, India, who had worked with the dalit communities after the December 2004 Tsunami.

Brenda’s presentation began with a history of the Houma Nation in the region and their current situation. Her presentation emphasized that the future of the community depended on education that drew upon the native heritage and culture, which is being taught to the children through summer tribal school, as well as the education in public schools to enable the community to rebuild and sustain itself. Fatima Burnad began with a documentary on the impact of the Tsunami in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand. As a dalit activist, her focus was on the issues faced by...continued on page 3
This global women’s right movement has led to what Kardam (2004) has called the global gender equality regime, a series of norms, laws, and mechanisms to ensure women’s rights. But the regime is a set of primarily discursive and symbolic commitments made by governments with very little actual commitment of resources to transform gendered institutions and structures. Nonetheless, women’s movements have used these symbolic commitments to achieve victories at the local levels. But there is a limit to the global gender equality regime. Even within the UN system, we have seen very little progress in terms of hiring and promoting more women and committing more resources to gender mainstreaming.

I want to suggest that for the global women’s rights movement to be meaningful for a majority of the world’s women, it will have to draw upon the expertise of the poor majority and to focus on communities and institutions in which poor women are located. Because as Piven and Cloward (1979) noted in their classic work, Poor People’s Movements: Why they Succeed and How they Fail, poor people cannot change institutions to which they don’t have access. Most women do not have access to the UN and the global gatherings from which the global gender equality regime has emerged.

Petrice Sams-Abiodu — Executive Director of Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy at Loyola University in New Orleans and a speaker in one of the sessions at the SWS meeting — made a similar observation about the role of black men in New Orleans. She noted that while black men had very little connection to the market and traditional institutions they had strong connections to family and communities in which they lived. Hence, when the hurricane struck they responded as members of families and communities in trying to protect them.

The global women’s rights movements have for the most part drawn on the expertise of educated, privileged women from the global North and the South. For to participate in global meetings of the UN and even global gatherings such as the World Social Forum one needs to be well versed in a Eurocentric, professional culture, one that is increasingly dominated by English. To function as an activist in the global women’s rights movement, one needs an expertise — a familiarity with the UN system, its treaties and platforms, not to mention the ability to raise funds for travel — forged by highly educated women from the North and the South. This is not to say that global activists have not made efforts to be more inclusive. But given the structural inequalities that exist, their efforts have been limited by the ability of women to navigate the global gatherings.

Poor women, however, have not been completely absent from the global women’s rights movement either at the UN conferences or at the World Social Forums. They have participated in telling their stories, in bringing cultural performances, as well as their crafts for sale. But for the most part they have not been able to use their expertise and knowledge to participate in the discussions, which are carried out in European languages and in academic styles unfamiliar to them, or enter into negotiations with government delegates or other activists.

It is time for the global women’s rights movement to be visible at the local levels and to bring into conversation and struggle poor women located in families, communities, and institutions. In saying this I do not want to privilege the local over the global but rather suggest, that at any level, the kind of expertise we use, the sites of our struggle, and our focus will determine whether our victories are symbolic or affect the lives of women around the world.

1 In the US International Women’s Day did not receive much attention except from the workers’ movements and women in left parties. After 1975, when the United Nations declared it as the International Women’s Year and the ensuing International Women’s Decade from 1975-1985, it gained more recognition. Today many more women’s groups and Women’s Studies programs and departments mark the occasion by holding events to reflect, celebrate, and recommit to struggle for women’s equality and justice.

2 The term global is also problematic because while there are women’s movements in most countries around the world, they are by no means global.

The Big Uneasy...continued from page 1
dalit women. In particular, she highlighted how the government rehabilitation reproduced caste hierarchies and ignored women’s specific health issues. Using a human rights approach, Tamil Nadu Women’s Forum and other women’s organizations mobilized protests to ensure that dalit women’s health and livelihood issues were addressed.

The second lunch plenary on Friday included Juanita Mainster of Centro Campesino, a farm workers organization, in Homestead, Florida, Yamileth Mejia from Network of Women Against Violence in Managua, Nicaragua, and Donielle McGhee from Common Ground in New Orleans. This plenary focused on innovative strategies devised by women in these organizations to rebuild following disasters. Juanita Mainster presented the case of the tent city developed by women of Centro Campesino, during Hurricane Andrew, to house the members who had lost their homes. The tent city was designed by the women to include the needs of the community such as child care, a clinic, space to park their car and belongings close to their tents, and a collective kitchen. In collaboration with other women’s groups, women of Centro Campesino also helped each family and community to develop disaster plans using both Spanish and pictures and icons. As Juanita noted, they focus on harvesting the “genius of the grassroots” and developing people’s technology. Their tent city model has received several state awards and has been shared with communities in other parts of the US, Mexico, and Latin America.

Yamileth Mejia of the Women’s Network Against Violence in Managua, Nicaragua discussed a community model of healing that they developed during Hurricane Mitch to deal with natural and social violence induced stress. The model is based on historical, social, and human rights approach that deals with healing in terms of physical, emotional, spiritual, and community needs. The Network has trained many community-based activists to use this model and it has now been adapted for use in El Salvador, Honduras, and other Central American countries. Donielle McGhee discussed the work of Common Ground, an organization that started in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide relief to the community. Today its major focus is on gutting and repairing homes, providing health related services, and working with the communities to address environmental issues. One environmentally safe solution to the problem of toxic waste that the group has found is planting sunflowers whose roots absorb a lot of the sludge left behind by the hurricane.

The third plenary on Saturday focused on the solidarities formed in New Orleans and the challenges that lay ahead. Curtis Muhammad of Community Labor United and the People’s Hurricane Fund, Rosanne Cruz of New Orleans Workers Justice Coalition, and Margaret Prescod of Cross Roads Women, Los Angeles reflected on their experiences of working to build coalitions in New Orleans. Curtis began by saying that he still felt traumatized by the attempted genocide against poor blacks in New Orleans. This trauma had taken him to the memories of his mama, his grandmother, and how she and the black community had survived depression and racism over the years. Reflecting on those memories he noted the need for what he called “mamas laws” which are about nurturing and compassion for people as the basis for moving forward. His moving and eloquent musings moved many of us to tears. Rosanne Cruz discussed her organization’s work with immigrants, mostly Mexican and Latin American, who have been brought in for the reconstruction work. She discussed the issue of wage theft by employers who hired immigrant workers and then did not pay them for months and when confronted fired workers. Margaret Prescod discussed the issue of building solidarities among grass roots women’s groups in the Caribbean, Guyana, and India. She noted the two realities, which impinge upon us the lived reality versus the media reality and how the latter makes the former invisible to the majority.

While all the evaluations rated the plenaries as excellent, many of you noted the awkward meeting room that made it hard to see and interact with everyone in the room. That was an unfortunate aspect of what most of you thought was an otherwise good hotel with breakfast and free internet services though not enough space for chatting and schmoozing.

An Innovation In New Orleans
An innovation at this year’s meeting were the two film sessions followed by discussion with the directors. Women Make Movies, a New York based organization, ...continued on page 4
approached me, about screening one of their films and hosting a discussion with the director of the film. The film, *Desire*, by Julie Gustafson is about pre-Katrina race and class differences in the aspirations of two young women. Then Abby Ferber brought to my attention *By Invitation Only* a film by Rebecca Snedeker on the New Orleans old line Carnival society. Inclusion in this society is by invitation only and it remains one of the oldest and most controversial traditions. The film is from an insider’s view as Rebecca comes from one of these old-line families. Abby had used the film before and knew the filmmaker and both she and the filmmaker led the discussion.

SWS participants liked both the films and the discussions. I will be continuing this innovation at the summer meeting as *Women Make Movies* is located in New York City and many of their films are about women organizing for change.

**Continuing Traditions**

Along with innovation, I also continued the innovations, now traditions, of previous meetings namely sessions based on a call for papers, started by Chris Bose, and the breakfast roundtables started even earlier. The call for papers resulted in seven sessions, that ranged from Disasters through the Lens of Inequalities to Social Science Research Council Working Group on Persons Displaced by Hurricane Katrina to What Does Response and Recovery Mean for Women, to disrupting the Culture of Silence. The Career Development Committee and the Undergraduate Feminist Activism Award committees also organized sessions. What was note worthy about most of these sessions was that they were organized as workshops and hands-on sessions rather than traditional paper sessions. It allowed for more discussion and engagement by the participants as well as the presenters. We also had four breakfast roundtables, organized again this year by Mary Virnoche, to encourage members to present works in progress and get feedback from other SWSers.

Another continuing tradition was the Student Happy Hour and there were over 15 graduate students present who attended the happy hour. The Universities of Wisconsin and Connecticut, my new home beginning next fall, and SUNY Albany were among those that were well represented. Thanks to all the SWS members from these institutions for encouraging your students to come to the meetings.

The main business of the winter meetings is the business of the organization. So following tradition, we had two business meetings, two executive council meetings, committee meetings, a meeting for new officers, and the editorial board meeting of *Gender and Society*. In addition to learning that we are financially and substantively sound, we also voted on several important proposals. I want to highlight the two new scholarships that we have established, the Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship and the SWS ASA Minority Fellowship. We also voted to make the Feminist Transformation of the Academy and the Sister-to-Sister Task Forces into standing committees of SWS. Some of you noted that the committee meetings are becoming more goal-oriented and efficient. While others commented on low attendance in some meetings and the need to stagger committee meetings so that those involved in more than one committee can attend both.

A tradition that we have all come to enjoy and look forward to is the Banquet and Silent Auction. At the banquet, following Beth Hess’s lead, we all shared our professional and personal achievements. While the professional achievements were fairly predictable, such as defending dissertations and getting jobs to tenure and promotion, the personal ones were full of surprises such as the successful toilet training of children to running a marathon. The Palace Café was an excellent choice for ambience and food, though acoustically a bit difficult. We raised almost $3,000 for Women’s Health and Justice Campaign, a local women of color organization. We missed our auctioneer extraordinaire Carla Howery but we have new ones in the making, Dana Britton, Tracey Ore, Denise Copelton and several others who helped out.

**Community Tours**

I had initially planned on organizing a tour using a local company or through a community organization like ACORN. I was, however, ambivalent about wanting to witness the devastation and respecting people’s privacy. So I decided not to organize a tour and let people arrange it on their own. In New Orleans, I learnt that people were touched that we were there and wanted us to see the devastation so we could take the stories to our homes and remind everyone that they still need help. Many members took tours organized by local companies. But there were many informal tours given by the faculty from the University of New Orleans and the participants of the Social Justice Conference. I particularly want to thank Rachel Luft for organizing several such tours through Jefferson Parish, the lower and upper Ninth Ward as well as the other districts so we could see the geography of destruction. Prof. Jean Belkhir and Pastor Thibodeaux also organized vans to take members around the city.

**With Thanks**

As with any successful meeting, this one too would not have been possible without the help of many of you. I want to thank all of you for participating and helping in various ways. In particular, I want to thank Chris Bose for being there to answer all my questions, trivial and substantive. Jessica Holden and Candace Hindle of the Executive office were invaluable in ensuring that all preparations for the meetings were undertaken in time and the smooth running of the meeting. Thanks to Kathy Feltey and Rachel Luft for their work on the local guide to restaurants and entertainment. And special thanks to Jean Belkhir for suggesting that we host a joint meeting and providing us opportunities for engagement with the communities.

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1 Dalit meaning oppressed is the identity claimed by India’s ex-untouchable castes today.
Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) is issuing a call for proposals from persons (graduate students especially encouraged) interested in compiling Fact Sheets for the calendar year 2008 on the following topics:

Women and Size (fat studies)
Women and Environmental Justice
Women/Gender and Disability
Gender and International Adoption
Open category

These fact sheets will be distributed to SWS members quarterly via the Network News and will be made available on the web at the SWS web site. The purpose of these 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)
- Videos, Teaching applications

Submissions are due June 15th, 2007

Persons interested in submitting a proposal should send a one-page letter of intent within the body of an email that includes the topic to be addressed, the type of information to be included, expected length of fact sheet, and qualifications of the author for addressing the proposed topic to: Marybeth C. Stalp. Marybeth.stalp@uni.edu, Chair, SWS Social Action Committee. Questions about the scope of the topic or the committee’s intent can also be addressed as above.

The timeline for completion to be negotiated upon acceptance of proposals, decisions will be made by committee. SWS will pay an honorarium of $750.00 for completed fact sheets.

By: Marina Karides
Florida Atlantic University

The 7th edition of the World Social Forum (WSF) was held in Nairobi, Kenya from January 20-25. The WSF is a worldwide meeting of activists and activist networks, national and international non-governmental organizations, unions, community organizations, and secular and non-secular social justice groups. All participants agree to the WSF Charter of Principles that rejects neo-liberal globalization, militarism, and stipulates the need for alternative social and economic models that support peace, justice, and human rights. Participants arrive from all over the world—grassroots organizations and influential international agencies, Marxist, anarchists, reformists, environmentalists, and our favorite, feminists—join together to share visions and take action to make another world possible.


The WSF is not at all like an academic conference. The recent venues of the WSF have been a stretch of outdoor space spotted with canopies along a river in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the former grounds of an engineering company in Mumbai, India, and a sports complex in Nairobi, Kenya. To capture the setting of WSF 7, use your knowledge of that last major sporting event or large concert you attended. Meeting venues for various sizes of audiences were created throughout the sports complex—the stands surrounding the playing field (the playing field itself was used for provocative performances exposing inequalities through theater) were divided by large Styrofoam walls and each space topped with canvasses to protect participants from the hot summer sun. Other events were held in the surrounding fields, under tents, and in a smaller gymnasium. But the real excitement, was on the pathway around the central stadium where groups from around the world carried out protest marches in song and dance from a variety of cultural traditions—it was beautiful and a truly informative cacophony of social activism and justice, that not only provided an opportunity to learn more about the various struggles happening across the globe (through casual conversation with another participant as well as at events) and also to witness the links groups have made across nations and across issues, all which recognize neo-liberalism as a culprit. Individual booths representing many of the organizations in attendance were setup along the path. While activists strategized and intellectuals surmised the future setup along the path. While activists strategized and intellectuals surmised the future of the Forum, drums and song were always in ears reach.

SWS previously has had a presence at the Social Forum of the Americas, Quito, Ecuador June 2004, and the Poly-centric World Social Forum, Caracas, Venezuela, January 2006. This year for the first time, SWS sponsored its own event in Nairobi, “Revolutionizing Women’s Consciousness” or “Kupinduzwa Mwamko wa Wanawake” in Swahili as it was also listed in the program. Margareta Gacheru, a former activist and journalist in Nairobi and current SWS member suggested the topic of the event that was held in a small room in the basement of the stadium, around a few rustic tables we pulled together in the early morning. The scheduled participants included Manisha Desai, Nnenna Okeke, Eunice Sahle, and Lyndi Hewitt. Each woman reflected on how they became revolutionaries (life or death revolutionaries as in the case of Eunice Sahle, who was one of the on the ground activists in Kenya’s history of political resistance).

Participants reflected on “sites of consciousness” in their own experiences in becoming feminists, scholars, and activists. In places as varied as India, Sweden, Kenya, South Africa, and Tennessee participants agreed that women-centered spaces and educational institutions were critical locations for shifting how they position themselves in the world and their understanding of it. For some, radical teachers in early schooling nurtured radicalism, activism, or feminism and for others it was the setting of a college classroom. South African colleagues drew attention to the importance of alternative education sites in rural regions for educating women on their rights. Lyndi Hewitt, explained that for her, attending the World Social Forum in 2004 in Mumbai, India, was a truly transformative experience that shifted the direction of her dissertation work.

All participants in our event credited the World Social Forum as a special location for lateral exchanges of information and as Manisha Desai described, the WSF encourages us to rethink revolutionizing as an interactive process rather than as a vanguard process. In her discussion of women’s responses to post-sexual assault, Nnenna Okeke gave an example of why exchanges among women from different nations and different socio-economic locations (i.e., not all academics) are important. Northern activists have placed much emphasis on survivors of post-sexual assault as those who voice and act upon their experiences sometimes overlooking how silence plays different roles in various cultures and that women who choose silence or can’t speak out should not be distinguished as victims. The group also spent some time discussing the complicated relationship of religion to revolutionary thought and oppressive regimes agreeing that in our present world, religion has taken a new importance that requires critical engagement.

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World Social Forum ...continued from page 6

Preceding the WSF in Nairobi was the 3rd meeting of the Feminist Dialogues (FD), a location for feminists from around the world to share exchanges and taking on the challenges of fundamentalism, religious and otherwise. The first FD was held in 2003 in Mumbai, India as a follow-up to the Women’s Strategy Meeting held at the 2002 WSF in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Feminists came together to discuss their dissatisfaction with men dominating the WSF. In 2005 and this year in Nairobi the Feminist Dialogues preceded the WSF event to provide a space to consider feminist concerns and to collectively influence the forum.

This year’s FD themed, Feminists Transforming Democracies: Visions and Strategies, included about 250 participants who met from early morning to late evening, sharing meals and thoughts, breaking out into small focused discussion groups, singing and speaking to each other, to deepen and create a collaborative understanding and appreciation of feminisms and to share strategies and actions of women’s groups who act on and in the state, at the transnational level, and in isolated and deeply impoverished communities in regions worldwide. “Open Your Mouth to Fundamentalisms,” was the call of this year FD and participants were given pins and a paper visor with big juicy red lips scripted with the slogan to wear at the series of events the FD organized at the WSF including a march around the stadium. Fundamentalisms, a term less typical in US feminist discourse, is used globally to refer both to old fundamentalisms like religion and also to the economic fundamentalisms of globalization.

The first United States Social Forum (www.ussf2007.org) will be held at the end of June in Atlanta, GA! While many nations across the globe have held their own social forums, nationally, locally, and thematically, this will be the first national forum event in the US and marks a very important opportunity for the US activist community to join the globe. Various US cities such as New York and Boston and the Southeast as a region, have held their own forums, but a good turn out at the US Social Forum will empower our national activists’ networks and increase US awareness that there are alternatives to corporate domination, that classism, racism, gender discrimination, homophobia are being fought here and abroad, and that the US must join, even follow, the rest of the global community in making a new world.

Gender and feminist concerns are certainly on the agenda and you could certainly contribute to them so please consider attending the USSF or having your university or department attend. If you have plans or are interested in attending please email me directly (mkarides@fau.edu) and consider supporting an SWS event that brings feminist academics and activists together. Also, next year the WSF will not be held as a single event but instead as a series of actions to be held in late January. Look out for postings on the SWS listserv as to what these events are and where they are happening so we can join the world in struggle.

United States Social Forum
June 27-July 1, 2007 □ Atlanta, Georgia
www.ussocialforum.org

Contact: Marina Karides (mkarides@fau.edu)
or Leslie Hossfeld (HossfeldL@uncw.edu)
Sociology in the Streets:
Krewe du Vieux - New Orleans

Editor’s Note:

During the winter meetings, SWSers had the opportunity to experience one of the first krewes of the Mardi Gras season with the Krewe du Vieux 2007: Habitat for Insanity. The Krewe du Vieux is one of the more popular parades in New Orleans, bringing out the locals and marking one of the first festivities of the Mardi Gras season. Known for their satirical themes and irreverent style, it is one of Carnival’s most anticipated krewes with the hand-made mule-drawn floats. Tracey Ore, Jammie Price and Leslie Hossfeld found the evening beautifully surreal, bringing together a host of contradictory feelings many SWSers experienced while in New Orleans: the palpable tension between hope and despair. The three of us were fortunate enough to be granted access to the flat-bed of a truck parked on the parade route, giving us prime view of the krewe. We struck up a conversation with our truck-mates and found a former sociology student, now mortician, who articulated, beautifully, how sociology informs her life and career in mortuary services. Photos by: Tracy Ore.

Jennifer:
I feel that sociology plays a very fundamental role in all aspects of the funeral service industry. When I was in school in Philadelphia, my specific area of interest was gender studies. I find our cultural fascination as well as fear with death, especially in New Orleans to tie directly in touch with my desire to be a mortician. Coming from my background, I feel that I have the potential to offer not only more dynamic grief counseling but a chance to study, honor, and respect the final wishes of the dead. New Orleans is a distinct and beautiful city, with an amazing background of cultural diversity. I am very excited to not only practice in but learn from this city, especially as a starting point from which to launch my future. A personal goal of mine is to be able to travel to other cities and eventually countries to study death from both a sociological as well as a gender perspective. I have the option to get my bachelors degree in this field from UNO (University of New Orleans) after I get my associates from Delgado.
President Elect: Joey Sprague

By: Barbara Risman, Jennifer Glass, and Judith Howard

What an honor and a joy it is to author a biographical account of Joey Sprague’s life as she becomes the President of SWS. Joey will continue in our finest tradition of having an important feminist scholar give her time back to the profession by leading SWS for a year. Since SWS is the organizational marriage of a feminist agenda and professional sociology, it seems appropriate to weave Joey’s story around two of her many identities, as feminist and sociologist.

Joey grew up in a family of brothers and noticed early, and resented, the greater privileges they were allowed at younger ages. The early seeds for a feminist analysis were planted. She got a scholarship to attend an all girls Catholic High School, where achievement and leadership were cool and the call to out-populate the Protestants was blatant. During the anti-war and civil rights era, Joey was one of those hard-working activists who noticed that her breasts seemed to entitle her to make the coffee as well as the revolution. More compost for that feminist seed.

In college, Joey explored a number of social sciences, eventually majoring in anthropology but with equal interest in psychology and sociology. She had planned eventually to go to graduate school in psychology until her experiences in the workplace as an insurance investigator identifying possible fraudulent claims. As any of you who know how empathetic Joey is, would guess this made her uncomfortable. She saw for herself the workings of class power and the lack of class consciousness. And her intellectual approach to life had her constantly questioning why these workers saw their problems as personal failures when she saw the same patterns and stories being told over and over again. She saw the social pattern and wanted to understand why the workers didn’t. She took the passion to answer this question to graduate school in sociology, beginning the MA program in sociology at UW-Milwaukee in the fall of 1976. Cecilia Ridgeway taught her social psychology and introduced her to a feminist world view, including toward the academy. She also met Gary Brunk, the love of her life, in a sociology class in Milwaukee, and they moved to UW Madison where she entered her Ph.D. program in 1978 in the Class Analysis and Historical Change program.

Joey clearly liked having family members around her in class, because within a year, she had baby Jessica with her. And just as clearly, those classes had a major impact on Jessica’s life, as she is now a doctoral student in sociology at University of Indiana.

So Joey found herself in a competitive graduate program nursing her baby, and trying to develop a feminist interpretation of issues in an environment where that was not necessarily welcomed. Luckily for Joey, her faculty were having babies at the same time, and she found an environment where her baby was generously welcomed. She hadn’t yet developed a feminist interpretation of class consciousness, but she was living the bifurcated life Dorothy Smith so well describes, living the life of the mind while grounded to the body with mothering. Along with the first known playpen in a graduate student office at Wisconsin, she found her voice as a feminist theorist and political sociologist. We all know the ending of this story: Joey did, of course, create feminist interpretations. Her work centers on understanding how race, gender, and class structure knowledge. She has published on topics from epistemology, to disabilities, to teaching evaluations, to political attitudes, always bringing a gender lens to the topic. Perhaps her most important work is her recent Gender Lens monograph, Feminist Methodologies for Critical Researchers (2005). This is a work that should-if read widely-change the way everyone, even the boys, do sociology. Her current research focuses on how we organize and reward work inside the academy.

Joey didn’t become engaged with SWS until she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas, where she remains today, now as a Full Professor. It was as an assistant professor working toward tenure that Joey had her second baby, Amanda, whose presence brought more lessons about the gendered organization of the academy, as she remembers bolting backstage after a presentation at the Midwest meetings to hug a crying baby and, slightly later, expressing milk in hotel restrooms at ASA. We know, of course, that Joey balanced these worlds with grace and plowed ahead as both an important feminist scholar and an involved mother.

In graduate school, Joey had attended a few SWS events at national meetings, but knowing no one, had felt outside the loop. She came to SWS again, as most of us do, because of social networks. Joey remembers Barbara Risman going up to her after a presentation at ASA asking her if she’d have coffee, because Barbara thought that her talk on gender as a structure was the most interesting paper she’d ever heard at ASA. As you can imagine, with such gushing admiration, they became fast friends, and Barbara encouraged Joey to come to a winter meeting (then called midyear) in New Mexico. The rest is public history. Joey started our first listserve when it was just about 50 people with “BITNET” addresses (surely some of you remember those), served as social issues chairperson, and has been in the trenches for SWS ever since. She won the SWS mentoring award for her dedication to her own graduate students, fellow SWS members, and the profession writ large through her co-editorship of the Gender Lens book series.

Joey’s reputation as a good mentor started early, in the years when Jennifer Glass, Joey, Judy Howard, and other women graduate students at Wisconsin learned to mentor each other when there weren’t a lot of women faculty around to do so. Jennifer remembers seeking out Joey as a role model in her early years as an assistant professor, when involved motherhood and career seemed about as compatible as Superman and kryptonite. Joey reintroduced Jennifer to SWS after a long hiatus following graduate school, and they have been sharing hotel rooms, politics, and advocacy stories ever since.

It was the Lens series that brought Judy and Joey into much closer contact. Although they went to graduate school at Wisconsin during the same years, social psychologists and Marxists weren’t supposed to mix. The TA strike changed that. They shared picket line duties, which was a bonding experience during February in Wisconsin! They also shared the gendered consciousness that involvement in a very male-led strike created. It was the Wisconsin women who wrote and published the strikers’ newsletter. There was one strikers’ meeting the women decided to organize. It was the only one with a timekeeper, a true discussion leader, and broad participation. Another rung in the feminist sociologists’ ladder.

We’re so glad Joey’s leaving the trenches and leading SWS this next year.
Introducing New Officers

**Cindy Anderson** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Ohio University. She has been active with SWS since the late 1980s, serving most recently as Treasurer (2003-2005). Cindy does research on women's work in low-wage rural labor markets. Her teaching includes classical theory (the feminist version), sociology of work, and inequality. Cindy and her 5 year old son, Nathan, enjoy being outdoors, soaking up sunshine, and laughing with good friends. Cindy is excited about her new role and says, "SWS is my favorite organization! In addition to providing a space for feminist activism and intellectual change, SWS helps grow networks. These networks continue to nurture me, both professionally and personally. As Vice President, I want to bring others into our networks and ensure everyone benefits from SWS."

**Marybeth C. Stalp** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Northern Iowa. Her areas of expertise within sociology include culture, leisure, gender, and qualitative methods. Marybeth's published articles and forthcoming book examine U.S. midlife women's quilting as a form of gendered cultural production. She notes that despite the family tensions that can emerge around quilting, women continue to find joy from practicing quilting as a non-paid pursuit. Her new research explores leisure pursuits across the life-course, including the Red Hat Society, handcrafting and amateur U.S. bicycling (of course not all at the same time!). Stalp is an Associate Fellow at the International Quilt Study Center, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is on the Board of Directors of The Alliance for American Quilts.

**My name is Minjeong Kim, 2007 SWS Student Representative/Chair of the Student Concerns Committee. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Sociology Department at the University at Albany – State University of New York where I also received an M.A. in Women’s Studies, and was recently selected as a 2007 Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Fellow in Women’s Studies. I first met the Sociologists for Women in Society in 1999 when I was assigned to work for the Gender & Society office under the editorship of Professor Christine E. Bose. While I was working for the office, I learned a lot about scholarly work by many feminist sociologists and the dedication of individual SWSers and the organization itself to mentoring young women students and scholars, which also strengthened my feminist commitment. Based on my experiences in the journal office, I facilitated a workshop on “Getting Articles Published” in 2004 (Albuquerque, NM); in 2006 (Puerto Rico), I also presented a paper on my dissertation research on “Gendered International Marriage Migration: Filipina wives in South Korean rural communities.”

As a feminist student, I always tried to find opportunities to serve both student and local community organizations. For example, I first founded a group called “Outliers,” a Korean women student group, in 1999 and was the first woman president of the Korean Graduate Student Association at the University at Albany (2001-2). For various activities I organized and participated in, I received the International Student Leadership Award from the Graduate Student Organization in 2005. Also, for the past couple of years, I have been serving as a board member of a local fundraising organization, “Holding Our Own,” which awards grants to women-centered, women-serving community programs and organizations. With the skills I learned from these experiences, I would like now to make a contribution to SWS as a Student Representative.
Introducing New Committee Members

Publications Comm.

Margaret Hunter is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Her research areas include comparative racial and ethnic relations, skin color politics, and feminist theory. Her recent book, *Race, Gender, and the Politics of Skin Tone* (Routledge, 2005) compares the experiences of African American and Mexican American women with skin color discrimination. Her research on skin tone has been published in several journals including *Gender & Society* (2002) and Sociological Inquiry (1998). "Rethinking Epistemology, Methodology, and Racism: or, Is White Sociology Really Dead?" (*Race & Society* 5 (2002)) is Hunter's contribution to the debate about racism and knowledge construction in the discipline of sociology. She is currently working on an interview study analyzing the use of colorblind racial discourse among college students.

Career Development Comm.

Erin K. Anderson is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Washington College located on the eastern shore of Maryland in Chestertown. A 2004 graduate of Purdue University, her areas of concentration are gender, family, the body, and social psychology. Erin’s most recent work examines at-home fathers and their negotiation of masculinity and identity in their non-traditional family role. She lives in Chestertown with her husband-to-be, Jon, a middle school special education teacher, and their dog Sam and cat Phoebe.

Membership Comm.

Shannon N. Davis is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at George Mason University. She primarily teaches courses in research methods, quantitative analysis, gender, and families. Her current research has two foci: the creation of families and the negotiation of family life and the construction and maintenance of beliefs about gender, or gender ideologies. She has been a member of SWS since graduate school at NC State and has served on the Local Arrangement Committee for the 2003 Winter Meeting as well as National Liaison, Secretary, and Membership Chair/Treasurer for SWS-South. Shannon states that she envisions the Membership Committee working more closely with regional and local chapters on recruitment strategies, especially where individuals are members at one level but not at another. This strengthened connection will hopefully encourage renewed participation among SWS members in their more local associations as well.

Nominations Comm.

Diane Everett is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and a Research Associate of the Stetson Institute for Social Research at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. She became involved with SWS at the local and regional levels while a graduate student in the 1980s, and, in 1992, she attended her first SWS Winter Meeting (then called the Mid-Year Meetings) as a SWS-South co-liaison. The social networks that SWS fosters and the mentoring it provides have been instrumental in her professional development and in shaping her identity as a feminist sociologist.

Within SWS, Diane has been as the co-chair of the Career Development Committee and a manuscript reviewer for *Gender & Society*. She envisions SWS as an international professional feminist association that bridges differences and unites its members through their commonalities while working toward social equality and social justice through feminist activism and scholarly contributions. As a member of the Nominations Committee, she believes that creating such a vital community means reaching out to students and incorporating them into the organizational structure, relying on the accomplishments and knowledge of the “seasoned” members, and including members from a variety of institutions and geographical, social, and cultural locations.
Public Sociology in SWS

Improving Our Writing as a Prerequisite for Public Sociology

Editor’s Note:

Public Sociology in SWS is a regular column featured in Network News to highlight the work of SWS members engaged in Public Sociology. Please contact Leslie Hossfeld at hossfeldL@uncw.edu to submit an article describing your projects and involvement with various publics.

By: E. Kay Trimberger

On a winter evening in 2001, a group of Sociology faculty, grad students and visiting scholars associated with the UC, Berkeley Center for Working Families gather in Barrie Thorne’s large, wood paneled living room. Barrie and Arlie Hochschild have invited us here to engage with writer Deirdre English, a professor of journalism, on the topic of how we can improve our writing. Deirdre provides concrete examples of good writing from Arlie and other social scientists. Giving us specific guidelines for how to avoid jargon, write clearly, and use interesting leads, Deirdre stresses the importance of telling a story and creating suspense, the utility of active verbs and much more.

I’m inspired. To facilitate my desire to write a book that will reach a more general audience, I’ve formed a writing group with three other women; all of us want to move from academic to more popular writing. After hearing Deirdre, I ask myself why I’ve never taken a writing class; I soon enroll at UC extension in an excellent course in creative nonfiction writing.

I’m taken back, however, when a number of graduate students in the room - all women and feminists - react with skepticism and even hostility. “It is all well and good to write for a general audience,” they say, “after you have tenure.” They continue: “If we write like Arlie, we won’t be taken seriously in the discipline; it we don’t use professional language, we won’t get an academic job or tenure.” Later, I realized that these students were articulating what Michael Burrowoy in his 2004 presidential address to the ASA identified as the dominance of professional and policy sociology over sociology that is public and critical.

In response, Arlie concedes that early in one’s career, she had to -- and they need to -- meet professional norms. But she maintains that writing which is clear and concise can also enhance an article written for ASR.

Based on my subsequent experience, I think the grad students that evening were intuiting a larger divide between participating in the world of professional sociology and attempting to reach a broader public. In writing The New Single Woman (2005), I learned that improving my writing was only one new skill I needed to publish a crossover book. One enters the market in a way that the professional sociologist can avoid.

I had to learn to write a book proposal, find an agent, and discover that when a sociologist has new writing to say (belying the negative stereotype), an editor may think that the public ready to hear it does not represent a large enough market. Once my book was published, I had to work with a marketing director to publicize the book, to participate in media events and set-up bookstore talks. (I did not hire a private publicist, although many authors now do.) As teachers, we have some public speaking skills, but providing short answers and sound bites is not something we learn professionally. Crafting a short, pithy op-ed is distinct too, from writing a book.

For me, the most exciting and most challenging aspect of writing for a larger public was the emotional roller coaster involved: I signed with a well-known agent with big-name clients and then was dumped six months later when my book was not bought by any of the ten largest publishers in the U.S. At least I got a lot of free help with a book proposal, and landed a contract myself with Beacon Press, the only long-established trade publisher still independent of corporate control. This was just the beginning.

Even though I obtained prominent endorsers outside academia (Barbara Ehrenreich, Katha Pollitt and Vivian Gornick), I received no reviews in the elite media. I was scheduled to go on Good Morning America (and had received a plane ticket and a hotel reservation from ABC), but they canceled five days before. I learned that for the unknown there is no rescheduling. Some producer probably used a lot of social capital to push my book and had no more to invest. When I did receive some recognition in the mass media – articles on the topic which quote me and the book in the AARP Magazine, Psychology Today and Newsweek, and a long interview on Salon.com - this did not translate into increased book sales. And then there was a response that offended my feminist and intellectual sensibility, but was funny too. New York critic, Daphne Merkin, reviewed my book along with a new novel, Lipstick Jungle, by Candace Bushell, whose newspaper columns were the inspiration for the TV show, Sex and the City. Merkin’s critical, but interesting, essay was hidden in the September, fashion issue of Elle, literally buried under hundreds of pages of fashion ads.

What I had not anticipated was a positive response to my book from women newspaper columnist in “second-tier” cities, that were then syndicated and reprinted all over middle America. Columns in the Sacramento Bee and Cleveland Plain Dealer were reprinted in Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Florida, Connecticut, upstate New York and the central valley in California. There were also columns in San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, San Jose, Santa Rosa and in The Christian Science Monitor, as well as interviews on local radio and T.V. stations. The realization that I could begin to alter the perceptions of singleness in local communities all over the U.S. brought me great satisfaction.

I found it hard, however, to accept negative comments on my writing, when I had worked so hard to improve it. I knew I would never be a literary star, but was my prose “dry, thoroughly clinical writing,” or did I have “a choppy writing style,” as several journalists claimed? In my insecurity,
I forgot all the journalists who commented on the substance of my book, with no mention of my writing, or the one who said it was “a very readable book.” Nor was I prepared when Amy Traver in the course of a positive review in *Contemporary Sociology*, pronounced that *The New Single Woman* “read more like a self-help book or work of pop-psychology than one of rigorous social science.” Still a graduate student, Traver was clearly influenced by the norms of professional sociology.

I wish I had improved my writing when I was younger, but would I have been able to engage in this new public world at an earlier stage in my career, when I was teaching, writing grant proposals, building a women’s and gender studies program and raising a son? I doubt it. Would it have helped my academic career, if I had been able to achieve it? Unlikely. But times are changing. We now have *Contexts* to encourage writing for a more general audience and the attempt within the ASA to legitimate public sociology. Still, the differences and contradictions between professional and public sociology mean it is not easy for a young scholar to be accepted in the academy while reaching toward a larger public.

Sociologists who are serious about legitimizing public sociology need to make a course in journalistic or non-fiction writing part of the graduate curriculum. An ability to write well and an appreciation of good writing will encourage a transition from writing for a professional audience to aiming at a public one at any stage in one’s career. Those whose commitment to public sociology is as activists need to be able to write well in order to publicize their actions. Finally, better writing can only improve the public image of professional Sociology.

Sociologist Kay Trimberger is Professor Emerita of Women’s & Gender Studies, Sonoma State University and Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of Social Change, U.C. Berkeley.

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**SWS Cheryl Miller Award**

**Call for Papers**

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). The winner may present her or his work at the meeting. In addition to the $500 award, air travel to the meeting and a ticket to the banquet will be paid by SWS.

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION:** Applicants must be graduate students or have received their Ph.D. in 2006 or 2007. Applicants must belong to SWS, and may join at the same time they apply for the award. For a membership form, visit www.socwomen.org. 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. Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2007. Send three (3) copies of all application materials. (If possible, please print on both sides to save paper and mailing costs.) Mail to: Cindy Anderson, 105 Bentley Annex, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ohio University, Athens OH 45701. Please address any questions via email: andersc2@ohio.edu
DEFINING INTERSEXUALITY

Intersexuality includes a variety of conditions in which individuals are born with (or develop later in life) ambiguous external genitalia and/or a combination of chromosomes, gonads, external genitalia, and hormones that do not align as typical male or typical female. Recently, some doctors, scholars, and intersex activists have shifted to employing the term “Disorders of Sex Development” (DSD) rather than “intersex,” particularly in the medical context. Here, I use the term “intersex” as that is the term employed in the sociological literature.

THE CHALLENGE TO SEX AND GENDER BINARIES AND THE SEX/GENDER BINARY

Differentiating between “sex,” biological differences between males and females, and “gender,” the social differences that constitute masculinity and femininity (or male and female gender identity) have proven useful for feminist theorizing; however, conceptualizing sex and gender as binaries have been called into question. Further theorizing has conceptualized both sex and gender as socially constructed and has questioned the usefulness of the sex/gender binary itself. The case of intersexuality has been incorporated into these theoretical debates.

Feminist theory has identified gender as socially constructed and the two-gender model as a system that can potentially be challenged and disrupted. More recently and controversially, the two-sex model has also been questioned. Arguments about the social construction of sex have suggested that sex is not binary or immutable. It has also been argued that sex is not clearly distinct from gender; in other words, it is sometimes impossible to adjudicate between differences of “sex” (i.e. biology) and differences of “gender” (i.e. culture) due to the complex and interrelated processes of physical development and socialization (Butler 1990, 1993; Fausto-Sterling 2000; Grosz 1994; Laqueur 1990). Some feminist scholars argue that the preservation of the appearance of a “natural” sex binary serves to maintain the coherence of sex/gender/sexuality categories as well as perpetuate patriarchy and compulsory heterosexuality (Butler 1990, 1993). The argument that sex is socially constructed poses a challenge to the stability of the category of “woman” and the usefulness of the sex/gender binary.

Intersexuality presents a challenge to the two-sex model by disrupting the logic of the “naturalness” of two and only two permanent sex categories. In some cases, sex is literally constructed by doctors through surgery and hormone treatments. Even after sex is initially assigned, intersexual people may transition to a different sex later in life, suggesting that sex is not immutable. Scholars have noted that the analysis of social and medical responses to intersexuality illustrates how systems of sex/gender/sexuality are regulated. That a child born with ambiguous genitals constitutes a “social emergency” demonstrates that genitals are the essential marker of sex (and thus also dictate gender and sexuality) and the commitment to maintaining the appearance of the two-sex model (see Hester 2004; Hird 2003; Kessler 1998, Tauchert 2002; Turner 1999; Warnke 2001). Intersexuality has been a useful in feminist theorizing of sex and gender; however, it must be considered in the context of the lived experience of intersex people and their struggles with the medical establishment and the social meaning of genitals.

INTERSEX CONDITIONS

Blackless et al (2000) estimate that about 1 or 2 per 100 births deviate in some way from typical male or female at birth and about 1 or 2 in 1,000 births exhibit ambiguous external genitalia (see Sax 2002 for a higher estimate).

Variations of ambiguous external genitalia include: clitoromegaly (a large clitoris, generally defined as larger than .09cm); a small penis or micropenis (a penis smaller than .25cm is generally defined as “too small”); partially fused labia/scrotum; and hypospadias (the urethra opens on the phallus or perineum, not at the tip). Other variations from typical male or female include vaginal agenesis (absent or short vagina and absent, misshapen, or small uterus); gonadal agenesis (failure of gonadal development); gonadal dysgenesis (abnormally formed gonads, partially or completely non-functioning); and sex chromosome mosaicism (chromosomes vary throughout the body cell by cell). The condition formally referred to as “true hermaphroditism” occurs when a person has either one ovary and one testis or has one or two ovotestes (gonads that contain both ovarian and testicular tissue). See Table 1 for common diagnoses.
The medical management of intersex is largely based on the theory and practice developed at Johns Hopkins University in the 1950s and is often associated with Dr. John Money. It conceptualizes gender identity as malleable and early surgery as necessary. Although in some cases, genital ambiguity is a sign of an underlying medical condition (such as the salt-wasting form of CAH), in most cases, medical treatment of intersex is socially normalizing (rather than medically necessary). The medical model for treating intersex conditions asserts that males must have an “adequate” penis, generally defined as a penis capable of vaginal penetration and urination while standing. Consequently, most infants with ambiguous genitalia are assigned as females (this excludes XY infants with hypospadias, who often undergo surgeries to move their urethras to the tips of their penises). An infant with a large clitoris who is assigned as female will often undergo socially normalizing surgery to reduce her clitoris. An infant assigned as female with a small or absent vagina may have a vaginoplasty performed, although there is increasing support for waiting until adolescence to perform that type of surgery. An “adequate” vagina is defined as one that is large enough for penetration by a penis. These standards for acceptable genitalia have been critiqued as both heterosexist and phallocentric.

Table 1: Common Intersex Diagnoses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnoses</th>
<th>Chromosomes</th>
<th>Gonads</th>
<th>External Genitalia</th>
<th>Usual Sex Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turner's syndrome</td>
<td>XO</td>
<td>Ovaries (non-functioning)</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klinefelter's syndrome</td>
<td>XXY</td>
<td>Testes</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome (CAIS)</td>
<td>XY</td>
<td>Testes</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial androgen insensitivity syndrome (PAIS)</td>
<td>XY</td>
<td>Testes</td>
<td>Ambiguous</td>
<td>Either</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Ovaries</td>
<td>Ambiguous</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-alpha-reductase deficiency</td>
<td>XY</td>
<td>Testes</td>
<td>Ambiguous</td>
<td>Either</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: CAH also affects XY individuals, resulting in early or abnormal sexual development.
Sources: Consortium on the Management of Disorders of Sex Differentiation (CMDSD) (2006), Migeon et al (2001)

Intersex activists and scholars critique the current medical model for (1) performing medically unnecessary surgeries; (2) not obtaining the consent of the child (and often pressuring the parents to consent to surgery); (3) causing new physical problems as a result of surgery and hormone treatments; (4) reducing sexual functioning; (5) causing psychological damage as a result of medical practices; and (6) promoting secrecy and failing to be open and honest with patients about their conditions (for a thorough critique of the medical model, see Holmes 2002 and Kessler 1998). Those supporting the current medical model for managing intersex argue that intersex activists represent a small minority of intersexed people, most of whom are satisfied with their treatment; this is an empirical claim that is not supported by research. The model for the medical management of intersex supported by many intersex activists is outlined in the Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Disorders of Sex Development (CMDSD 2006). Key components of the protocol include: (1) using a patient-centered multidisciplinary team; (2) assigning the infant a sex based on all available information (not just the appearance of the genitals); (3) delaying unnecessary medical treatment so that the patient can decide when/if to have normalizing genital surgery or hormone treatments; (4) promoting honesty and openness with the family in order to reduce shame and stigma; and (5) providing the necessary psychosocial support.

The majority of people with intersex conditions do not identify as intersexed. The development of an intersexed identity has less to do with an ambiguous external genitalia or a combination of chromosomes, gonads, external genitalia, and hormones that do not align as typical male or female and more to do with the social and medical response to the intersexed body as well as participation in activist and/or support groups.

Empirical studies of intersex identity are largely based on intersex activists or those involved in intersex support groups (e.g. Preves 2003). What is known from these studies and published personal accounts is that the experience of being intersexed is often characterized by feelings of isolation, stigma, and shame, brought on by the negative experiences with the medical establishment (Chase and Coventry 1997, Dreger 1999). People claiming an intersexed identity have a wide range of diagnoses and experiences. They include those who have had surgery and those who have not, those who have maintained the sex/gender assigned to them at birth and those who later transitioned; and people who identify as male, female, as well as the small number who identify as both/neither.
INTERSEX ACTIVISM

Starting in 1987, intersex support and advocacy groups began forming in North America (Preves 2004). However, the beginning of the intersex movement is generally identified as occurring in 1993 when Cheryl Chase wrote a letter to the journal *Sciences* in response to Anne Fausto Sterling’s article “The Five Sexes.” Chase provided a mailing address for the (then non-existent) Intersex Society of North America (ISNA). Chase received a significant response to the letter and ISNA was formed. Although initially conceptualized as a support group, ISNA soon became an advocacy group aimed at changing both medical practices and the stigma associated with intersexuality. In 1996, ISNA held its first intersex retreat and started the ISNA website (www.isna.org). In October 1996, ISNA members picketed the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in Boston due to the AAP’s position on intersex management and their refusal to let intersex people speak for themselves.

The intersex movement has been quite successful in using media in its activism and has been covered in gay, independent, and mainstream media. In 1997, it was revealed that one of Dr. Money’s patients, David Reimer (known as John/Joan), a boy who had lost his penis in a botched circumcision, was not satisfied with Money’s initial assignment as a female (as Money had claimed) and later transitioned to become a male. This case received a great deal of media coverage, drawing further attention to the intersex movement (Preves 2004).

During its existence, ISNA has made a significant change in tactics, from posing a radical critique of medical practices to working within the medical establishment to change the standards of treatment for intersexed people. Tensions within the movement include disagreement about forming coalitions with the medical community and with the GLBT groups. Intersex activists have engaged in a strategy that employs both essentialist and social constructionist arguments; they have claimed an identity based on bodies that deviate from typical male or female, but at the same time, they argue that genitals should not dictate sex/gender identity (Foster 2004; Turner 1999).

The intersex movement has been somewhat successful in changing the medical practices engaged in by some doctors; however, surgery and other medical treatments for intersexed people are still the norm. Going forward, the goals of the intersex movement include supporting intersexed people, educating society about intersex issues, continuing to work toward eliminating the stigma associated with intersexuality, and changing medial practices, with the particular goal of preventing unnecessary surgery on infants and children.

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome Support Group (AISSG) http://www.aissgusa.org
Bodies Like Ours http://www.bodieslikeours.org/
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Education & Support (CARES) Foundation http://www.caresfoundation.org
Hypospadias and Epispadias Association (HEA) http://www.heainfo.org
Intersex Initiative http://intersexinitiative.org/
Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) http://www.isna.org/
The Magic Foundation http://www.magicfoundation.org
MRKH Organization http://www.mrhk.org
XY Turner http://www.xvxo.org

VIDEOS

TEACHING ABOUT INTERSEXUALITY AND INTERSEXED PEOPLE

A guide for teaching is offered by the ISNA via their website. Koyama (2003) and Koyama and Weasel (2002) provide excellent advice for teaching about intersexuality and intersexed people.

REFERENCES


Editor’s Note:

With the Spring issue of Network News, we pause to reflect on the past year of ASA President Cynthia Epstein’s contributions to feminist scholarship and her influence on our discipline. Epstein, a long-time SWS member, provided a presidential stage to emphasize the importance of gender analyses in sociological research. With the theme The Great Divides: Transgressing Boundaries, Epstein brought to the ASA meetings in Montreal prominent feminist leaders who have transgressed incredible boundaries: Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and feminist activist and author, Gloria Steinem. In her own Presidential Address, Cynthia called on all sociologists to consider gender issues in their studies to better understand the major institutions and social relationships in society. We are proud and honored to salute one of our own and thank Cynthia for her dedication to the vision of SWS. Below are excerpts from Judith Lorber’s article on Cynthia which appeared in Footnotes in September 2005 and from Cynthia’s Presidential Address which appeared in February 2007 issue of American Sociological Review. We would like to thank the editors of ASR and Footnotes, as well as Judith Lorber and Carla Howery as ASR, for permission to reprint portions of these articles. Congratulations, Cynthia, on a distinguished career as a leader in feminist scholarship and activism.

Excerpts from an article by Judith Lorber

First Appearing in Footnotes 2005

As a student in college, and even before, Cynthia was aware of the processes that defined groups of people as “other.” Her grandfather was an uneducated shoemaker in Poland at the time of Russian pogroms against Jews. The family emigrated to the United States in stages, and grew up in the back of their father’s shop on the lower East Side of New York City.

Cynthia’s father graduated from Stuyvesant High School and had one year of college, where he became a socialist. He outgrew some of his early idealism about the possibility of creating an egalitarian society, but he was an untiring worker in the reform wing of the Democratic Party until his death at the age of 91.

Cynthia participated in a Zionist youth group that subscribed to the socialist ideals of the Israeli kibbutz, which also had the idealistic goal (not always achieved) of gender equality. Cynthia’s parents sent her to Antioch College in Ohio, a place known for its liberal politics. During slavery, it was a refuge on the Underground Railroad that sent runaway slaves to non-slave terri-
result, they had flat rather than upwardly mobile careers.

Using Merton’s theories of status sets and opportunity structures, Cynthia’s dissertation analyzed the factors that contributed to professional women’s inclusion and exclusion. She focused on women lawyers, who were rare and thus constituted a deviant case. They were survivors of a system that was generally hostile to women. Men leaders of all elite professions at the time were clear and vociferous about their antipathy towards women and imposed quotas on their admission to law school and medical school. Once out of school, gatekeepers who recruited lawyers from the largest to the smallest firms, in government work and in corporations, for the most part refused to hire women. (Remember that Sandra Day O’Connor was only offered work as a secretary.) Cynthia decided to examine a sample of the few who circumvented the prevalent gender discrimination.

Feminist activism

While Cynthia was working on her dissertation, she met Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique*, which attacked the prevailing sociological idea that the father-headed, wife-at-home family was the best for society. In 1966, Cynthia joined Friedan and other academic and professional women in the formation of the National Organization for Women in New York City. She was also active in several of the fledgling professional women’s groups springing up in response to the women’s movement, such as the Professional Women’s Caucus and Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS).

As an activist and a scholar, Cynthia participated in various hearings on gender discrimination. She testified at the newly formed Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC), which was establishing guidelines to interpret Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Her testimony dealt with the consequences of permitting “help wanted” advertisements in newspapers to be divided by gender. She continued to write and speak of the difficulties women faced as recruits to professions dominated by men and getting ahead in them without the benefit of networks, mentors, and sponsors.

Over the years, Cynthia served as a consultant to the White House under two administrations, and at the National Academy of Sciences on the Committee on Women's Employment. She was a consultant to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and General Motors and with Kai Erikson, conducted a research project on the workplace culture at AT&T and its impact on attempts to change gender and racial occupational segregation. She was also an expert witness about their antipathy towards women and imposed quotas on their admission to law school and medical school. Once out of school, gatekeepers who recruited lawyers from the largest to the smallest firms, in government work and in corporations, for the most part refused to hire women. (Remember that Sandra Day O’Connor was only offered work as a secretary.) Cynthia decided to examine a sample of the few who circumvented the prevalent gender discrimination.

Sociologists historically have been committed to social change to achieve greater equality in the world, in both public and private lives. . . . In this address, I challenge our profession to take this responsibility in our scholarship and our professional lives; to observe, to reveal, and to strike down the conceptual and cultural walls that justify inequality on the basis of sex in all of society’s institutions – to transgress this ever-present boundary – for the sake of knowledge and justice.

Cynthia Fuchs Epstein
Presidential Address to the American Sociological Association, Montreal 2006

A non-stop career

Cynthia’s first book, *Women's Place: Option and Limits on Professional Careers*, published in 1971, was groundbreaking in that it located women's professional advancement in the structures of opportunities offered them, the organizational limits placed on their ambitions, and the recognition and reward of their accomplishments. In expanding the concepts of master status and social structures to include gender, her work made a crucial connection between traditional sociology and the emerging field of women's studies. Her second book, *Women In Law*, published in 1981, gave solid empirical evidence about how these processes shaped women lawyers' careers. She received the 1981 Scribe's Book Award and the Merit Award of the American Bar Association for Women In Law.

Cynthia’s first post-graduate study was of Black professional women. Cynthia interviewed a snowball sample of Black women lawyers, doctors, and business women about the factors that contributed to their unusual attainments in a doubly discriminatory society. The paper from this study, "Positive Effects of the Multiple Negative: Explaining the Success of Black Professional Women," was published in the American Journal of Sociology in 1973. The findings showed how these few African-American lawyers, doctors and business managers surmounted the odds and worked as professional achievers. Some found opportunity in the “protected settings” of government jobs and black institutions. And respondents in the study suggested that their two disadvantaged statuses cancelled each other out. In an attempt to fill equal opportunity goals on the cheap, an employer could claim double credit for having a woman and an African-American -- who was the same person. As several Black women lawyers explained, they were “twofer.” Thus, a very small number of gifted women managed to climb the career ladder in spite of, or perhaps because of, a set of twin prejudices and the changing ethos demanding that institutions diversify their workforces.

The studies of women in professional life led Cynthia to explore the dynamics of stereotyping in all spheres of society. Focusing on the social construction of boundaries—especially those that result in binary distinctions -- Cynthia assessed a wide swath of social science studies and explored the underpinnings of what she called *Deceptive Distinctions*, the title of the book published in 1988.
In the 1990s, because of her experience in studying women lawyers, Cynthia was invited by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York’s Committee on the Status of Women to conduct research that would shed light on why women’s professional careers came to a halt in mid-stream. With the Committee’s financial and professional support, Cynthia fielded a study of women’s mobility in eight large private corporate law firms. This study found that women were no longer questioned about their intellectual competence as they had been in earlier years, but that men in power had questions about their image and interpersonal competence in the evaluation for partnership. Women were often out of the loop in the referral of clients from older men partners, which was the way associates were given the social capital to “make rain”—that is, to get business for the firm—a crucial element in evaluation for partnership. Women also faced the dual burden of an escalation of hours at work through new and higher levels of billable hours, and also greater pressure to be a hands-on mother. There was still the stereotype that women had a different “style” of relating to clients, even though both the women and men lawyers exhibited many different interpersonal styles and personalities. All these factors contributed to the well-known “glass ceiling” effect—women never reaching the top echelons of their professions. Women In Law was reissued in 1993 with an update on the glass ceiling in the legal profession.

In 1994, Cynthia was invited to confer with the vice-president of the Alfred Sloan Foundation, Hirsh Cohen, who thought that flexible and part-time work might stem the loss of trained and talented professional workers because of the pressures of time in their workplaces. Cynthia and her co-researchers, Carroll Seron, Robert Saute, and Bonnie Og lensky, found that less than three percent of lawyers in the firms they studied chose available part-time work schedules because those who did were seen as having less commitment and were given less important work to do. In short, lawyers who worked part-time (often working as long as most other workers’ full-time schedules) suffered from stigmatization. Furthermore, part-time employment was usually granted only to women with children, and so the few men who attempted to take such schedules found themselves even more stigmatized than women, both at work and in their home communities. It was clear that norms at work and in the society supported the idea that women might legitimately work less than men at the same professional level, but they would pay for it by being bumped off an upward career track. The book published in 1999 from this research is The Part-time Paradox: Time Norms, Professional Life, Family and Gender.

Considering time as a construct and analyzing its social meaning is a further spin-off from the research Cynthia has conducted on gender issues in the law. Her current conceptual work integrates time with other indicators and considers the way it is used to maintain gender and other role and status distinctions. Time, she says, is a social control mechanism that maintains boundaries. Her latest paper, “Border Crossings: The Constraints of Time Norms in Transgressions of Gender and Professional Roles,” published in 2004, examines how role transgressions are inhibited by time norms that order priorities for people in certain categories, such as mothers and doctors. It looks at the ways in which time ideologies (the professions as “greedy institutions”) and gender ideologies (women as caretakers of the family) restrict social change.

**Distinguished in so many ways**

Cynthia has been Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center since 1990. Among the many places in the United States and internationally that she has been a visiting professor or scholar are the Russell Sage Foundation and the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Stanford and Columbia Law Schools. She was also a Guggenheim Fellow. Cynthia was president of the Eastern Sociological Society and chair of the ASA Occupations and Organizations, Culture, and Sex and Gender Sections. She has received numerous professional awards, among them, the ESS Merit Award, the ASA Jessie Bernard Award, and the first Sex and Gender Section award for distinguished contribution to gender scholarship.
African American Families
By Angela Hattery and Earl Smith
Sage, 2007

*African American Families* provides a systematic sociological study of contemporary life for families of African descent living in the United States. Analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, authors Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith identify the structural barriers that African Americans face in their attempts to raise their children and create loving, healthy, and raise the children of the next generation. The authors use the lens provided by the race, class, and gender paradigm with examples which illustrate the ways in which multiple systems of oppression interact with patterns of self-defeating behavior to create barriers that deny many African Americans access to the American dream. The book addresses issues not fully or adequately addressed in previous books on Black families, which include personal responsibility and disproportionately high rates of incarceration, family violence, and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS. The authors weave personal stories based on interviews they have conducted into the usual data from scholarly literature and from U.S. Census Bureau reports. They provide several illustrations from Hurricane Katrina: A contemporary analysis of a recent disaster demonstrates many of the issues presented in the book such as housing segregation and predatory lending practices.

By Kris Paap
Cornell University Press, 2007

Kris Paap worked for nearly three years as a carpenter's apprentice on a variety of jobsites, closely observing her colleagues' habits, expressions, and attitudes. As a woman in an overwhelmingly male-and stereotypically "macho"-profession, Paap uses her experiences to reveal the ways that gender, class, and race interact in the construction industry. She shows how the stereotypes of construction workers and their overt displays of sexism, racism, physical strength, and homophobia are not "just how they are," but rather culturally and structurally mandated enactments of what it means to be a man and a worker in America. The significance of these worker performances is particularly clear in relation to occupational safety: when the pressures for demonstrating physical masculinity are combined with a lack of protection from firing, workers are forced to ignore safety procedures in order to prove whether male or female—that they are "man enough" to do the job. Thus these mandated performances have real, and sometimes deadly, consequences for individuals, the entire working class, and the strength of the union movement. Paap concludes that machismo separates the white male construction workers from their natural political allies, increases their risks on the job, plays to management's interests, lowers their overall social status, and undercuts the effectiveness of their union.

Making Sense of Race, Class, and Gender: Commonsense, Power, and Privilege in the United States
By Celine-Marie Pascale
Routledge, 2007

*Making Sense of Race, Class, and Gender* focuses on how these categories are culturally produced as matters of "commonsense." Using arresting case studies of how ordinary people understand the concepts of race, class, and gender, Celine-Marie Pascale shows that the peculiarity of commonsense is that it imposes obviousness—that which we cannot fail to recognize. What sets commonsense knowledge apart from other forms of knowledge is its extraordinary ability to eclipse competing accounts of reality. As a result, how we negotiate the challenges of inequality in the 21st century may depend less on what people consciously think about “difference” and more on what we inadvertently assume. As well, Pascale demonstrates the productive force of language. By drawing from ethnomethodological and poststructural sensibilities to analyze local practices within the context of established cultural discourses, she shows how the weight of history bears upon the present moment, both enabling and constraining possibilities. Pascale develops a sociological analysis of language and representation that pushes the formal boundary between social theory and empirical analyses as she brings fresh insights into the (re)production of culture, knowledge and power. By exploring the assumptions of commonsense knowledge, the book offers new avenues for conceptualizing social change.

The New Single Woman
By E. Kay Trimberger
Beacon Press 2006 (paper)

E. Kay Trimberger tackles one of the largest social phenomena of our times: the increasing number of single women over 35. Drawing on the diverse personal stories of long-term single women, including herself, Trimberger explores the idea that fulfillment comes only through finding a soul mate. The new single woman rejects the cultural pressure to couple and unabashedly lives a fulfilling single life, one where she is not on her own, not defined primarily by self-reliance, but by her skills at creating friendships and her ability to link networks of friends into a community. Trimberger's analysis opens up new alternatives for the "good life," and speaks to the anxieties of single women in their twenties and early thirties. The book's argument that married/coupled women and single women (including bisexuals and lesbians) are not different or in competition, but rather at opposite ends of a continuum that comprises many women in-between is a paradigm-shifting notion - one that ultimately strengthens and enriches both single women and couples. Networks of friends and extended family sustain single women, link them to coupled women and offer security to both. Fascinating personal accounts of how single women's lives evolve over time, combined with incisive observations and trenchant analysis, provide a new cultural road map for creating a satisfying and meaningful single life.
A third generation Japanese American, I was born in and spent my earliest years in concentration camps in Gila, Arizona and Heart Mountain, Wyoming. I lived mostly with my maternal grandparents who had been farm workers on a ranch in the Sacramento Delta. After World War II, my parents relocated to Chicago, where my father found employment in a trailer factory. We lived in a largely Jewish neighborhood on the north side. For several years we lived in two rooms in a building that also housed my grandparents and assorted aunts, uncles, and cousins. I attended public schools through the 10th grade, when my father decided it was time to return to “kashu” (California) in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he was born and raised. I completed high school in Oakland, and then attended UC Berkeley. I then moved (with my husband-to-be) to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend graduate school at Harvard. In all these settings, other than in my pre-school years, I felt myself out of place, on class, gender, and/or ethnic-racial grounds. I thought I would feel comfortable in California because of the presence of many other Japanese and other Asian Americans, but in fact, because of having grown up in a largely Jewish environment I felt “different” from Asian Americans who had spent their lives in California and hung out only with other Asians. These geographic and social shifts and my feeling of “outsiderness” shaped both my personal identity and predilection toward studying processes of exclusion and marginalization.

I have previously written about my experiences as a woman of color in graduate school and the rocky path my academic career took in Barrie Thorne’s and Barbara Laslett’s volume, Feminist Sociology: Life Histories of a Movement, so I will not relate the details here. However, I do want to convey encouragement to women who face or have confronted blatant or and hidden forms of sexism and racism, and have suffered belittling treatment of their research and writing to seek support and fight back. Sisterhood (and occasionally brotherhood) of feminists and men and women of color in academia helped to sustain me during the difficult years. Feminist colleagues (almost all white) provided not only encouragement, but also concrete help in the form of letters of recommendation, opportunities for publishing, and feedback on writing. In this sense I owe the feminist movement that shaped a generation of women in academia a great debt. Intense interaction with African American and Latina colleagues, who in the 1970s and 1980s, pioneered in what is now called “intersectional” analysis of race, gender, and class, were sources of intellectual support and inspiration. I try now to return the generosity that was extended to me by supporting and mentoring younger scholars and students.

As I am reminded daily, sexism and racism have not disappeared in academia nor are they merely remnants; they are alive and thriving. But, compared to 3 decades ago, there are more of “us” to affirm that what we think is going on is actually going on and to expose and confront it.

For the past 17 years, I have held a joint appointment in the Departments of Ethnic Studies and Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. In a sense these two departments offer a perfect combination. At the same time, each field of study has historically marginalized my particular interest, which is the integrated analysis of race and gender. Ethnic Studies has often paid scant attention to gender and women, while the field of Women’s Studies has not centered on the lives of women of color. The situation is now changing in both fields, especially among the newer faculty and doctoral students, and I am glad to be part of the change. We are lucky to have fabulous students in the doctoral program in Comparative Ethnic Studies, many of whom are the first generation in their families to attend college and who combine a passion for social justice and activism with dedication to scholarly rigor.

About six years ago, I was appointed Founding Director of a new research institute at Berkeley, the Center for Race and Gender. Fittingly, for Berkeley, the Center was created by the chancellor as part of a settlement of a student hunger strike over the failure of the University to allot and fill faculty positions in the Ethnic Studies Department. The agreement that settled the strike included three elements: the filling of a half dozen faculty positions, including several in Native American Studies, a Third World student center, and a research institute on race and gender. I have been very happy in the role of building a research center from the ground up—-ranging from acquiring office space (one of the scarcest resources in our university) to organizing major conferences, speaker series, dissertation workshops, faculty research retreats, and undergraduate and graduate research grants programs. It has offered me an opportunity to get to know colleagues and students from many differ-
ent departments throughout the university who are doing wonderful work on race/gender issues in areas such as law, environment, public health, and engineering as well as in the liberal arts. (Please visit our website http://crg.berkeley.edu to learn about the center.)

One of my two current writing projects grows out of an initiative at the CRG, the Colorism Project. This project included a working group made up of faculty and graduate students that met regularly to discuss readings, and a conference which drew together nearly 20 scholars to present on some aspect of the cultural, social and political significance of skin-color as an axis of inequality. I am currently editing a volume based on papers from the conference. My SWS talk is based on research that I undertook for my conference presentation on skin-lightening and for developing the larger initiative on colorism. My other project builds on my work on the racial division of reproductive labor and on free and coercive labor regimes; it examines how and why caring work has historically been associated with coercive labor regimes and constructed as obligatory for women generally and for women of color specifically. The complicated story line includes analysis of legal cases that deal with the doctrine of marital service and elite women’s efforts to reform “less fortunate” or “less-civilized” women’s caring behavior.

On the personal side, my partner, Gary, and I have been together for over 40 years. He has always provided unstinting support and been my most important sounding board. We have three children. Now they are adults and we don’t yet have grandchildren, I have time for various avocations. I am a dedicated practitioner of Astanga yoga, which absorbs an inordinate amount of time and energy, but which is incredibly invigorating. I also enjoy making jewelry and gardening.

**Glenn Lecture Abstract: Yearning for Lightness?: The New Global Marketing of Skin Whitening Products**

By: Evelyn Nakano Glenn

*SWS 2007 Distinguished Feminist Lecturer*

*University of California, Berkeley*

With the breakdown of traditional racial categories in many areas of the world, “colorism,” by which I mean the preference for and privileging of lighter skin, and discrimination against those with darker skin, remains a persisting frontier of inter and intra-group relations in the 21st century. Studies in the U.S. and Brazil have documented 1) discrimination against darker skinned persons both between and within ethnic and racial communities; 2) a correlation between skin tone and socioeconomic status and achievement, and; 3) a close association between perception of an individual’s skin color and judgments about that individual’s intelligence, character, and attractiveness. One way of conceptualizing skin color, then, is as a form of social capital that affects one’s life chances. The relation between skin color and judgments about attractiveness affect women most acutely, since attractiveness is much more important for women, for example, in the marriage market. One measure of the valuation of lightness in women is the growth of a multibillion dollar global market in whitening and bleaching products, many of which pose serious cosmetic and health dangers.

My talk focuses on the practice of skin lightening and the marketing of skin lighteners to women in various societies around the world, the multinational corporations involved in the global skin-lightening trade, the role of media and the internet in propagating the desire for lightness, and movements to resist the lightening ideal and the marketing of dangerous lightening products. A close examination of the global circuits of skin lightening provides a unique lens through which to view the workings of the current and evolving global commercial system as it simultaneously promulgates white-supremacist ideology while also promoting western-dominated consumer culture.
Research Report: Rape Law Review in Pakistan: Gender Matters in Legal Transformations

By: Afroza Anwary
Minnesota State University, Mankato

This report examines how the Pakistan government has historically constructed rape laws using gender to uphold the social system, exploring how these laws are both an important component in the ongoing construction of gender differences and a site where gender is situated, contested, resisted, and renegotiated. Interactions with religious ideology complicate rape laws. In the beginning of the paper, I provide information on sex crimes and punishments prescribed in the Koran and in the early Islamic jurisprudence (sharia). I then explore some religious and sociopolitical factors that influenced the transformation of Pakistani rape laws.

The Koran, Islamic Legal Schools, and Rape Laws

The Koran, considered the Divine Word of Allah, provides broad and general directions to Muslim religious ethic (Esposito 1982). The Sunnah illustrates the practices, words, and deeds of the Prophet of Islam. These are found in narratives (hadith). In Islamic jurisprudence based on the Koran and hadith, three types of offenses and sanctions are Hudood, qisas, and tazir. Hudood refers to crimes and punishment based on hadd, rooted in the Koran and Sunnah. Qisas refers to retribution and punishment for crimes causing bodily harm and homicide. Tazir refers to crimes whose punishments are not based on the Koran or Sunnah but left to the discretion of rulers and criminal justice officials (An-Naim 1990). Punishments for tazir crimes are often based on lighter evidences than punishments prescribed in the Koranic hudoood law (Quraishi 1997).

The most controversial issues related to Islamic laws are Hudood law and haad al-zina: punishment for unlawful sexual intercourse. The Koran does not directly address rape. The closest rape-related sex crime addressed in the Koran is haad al-zina or zina that refers to willful sexual intercourse between people not validly married to each other (Al Koran 24:2).

Proof of zina requires confession of the accused, not-legally married couple to willful sexual intercourse or four eyewitnesses of zina (Al-Koran 24:4). The Koranic verse related to the requirement of four eyewitnesses indicates an attempt to avoid future slander of chaste women and protect their honor. If “those who accuse chaste women . . . are unable to produce four witnesses, flog them with eighty stripes . . .” (Al-Koran 24: 4). The Koran forbids sexual intercourse outside marriage. Many scholars indicate that proofs of zina show that, while the Koran forbids sexual intercourse outside marriage, simple accusations of zina without proof have detrimental affects on the accusers (Alwazir 2004, Quraishi 1997). The Koranic law is meant to protect women from unwarranted slander. However, rape cases and criminal justice processes based on Pakistani Hudood law related to zina suggest that failure to secure four eyewitnesses is moot since victims self-incriminate themselves by their accusations.

From Islam’s early years, Islamic legal schools interpreted the Koranic verses and the Hadith related to zina and began to recommend punishments for zina which is defined differently by Sunni Islamic legal schools. According to the Malikis, zina is “sexual intercourse by a legally capable Muslim of a vagina to which he has no right” (Sonbol 2000, 312). The Hanafis define zina as “Sexual intercourse committed by a man in the genitals in other than his property” (Sonbol 2000, 312).

Islamic legal schools also specified the requirements to prove zina either by valid confession or by four trustworthy male eyewitnesses who unanimously testify that they observed the act of sexual intercourse (Sidahmed 2001). According to several Hadith, punishment for zina is one hundred stripes if the offenders are not married and stoning to death if the offenders are married (Safwat 1982).

Because the Koran does not address rape directly, the question of punishment for rape posed a problem for early Islamic legal schools. To establish punishments for rape, the Hanafi school followed the practices of the second Islamic Caliph who suggested that female rape victims marry their rapists. When victims refused, the Caliph made rapists give the victims dowries as compensation. In another case, the Caliph had a rapist whipped and exiled. Since the victim was not a virgin, the rapist did not have to pay compensation (Norman 2005). Islamic schools followed the Caliph’s examples, interpreting rape as a violation of property and recommending payment as compensation. If the victim married the rapist, she became his property; she gained exclusive rights to her sexuality and did not have to pay her compensation (Sonbol 2000). Although other major Islamic schools disapproved the punishment prescribed by the Hanafi school, Ottoman and modern Islamic law applied the Hanafi code to punish rapists (Sonbol 2000).

Silence of the Koran about rape might have led early Islamic law to associate rape with zina. Zia (1994, 10) says, “All sexual relationships falling outside the prescribed legitimate form of marriage would ostensibly fall under the rubric of zina” (perceived as a crime against the chastity of women). Associating rape with zina undermined the violent nature of rape and called the chastity of raped women into question. The chastity and virginity of women is often considered a precondition. Additionally, wrong association between rape and zina diverted attention from rape as a violent crime to an immoral act (Norman 2005, Azam 1997). Thus, these schools established the patriarchal social order on moral grounds and in terms of women’s chastity.

The following section explores some of the impacts of Islamic laws on shaping rape laws of Pakistan.

Rape Laws of Pakistan : 1979-2006

Before 1979, Pakistan based rape laws on British laws. If a man had sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent, threatened her, or deceived her, he was guilty of rape (Quraishi 1997, 294). Only men could be punished for rape (Zia 1994, 25). Female partners to adultery were immune from punishment; only husbands could bring lawsuits of adultery or revoke...
lawsuits at any point. If husbands withdrew their lawsuits, all criminal proceedings ceased. British law treated women as second-class but “protected” citizens (Jehangir & Jilani 1990, 86).

During Pakistan’s 1970s Islamic resurgence, an intensive campaign to re-Islamize Iran and protect Muslim societies from “Western vice” led many Muslim societies to adopt laws based on the most reliable sources of Islamic principles: the Koran and the Sunnah. Pakistan achieved its independence from British colonial rule based on its Muslim identity. Pakistan followed Iran’s lead and imposed religious laws in the country. This attempted to pacify religious fundamentalists who called for a retreat from man-made “corrupt” Western laws to the divinely ordained Islamic law. The military President who came to power after a coup d’etat also introduced these laws as part of a sweeping Islamization of Pakistan that coincided with the country’s role in the anti-Soviet “jihad” in Afghanistan. Gender-biased laws were introduced partly to regulate women’s sexuality, rights, and status and to drive “women back to the spheres of domesticity” (Asfar 1988, 229).

In 1979, the Pakistani Islamic Parliament passed the Offense of Zina or “Enforcement of Hudood Ordinance, VII of 1979.” Each part of the Ordinance ensured that government actions could not be challenged in a court of law (Zia 1994). The Ordinance criminalized zina and included adultery, fornication, rape, and prostitution. It differentiated between zina (adultery) and zina-bil-jabr (rape) or when a participant in zina was unaware he or she was not validly married to the partner.

In article 8 of the Hudood Ordinance, proof of zina or zina-bil-jabr requires either a) “the accused makes before a Court of competent jurisdiction a confession of the commission of the offence,” or b) “at least four Muslim adult male witnesses, about whom the Court is satisfied, having regard to the requirements of tazkiyah al-shuhood, that they are truthful persons and abstain from major sins (kabair), give evidence as eye-witnesses of the act of penetration necessary to the offence: Provided that, if the accused is a non-Muslim, the eye-witnesses may be non-Muslims” (Offense of zina, 1979, 8).

Zina-bil-jabr applies Islamic conditions to evidence needed to prove rape. Female or male rape victims must provide four religious eyewitnesses—adult males—to prove rape. If she/he fails to do so, reporting the rape is viewed as a confession of “zina” or adultery. This can incur death-by-stoning at a public place if she/he is an adult Muslim woman/man. For non-Muslim adults, the punishment for such crimes is 100 lashes in public.

Loopholes in law enforcement complicate and lead to abuse of the 1979 rape laws. The Family Law Ordinance of 1961 requires registration of all marriages and divorces. Failure to register a divorce, an offense, has no time limit. Between the husband’s pronouncement of divorce and its established legality, there are ninety days waiting time. These laws are not enforced regularly. If a divorced woman, whose husband never registered their divorce with the local council, remarries after the stipulated ninety days waiting time, she could be charged with committing zina. The court may consider her divorce invalid, declare her second marriage illegal, and her sexual relationship with her second husband as confession of zina (adultery). She may also be charged for raping her second husband because she had sex with him under false pretences (Zia 1994).

Sawyer (1999) reported if a woman elopes from home and marries against her family’s wishes, her family, in the name of protecting family honor, can forge a prior marriage certificate and prove she has married twice. The court may consider her sexual relation with her husband as her confession of zina. Police may arrest anyone in such cases and the accused, including the rape victim, may languish in jail during trials, sometimes for years.

By blurring the distinction between adultery and rape and requiring four religious male eyewitnesses, the Ordinance underlines the significance of rape as a violent crime. The standards of proof require that rape occur in a public place. Existing research reveals rape in public places in front of eyewitnesses (let alone four truthful Muslim male adults) is extremely rare. The lack of four eyewitnesses’ testimonies leads female rape victims to self-incrimination in the courts when they admit sexual intercourse has occurred. Referring to the problem, Quraishi (1997) argues, “Rape—under the title zina-bil-jabr—is perceived more as a woman’s expected defense to a zina charge, and thus subject to judicial speculation” (295). Research on court-tried rape cases shows that most rape cases were converted to zina cases (Jehangir & Jilani 1990).

Requirements of only male eyewitnesses also pose a major problem. Patriarchal bias in the Hudood Ordinance denies female rape victims their rights to testify about their attacks and denies their human rights altogether. Muslim women are objectified as “other” and represented without power to change their situations. Zia (1994) argues that the Hudood laws have led to institutionalized violence against women. The Hudood Ordinance includes a clause related to zina or zina-bil-jabr liable to tazir prosecution. Tazir punishments are applicable if confessions of the commission of zina or zina-bil-jabr by the accused are unavailable and if four eyewitnesses to the crime are not available. Under tazir rule, punishments for zina are rigorous imprisonments for ten years, a fine, and thirty lashes. Punishments for zina-bil-jabr are rigorous imprisonments for not less than four years and no more than twenty-five years and thirty lashes (Offense of zina 1979, 4-5). Norman (2005) said that unlike Hudood laws, tazir rules allow other forms of circumstantial evidence and allows women to testify in court. However, researchers found the courts often use double standards in rape trials using tazir rules that often victimize raped women (Quraishi, 1997, Zia 2000).

Introduction of the Hudood Ordinance sparked heated debate in Pakistan. Women’s rights activists argued that because rape victims are unable to bring four adult truthful Muslim male eyewitnesses to the rape, they are reluctant to bring rape charges against their perpetrators for fear of automatically being considered guilty of adultery. In 2003, the Pakistani National Commission on the Status of Women found as many as 88 percent of female prisoners, many victims of rape, serving time for violating the law. Leading Islamic scholars and human right’s activists insisted that Hudood law is “un-Islamic, unconstitutional, inhuman, [and] exploitative” (Jamn Mohamed 2006, 1).

2006 Rape Law Reform

Human Rights groups of Pakistan have sought the repeal of the Hudood Ordinance since its introduction in 1979. Pressure from international and local human-right’s groups calling for change intensified after a chilling case drew attention to the plight of a woman who, with the approval of tribal leaders, was gang raped in 2002. The leaders allowed the rape to punish her
young brother’s alleged affair with a girl of higher status from a rival tribe. Activists argued that the Hudood Ordinance, instead of protecting rape victims, has encouraged gang rape in Pakistan. This law provides legal safeguards for their attackers. Newspapers also reported gang rapes of young women in the country (International Campaign 2006). By the end of 2005, documentation of female rapes, imprisonment of rape victims without trial, and protests in the country were followed by demands for rape law reforms by many liberal political parties.

In 2006, the government responded to the demands of the women’s groups and national and international organizations by introducing the Protection of Women Bill. Widespread Islamic fundamentalist protests delayed the bill’s introduction until November 15. Legislators of religious fundamentalist parties threatened to resign from the assembly, stormed out of the assembly before the vote, then abstained from voting. They comprised the main opposition block in Parliament. The present government continues to be in power with the support of this group that legitimized the continuation of military rule in Pakistan in a 2003 constitutional amendment. This amendment legitimized the 1999 coup.

In December 2006, Parliament passed a new law: Rape cases can be tried in criminal courts. If four eyewitnesses cannot be found to prove rape, a judge can use evidentiary standards of the penal code. The law eliminates the death penalty for adultery. Punishment for consensual sex between unmarried couples is a maximum five years in prison and a 165 US-dollar fine. Punishment for rape is 10-25 years in prison: gang rape, death or life imprisonment. Police cannot detain people suspected of having sex outside marriage. The law requires that individuals make formal accusations directly to a court and not to the police. “The offense has been made bailable so the accused do not languish in jails during trial” (Human Rights 2006, 9).

World Wide Religious News (2006) reported a new statutory-rape clause makes intercourse with females under 16 a crime; Islamic fundamentalist parties oppose the law, arguing this law goes against the Koran because the law “is an attempt to create a free-sex zone in Pakistan.” They bitterly criticized the government for its support for the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and argued that this law resulted from America’s influence on Pakistan “that would eventually lead to the destruction of Muslim identity” (TurkishPress.com 2006).

Women’s-rights activists demand a total repeal of the Hudood Ordinance and argue that the government tried to satisfy religious fundamentalists groups by incorporating the so-called fornication section. They say this law raises new problems for women because judges now can be bribed to misuse the provisions (Rights activists say Islamic rape laws have damaged Pakistan’s image, demand their repeal, Associated Press Worldstream, September 17, 2006). The new law continues to divide the country.

Conclusion

This report examines the historical and social construction of rape laws of Pakistan. Taking the punishments of adultery and fornication prescribed by Islamic laws into consideration, the report addresses problems of applying these laws to rape cases in Pakistan, demonstrating how gender is situated, contested, resisted, and renegotiated. The report also shows the attempts of women’s rights activists to transform the law and the government’s response to their attempts. However, this transformation does not necessarily challenge women’s conformity to prescribed sexual codes.

References:
Al-Koran. All Koranic references are taken from The Holy Quran (Translation and Commentary by Yusuf Ali). Amana Corp: 1983
Hand Program

We would like to thank all the senior members of SWS who volunteered as Hand mentors in Montreal and New Orleans. Keep an eye out for the Hand program at upcoming meetings!

Rebecca Bach
Chris Bobel
Dana Britton
Denise Copelton
Diane Everett
Emily Fairchild
Tina Fetner
Laura Fingerson
Lara Foley
Alice Fothersgill
Danielle Hidalgo
Susan Hinze
Joanna Kempner
Jennie Kronenfeld
Heather Laube
Meika Loc
Besty Lucal
Marita McComiskey
Julia McQuillan
Christine Morton
Adina Nack
Stephanie Nawyn
Barbara Risman
Jessica Holden Sherwood
Sarah Sobieraj
Joan Spade
Trina Smith
Joey Sprague
Marybeth Stalp
Tracey Steele
Jan Thomas
Ronni Tichenor
Linda Treiber
Kris De Welde
Judith Wittner
Cathy Zimmer

People and Places

Kathryn Feltey, University of Akron, is the Editor for the Gender Section of Sociology Compass, a new on-line journal to be launched January 2008. See http://www.blackwell-compass.com/home_sociology_compass

Lara Foley received tenure and promotion to associate professor at the University of Tulsa.

Leslie Hossfeld, University of North Carolina Wilmington, provided testimony at a bi-partisan Congressional Briefing on Rethinking US Trade Policy for the Common Good, Washington, D.C., on March 13th.

Carla Howery is retiring from ASA (after 25 years) in April, and will enjoy seeing friends at SWS and ASA events in New York as a "civilian," able to attend sessions, eat lunch, see the city, etc!

Shirley A. Jackson was interviewed on March 12, 2007 by WICC Radio (Bridgeport, CT) on the future of Cuba in a post-Fidel Castro Era.

Minjeong Kim has been awarded the 2007 Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies.

Laura Kramer serves as Program Director at NSF, in the ADVANCE Program, during 2007. The goal of the ADVANCE program is to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce.

Judith Lorber is the 2007 recipient of the Eastern Sociological Society Merit Award. This award goes to a "distinguished scholar" who has "made outstanding contributions to the discipline, the profession, and the ESS."

Adina Nack has been promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology at California Lutheran University

Mimi Schippers has been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Sociology (with a joint appointment in Women's Studies) at Tulane University.

Gretchen Webber has an assistant professor position in the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Middle Tennessee State University, starting Fall 2007.

Gretchen Webber has an assistant professor position in the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Middle Tennessee State University, starting Fall 2007.

The successful Silent Auction held at the SWS Winter Meetings in New Orleans provided a donation in the amount of $2735 to the New Orleans Women's Health & Justice Initiative (WHJI) which is a project of INCITE New Orleans. INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and their communities through direct action, critical dialogue and grassroots organizing (Mission Statement at http://www.incite-national.org/about/index.html). The Women's Health & Justice Initiative is a multi-dimensional community-based organizing project centered on improving marginalized women's access to quality, affordable, and safe health care services; and organizing women of color for sexual health and reproductive justice through community-based strategies. The first major project which this Initiative has undertaken is the founding of The New Orleans Women's Health Clinic, which will offer a comprehensive, integrated program of quality, affordable, and safe preventative health care and counseling services specific to the needs of women under a primary care model. Located in the historic Treme' Community, the clinic "is filling crucial gaps in healthcare provision and is also fertile ground for organizing to improve healthcare for everyone."

(2/27/07 letter to SWS from Shana Griffin, Interim Executive Director)
Reflections on the 51st Session of the CSW

By: Trina Smith
University of Minnesota

The focus of the 51st meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was the girl child. The meetings took place for two weeks from February 26th to March 6th at the United Nations in New York City. Many of the SWS UN representatives were able to attend the meetings at various times during these two weeks. I traveled to NYC and attended the first weeks of the meetings.

This is the second time I have had the privilege of attending the CSW meeting. The first was two years ago, Beijing +10, where the focus was on reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action. Though there were not as many people or activities at this year’s meeting compared to the last two years. They meet once each week during CSW. During the first week, I was excited to see the room full of women (some even left because there was absolutely no room left). During this caucus, we discussed the language of the conference document. There were debates among the women in regards to if there should be an age put in the document regarding child marriage and language to show that gender discrimination and violence does not just happen in developing countries. A working writing group met after this meeting to integrate the comments and give to the US government delegates to the UN.

This leads to another interesting event. The US government delegates held a briefing for NGOs while I was there. The room was completely full. Because I was sitting in the back behind the featured speaker and had difficulty hearing, I am not able to give you exact titles. However, I believe most of them worked for the state department, including a lawyer. This session was mostly a dialogue between the audience’s questions and the speakers’ responses. The NGO representatives applauded the US for highlighting the issue of child marriage this year, but asked and critiqued them for not yet ratifying CEDAW and other relevant human rights conventions. The lawyer for the government stated the reason why the US could not sign on to these conventions was because of the differences between federal and state laws. Many people had much to say about this idea after the briefing.

On that note, some women from the North American caucus were trying to get a group together to explore the possibilities to get the US to ratify CEDAW with the changes in the government after the last election. If you are interested, please contact me for more information.

Like years past, there were pro-life groups present. Even one US woman during a caucus bluntly asked where they were, with the response they have the right to be there. However, this year a pro-life umbrella organization was visibly present sponsoring two NGO parallel events on abortion. I attended one of the sessions, curious to look at this issue in an international setting. Intermixed between the testimonials on abortion (linking it to the inability to parent later and breast cancer), there was a professor presenting her research on the psychological effects of abortion. Though they left little time in this session for questions and comments, there were some. Obviously, there were critiques of the session centering on how outlawing abortion takes away women’s choices and what to do about conception through rape and incest, in which the answers centered on individualistic accounts (i.e. I made the worst choice of my life because of Roe). However, there were women from Africa who asked how to get the pro-life message in their countries. In relation to my research interests in reproductive rights, globalization, and intersectionality, I found this to be an interesting insight.

In conclusion, the international committee has discussed what we as an organization with NGO accreditation might be able to do more of at CSW. How can we be more involved? In many events I attended, there was a general call for academics, policy makers, funders, NGOs, and civil society to work together on these gender issues. In talking with other representatives at the conference, many were interested in publications by the American Psychological Association that were discussed in sessions. I also saw a PhD candidate present her dissertation research on the discrimination of physically disabled mothers. Furthermore, many of the presenters who work for UN agencies and research organizations have masters and doctorates in the social sciences. This highlights that our work is important. In a time of increased attention to public sociology, this is an opportune time to discuss how SWS can be more involved and highlight the important and significant work of our members in looking at gender discrimination across the globe.
Under the auspices of the International Committee of SWS, I attended two days of the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a UN body charged with advancing the status of women among its member states. The Commission is composed of a rotation of forty-five member states who serve for four years. Each yearly meeting has a distinct theme and this year’s was the “Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against the Girl Child.”

The sessions that I attended were during the second week when member states debate Draft Agreed Conclusions prepared by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women. The aim of the Commission’s annual meeting is to issue a statement of goals and benchmarks – the Agreed Conclusions - that member states will then work toward in their own countries. The sessions discussed the Draft Agreed Conclusions one paragraph at a time with member states suggesting new or revised language.

The social complexion of each country was evident in their suggestions. The plight of girls in poverty was a particular concern of the Mercosur countries, a Latin American trade bloc that Paraguay spoke for. They wanted more pointed language emphasizing the need of poor girls for adequate water, sanitation, shelter and school feeding programs. Zambia spoke for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) about girls and HIV/AIDS, adding language encouraging member states to address root causes of the feminization of HIV/AIDS. Turkey wanted member states to ensure that services are affordable. Paraguay speaking for Mercosur again inserted a paragraph encouraging member states to overcome trade barriers in order to improve access to drugs for HIV/AIDS. A group of countries including Palestine, Iran, Syria, Qatar, Egypt, and Cuba added language to ensure that girls living under occupation are protected by international law. The Holy See inserted specific language urging states to combat the worse forms of child labor such as trafficking and slave labor.

In other comments, Zambia addressed the importance of combating underlying factors contributing to prejudice and violence against girls. Several states addressed gender stereotypes in the media and the need for gender awareness campaigns. The need for informal as well as formal education was raised as well the need for gender balance in school teaching staffs. Several delegations urged member states to be more comprehensive and diligent in disaggregating statistics by gender. New Zealand added that good policies and laws are not enough to effectively fight violence against girls and women and that high-level leadership is a necessary element.

The United States is not currently a member of the Commission on the Status of Women but did attend the sessions making occasional suggestions as all UN member states are welcome to do. I was disappointed to see that the US was represented by a male delegate unlike most of the other delegations. The US comments were generally conservative, often weakening language in the Draft Agreed Conclusions. It was interesting to see that on some issues very disparate nations such as the US and Iran (represented by a woman) were in agreement.

Each morning the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) present attended a briefing giving the day’s events as well as other announcements. At one briefing Charlotte Bunch of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University informed us of an effort to restructure UN departments dealing with women. The plan is to combine departments such as the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) into one new entity that would be headed by an Undersecretary-General. This move would consolidate efforts to advance gender equality and give more clout and prestige to women within the UN system. Accredited NGOs such as SWS are invited to sign a statement supporting this change. The new Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon, has expressed interest in the restructuring. See www.peacewomen.org for more information on this proposal.

One morning I also attended a session of the General Assembly in which member states were reporting on gender equality. The speakers were ministerial-level representatives of their countries. Most were Ministers of Women’s Affairs though an occasional Minister of Foreign Affairs or Minister of Social Affairs spoke, all of them female. Several of the speakers congratulated the newly-elected President of the General Assembly, Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain, only the third female president of the General Assembly since its founding. As in the CSW sessions, the speakers reflected the concerns of their individual countries and regions. The Minister from Italy was especially forceful in underlining the importance of putting women in political office, emphasizing that empowering women was the only chance for a new world order. The Minister from Belarus addressed her country’s very low birth rate, suggesting that women were afraid of losing their place in public life by taking extended maternity leaves. Bangladesh talked about efforts in her country to make education free to the twelfth grade. She also emphasized the success of microcredit in Bangladesh (where it originated) with 18 million poor women having access to this form of credit. She noted that Bangladesh’s head of state as well as its chief opposition leader are both women. The Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasized that economic empowerment is essential to achieve gender equality and that women’s rights are the key to the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Namibian delegate suggested that peacekeeping delegations should be 30% female to improve their effectiveness and reduce the abuse of women by peacekeepers.

The next annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2008 will address the theme “Financing for Development.” NGOs are invited to develop statements on this theme. Perhaps SWS could address microcredit or some other financing issue, drawing on our scholarly resources to develop an appropriate statement.
The Publications Committee announces the selection of the new Book Review Editor for Gender & Society, Martha McCaughey, from Appalachian State University. Professor McCaughey, who was chosen from a strong candidate pool, assumes her position on May 15, 2006. Please advise your publishers and others that they should send books for review to Martha at the following address:

Prof. Martha McCaughey  
Dept. of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Living Learning Center  
Appalachian State University  
Boone, NC 28608

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Ryan for her three years of service to SWS and to the journal as Book Review Editor. During her tenure, in addition to soliciting and editing book reviews, Prof. Ryan has professionalized the office, and her work in this regard will help ensure that the transition to Dr. McCaughey’s term a smooth one. Thank you, Barbara!

Finally, the Publications Committee would like to acknowledge all of the applicants for this position. We appreciate their willingness to serve SWS and the journal in this capacity. We were impressed by the generosity, energy and skills of each of these candidates; it bodes well for the future of the journal and SWS.

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**News from Local Chapters**

**Regional Chapters NCSA and MSWS**

The NCSA-SWS and MSWS will hold a social hour on Friday night at the joint meeting of the MSS and NCSA in Chicago in April 2007.

**Akron-SWS**

*By: Kathryn Feltey*

The Akron-SWS chapter is reading *The Space Between Us*, a novel by Thrity Umigar about the divisions/bonds of women in the context of class and culture in modern India. The chapter will discuss the book and meet with the author at the end of March.

**Washington, DC Gathering**

*By: Carla Howery*

While Washington DC does not have an official SWS chapter, I host an open house for women sociologists every fall and spring, to honor in particular those who are new to our area. On March 4 we welcomed Rebecca Sager, ASA’s Congressional Fellow; Lisa Frehill, Executive Director of CPST; and Laura Kramer, who is at NSF’s ADVANCE Program on leave from Montclair State. We also have a women sociologists knitting group, coordinated by Shari Barnartt, so if you are new to DC, please contact us!

**Eastern Region**

*By: Laura West Steck*

The Eastern Region chapter of SWS had a productive meeting at the Annual ESS Meetings in Philadelphia. Members in attendance contributed a variety of ideas for ways in which the chapter can meet our primary objective: to serve as a networking resource for SWS/ESS members. Proposed chapter activities included the following:

An “intergenerational” networking dinner to be held annually at ESS meetings. The chapter would invite renowned SWS members to dinner, offering others the opportunity to communicate and connect with influential women sociologists. Our focus on “intergenerational” places emphasis on years of experience and influence in the field rather than age.

A regional extension of the Hand Program, which will connect senior ESS/SWS members with junior ESS/SWS members during both annual ESS and SWS meetings. As is the tradition in the national SWS Hand Program, “senior” members are defined as any SWS member who has attended a meeting in the past.

A strategically placed SWS table at annual ESS meetings, which will provide information about the national organization, the Easter Region chapter, and serve as recruitment/welcoming tool for SWS.

A strategically placed SWS hospitality suite at ESS meetings to serve as a gathering space for SWS members attending ESS meetings and as a recruitment/welcoming tool for SWS.

Cosponsor workshops, panels, sessions with standing ESS committees (i.e. Committee on the Status of Women, Committees on Graduate and Undergraduate Education, Committee on the Status of Minorities) focused on networking issues, strategies, and tips.

**Opportunities to Participate**

**Call for Papers**

*Humanity & Society* is requesting submissions for future issues. *Humanity & Society* is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology. It seeks original research on and critical analyses of social-structural-level dynamics affecting justice and equality. Subject areas include but are not limited to: race, class and gender inequality; war, peace and international relations; colonialism; political sociology and political economy, organizational analysis; social theory; social change; social movements and backlash; and humanism and human rights. Articles may be theoretical and/or speculative, critical essays, or analyses of data utilizing various qualitative and quantitative research strategies. Theoretical orientations may be eclectic, Marxist, feminist, critical theory, symbolic interaction and humanist sociology (designed to contribute to a more humane egalitarian society). *Humanity & Society* is particularly interested in publishing the work of activist scholars. For directions for submission, please review the "Notice to Contributors," which is located on the Association for Humanist Sociology’s website: www.humanistsociology.org. Direct inquiries to the editor, Ann Goetting, at humanityandsociety@wku.edu.
SWS TREASURER’S ADJUSTED REPORT
Winter Meeting 2007
By Kathleen Slobin

SWS’s ending 2006 Accounts & Budget indicate that SWS continues to maintain a very strong financial position. After a relative decline in our mutual funds during 2005, our three Fidelity Fund Investments grew 11 percent during 2006 from a beginning total balance of $225,948.56 at the end of 2005 to a total of $253,959.72 at the end of 2006. As stated in the 2006 Summer Treasurer’s Report, our 2005 Sage contract for Gender and Society created a financial cushion that permits SWS to consider new funding projects. During 2006 Sage provided $85,000 for the Gender & Society Editor’s Office and $264,673.93 in royalties, $64,673.93 over its royalty guarantee of $200,000 per year through fiscal year 2011. Summing our account balances as of December 31, 2006, SWS had a total of $942,801.29 in assets which included $253,959.72 in investment income and $688,841.57 in checking and money market accounts.

The actual revenue for 2006 was $444,184.00. For 2006 actual revenue exceeded actual expenses of $277,533.95 by $166,650.94. Given the approved budget requests as of February 1, 2007, I have projected $417,758.71 in revenue for 2007 and $281,045.00 in expenses. While it is expected that we will have additional expenses in 2007 which will be largely determined by the end of the 2007 Winter Meeting, our present 2007 budget indicates that our revenues will exceed our expenses by $136,713.71. This revenue balance supports our further consideration of undertaking the three new funding projects discussed at the 2006 Summer Meeting: 1) multi-year funding of the Beth B. Hess Award; 2) an increase in funding for the ASA Minority Fellow Program (MFP); and 3) a new SWS Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship.

I am recommending that the Council consider proposing an SWS Spending Plan. Such a plan would designate a certain percentage of annual revenue be held to insure SWS funding of operations and projects over time and a certain percentage being available for additional annual funding projects. Council has suggested possible funding categories for such projects include the following: 1) organizational liaisons; 2) memorial fellowships; 3) annual special programs; and 4) strategic organizational development initiatives. These categories are presently being discussed by Council and are open to further suggestions by SWS members.

While special requests for the 2007 Budget may be made to Council at the 2007 Winter Meeting, itemized requests for the 2008 budget should be sent to the SWS Treasurer, Kathleen Slobin (kathleen.slobin@ndsu.edu) no later than July 1, 2007. It is important that Committee Chairs plan ahead and anticipate their funding needs prior to the calendar year in which they will be needed. It is recommended that Council members not make budgeting decisions by e-mail consultation except under highly unusual circumstances.

I wish to remind SWS Officers and Committee Chairs that invoices for expenses (annual dues, official passes, workshop fees, etc.) should be sent to the Executive Office for direct payment. Reimbursement for budgeted expenses requires the original, dated receipts, adequate funds in the committee budget, and approval of the committee chair prior to being sent to the Executive Office. Reimbursement requests for any calendar year must be made no later than December 1 of that calendar year.

Finally, I want to thank Jessica Sherwood, Executive Officer, for her efforts to keep the budgeting process efficient and transparent. Please contact me at kathleen.slobin@ndsu.edu, if you have questions about the SWS accounts, budgets, or expenses. Copies of the 2006 and 2007 SWS Budget may be requested from the SWS Executive Office.

SECRETARY’S REPORT
By Tina Fetner
place at your seat, and money (cash or check) for the auction.
2. We would like to know who donated the initial issue of *Gender & Society*.
3. Student happy hour moved to 7 pm tomorrow night
4. Welcome to Helen Mederer, and thank you to Helen for giving SWS its current home.
5. Membership forms available at the registration desk. Please renew.
6. Stop by for SWS stickers to wear at regional meetings. Please take brochures
7. Travel reimbursement forms are available at the Sunday morning business meeting.

C. Report from Executive Council

Chris Bose reports that the Beth Hess award $3,500 + travel and plaque was approved for a 5-year trial, which coincides with our Sage contract to ensure funding availability.

Regarding the Feminist Transformation of the Academy (FTA) task force's proposal to be a standing committee, the EC thinks this is a valuable idea, but before we approve this proposal, we need to come to agreement about the division of labor among standing committees. We request that CDC, Social Action, and FTA meet (members report that they have already begun this process). We will have a proposal at a future meeting.

The Executive Council recommends approval of the proposal to create Sister to Sister scholarship.

The EC recommends that we approve the proposal to increase our commitment to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program, creating a SWS-ASA MFP fellowship. Although we have not come to an agreement on all of the details, we recommend in principal that we fund the fellowship in full.

There is a surplus, and we think we can make a percentage of our surplus available on a competitive basis for initiatives that fall into one of four categories: special programs, organizational liaisons, memorial fellowships, strategic organizational development initiatives.

D. Committee reports

Most committee reports will be tabled until Sunday’s business meeting.

International

Trina Smith reports that we have two new UN reps, Kristin Blakely and Joanna L Kempner

Network News

Nothing to report - everything is fine

Publications

Sue Hinze reports that she is stepping down from publications. Toni Calasanti will continue co-chairing with new co-chair Kerry Ann Rockquemore. We have completed negotiations. We now must select a new book review editor. We would like to thank Barbara Ryan for all her hard work as book review editor. Our deadline for the search is March 1st, so please encourage qualified individual.

Publications committee reviewed and approved a special issue proposal by Associate Editor Denise Segura. We also approved a guest-edited symposium of invited papers responding to Maggie Anderson’s 2004 feminist lecture on intersectionality. This innovation by Dana may become a regular feature of the journal.

One member benefit reminder: keep reminding people that we have a 40% discount on all Sage books and journals.

Regarding Network News, Leslie Hossfeld is doing an excellent job. Thank you, Leslie. Leslie’s term was slated to run until 8/08. However, because of the complexities of coordinating academic and fiscal year budgets, the committee voted to extend the Network News contract until January 1, 2009. We recommend standard January to December terms for future editors. Publications committee is working with the Network News Editor to develop an editorial contract for the incoming 1/09 editor.

Social Action

Susan Munkres reports that we have 3 undergraduates students here who have received the social action award. They will be presenting tomorrow morning.

Marybeth Stalp will give a full report on Sunday.

Career Development

The career development committee invites everyone to attend their meeting. We can use input from a lot of people.

Gender & Society

Dana Britton reports that Cindy Whitney and Laura Logan are working very well as Managing Editors. Bandana Purkayastha and Sharon Bird are deputy editors, who do initial reads and choose reviewers. That system is working well to deal with expanding submissions.

Last year, we received 271 submissions, up 39 from previous years. We sent out 556 review packets. Average reviewer response time: 33 days. The average time from submission to editorial decision is 46 days. For those who are sent out for external review it is 68 days. Our acceptance rate is 9%. We have changed to online submission system.

Student Concerns

Marianne Noh announces that the committee meetings are open. We would love to see you there.

E. Task Force Reports

IT

Beth Duckles thanks Laura Fingerson for her leadership and hard work on this committee, and to Jessica Holden Sherwood for her assistance. The SWS website is now in draft format. We are currently reviewing the pages in a rough draft check. We are testing it fully. We are hoping to launch the new website in March.

Members raised the issue of finding the wrong page when you Google SWS. We are working on fixing that.

Feminist Transformation of the Academy

see section I., C. Reports from Executive Council, above

Sister to Sister

no report

II. Proposals

A. Sister to Sister becoming a standing committee.

We voted in August to approve the transition for Sister-to-Sister from task force to standing committee. We need a second vote.

Chris Bose moves that a new standing committee "Sister-to-Sister" be added to article VIII, Section 1 and that it be specified in Section 2 of that article that the chair of the sister-to-sister committee will be elected in even years along with the social action committee and career development committee chairs.

Barbara Risman seconds.

The motion is approved unanimously.

B. Women of Color Scholarship

The Sister to Sister committee has proposed to create a scholarship, as follows:

1) The Sister to Sister standing committee will create an ad hoc committee, which will be responsible for overseeing the
selection of the award. The chair and the co-chair of the STS committee will serve on this committee ex officio. The other members will be the elected members of the awards committee (one of which must include the chair).

2) The award will be in the amount of $15,000 stipend

3) The criteria for the award are:
   1. Eligibility includes domestic and international students.
   2. Student must be a member of an under-represented racial/ethnic group.
   3. Dissertation must be scholarship that addresses the concerns of Women of Color (this includes domestically or internationally).
   4. Student must be in the beginning stages of writing the dissertation. (All other University requirements must be fulfilled and this must be certified by the student's department/university).

Discussion:

The EC recommends this proposal for a 5-year period. In addition, the EC suggests that we add a membership in SWS, a plaque, and a banquet ticket, as well as $500 toward travel cost to the meeting.

Barbara Risman would like to make a friendly amendment that we add Dissertation to the name, changing it to "SWS Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship"

Chris Bose adds a friendly amendment that the student be enrolled in a sociology program.

Barbara Risman makes a 2nd friendly amendment to change the first sentence of 3.4 to "Student must be ABD upon holding the award."

Irene Padavic suggests we decide whether this is open to the awardee be open to both men and women. It was suggested that the intent was to provide a scholarship to a woman, but the Sister to Sister committee is not here to clarify. Barbara Risman's understanding was that restricted to women.

Barbara Risman recommends that we modify 3.2 to read, "Student must be a woman of color who is a member of an underrepresented racial/ethnic group."

Tracy Ore recommends that we change the wording of the 3rd sentence in paragraph 1 to "The other members will be the elected members of the SWS awards committee"

Tracy Ore moves that we vote to accept all of these friendly amendments, except for the discussion of disciplinary focus, then re-open that discussion.

This motion is approved with two abstentions.

The discussion of disciplinary focus is reopened. The membership discussed the benefits of restricting this to just a sociologist, or just a student in a sociology program.

Myra Marx Ferree moves that we change 3.4 to read "Student must be in the beginning stages of writing a sociological dissertation" to the criteria in 3.4.

Cathy Zimmer seconds.

The motion is approved with one abstention.

Myra Marx Ferree moves that we change the language in 3.2 to "in the United States."

This was met with the concern that international students would not be included. Barbara Risman suggests that we take this back to Sister to Sister committee and reconsider this on Sunday's meeting.

Tracy Ore moves to table this proposal to the next meeting.

This is approved unanimously.

C. SWS support of ASA's MFP scholarship

We currently contribute $5,000 to an ASA Minority Fellowship. This is a proposal to increase this funding to $15,000 to fully fund one fellowship, thus creating a named SWS-ASA Minority Fellowship. The EC recommends that we approve this in principal, and work out the details later in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Jean Shin, the Minority Fellowship Program director, addressed the meeting. He thanked Heather Laube for her work, as well as Chris Bose, Tina Fetner and Jessica Holden Sherwood for their input. He has been talking with the ASA Executive Office about SWS's concern that we have input to the selection process for this fellowship. The timing of the selection is difficult, but the ASA is very willing to work with the SWS on this issue.

One concern that SWS has raised as the issue of the sexist language of the term Fellow. The MFP students in the past have made it very clear that the current name is very important to them, and that the singling out of a particular Fellow for a different name is a problem for them. Others raised the issue of the feminist project of changing language.

Another question was asked regarding the mental health focus of the program.

Jean clarified that some fellowships are NIMH fellows, but others are general fellows. The proposed fellowship is a general fellow.

Discussion of 'fellow' continued. The membership suggested that the SWS continue to lobby the ASA to discontinue the use of their language on this.

Myra Marx Ferree suggest that we propose to ASA council that the name of the program be changed, but separate this out from the scholarship.

No motion was brought to the floor. We will revisit it at the next business meeting.

End of old business.

At this point, President Chris Bose passed the SWS gavel to Manisha Desai, the 2007 SWS President.

III. Other business

Summer Meeting Preview

Manisha Desai welcomes suggestion for the summer meetings. Perhaps Women Makes Movies will sponsor a film festival. Perhaps a role for the UN as well.

Manisha wants to thank Chris, Jessica, and Candace for their hard work. She presents each with a scarf as a thank you. Manisha also presents Joey Sprague with a gift to welcome her into the role of president-elect.

Executive Council Meeting

February 1, 2007 3:00pm
Present: Chris Bose, Kathleen Slobin, Cathy Zimmer, Jessica Holden Sherwood, Tracey Steele, Manisha Desai, Tina Fetner, Minjeong Kim
Presider: Chris Bose, President
Minutes respectfully submitted by Tina Fetner, Secretary

1. Treasurer's Report

We are in a very good position. The Sage royalties have been fruitful. Actual revenues are about $150 over our expenses. We have the money to support the Beth Hess Fellowship, the SWS-ASA MFP Fellowship, and the SWS Women of Color Scholarship, each of which was proposed at our last meeting.

Chris Bose noted, regarding the ASA-SWS MFP Fellowship, that the Memorandum of Understanding between SWS and ASA.

In addition, our investments are doing well. In this context of newfound prosperity, we may need to consider our criteria for deciding on new funding initiatives. This
seems like the EC's responsibility. The Council brainstormed possible criteria, including memorials, organizational liaisons, strategic organizational development, and special projects. Perhaps we could make the funds available on a competitive basis for initiatives of committees. It was suggested that we make a percentage of the overage available for new initiatives. We should also revisit documents written by past SWS leaders, about the vision of the organization. We will continue discussing, with the goal of presenting a plan to the Summer Business meeting.

2. Consideration of the Beth Hess Award
We clarified the Hess Award. Last meeting, we agreed to one year. There is funding in the 2007 budget for the award.

The council clarified and approved that the Beth Hess Award was approved for funding through 2011. The amount is $3000 for the award and $500 for the costs associated with travel, and $100 for the plaque and conference registration and banquet, for a total amount of $3,600. This is our commitment, not inclusive of commitments by SSSP or other organizations.

3. SWS Women of Color Scholarship
$15,000 stipend plus, and $600 in costs ($100 for plaque, SWS membership, and banquet ticket, $500 in reimbursements toward travel costs).

Students may be domestic or international students, have to belong to an underrepresented group (broadly defined), have a dissertation that is scholarship addressing the concerns of Women of Color, and must be ABD.

We need clarification on the disciplinary focus of the scholar.

The EC recommends approving the SWS Women of Color scholarship in principle, pending clarifications, through 2011, to be revisited for renewal.

4. Standardization of Awards amounts
Council recommends that the cost package put together for the Beth Hess Award and the SWS Women of Color Scholarship should be standardized across our awards. Chris Bose will make this proposal at the business meeting for a vote.

Feminist Activism
Feminist Lectureship
Cheryl Allen Miller
Rosenblum Award
Mentoring Award

Minority Scholarship
Beth Hess Award

We might also want to consider a monetary amount for the Mentoring Award. Awards committee should consider the details of this.

In addition, the Social Action committee now gives awards for Undergraduate Social Action. Would they like these awards to be part of our Awards program? Jessica will bring it up to the chair of the Social Action Committee.

5. Consideration of the SWS-ASA MFP Fellowship
The Executive Council recommends that we fund in full the SWS-ASA MFP Fellowship, instead our exiting $5,000 contribution, through 2011 to be revisited for renewal. This decision is in principle, assuming we can have an MOU in place which our liaison has some significant input.

We need to decide who is the liaison. This might be a responsibility of the Vice President, and we could elect a separate chair of the membership committee.

6. Raising SWS dues --tabled in August 2006
We will continue this table.

7. Create a spending plan
See 1. Treasurer's report

8. Clarify EOB role (Executive Office and Budget)
The Exec Council will review the bylaws regarding the composition and role of the EOB.

9. Review of Task Forces
IT - Laura Fingerson has resigned as chair of IT committee, replaced by Beth Duckles. The website is ready to go and will go live at the end of February.

The ECs understanding is that this committee will be decommissioned when the contract is settled and the new website is debugged - perhaps at the Summer Meeting.

From now on, we will put the minutes of the business meeting on the website.

We will announce at the committees that each committee has a webpage available for them to fill up with content.

Sister To Sister

The STS Task Force requests that the Council endorses the following motion: "...that a new standing committee "sister-to-sister" be added to article VIII, Section 1 and that it be specified in Section 2 of that article that the chair of the sister-to-sister committee will be elected in even years along with the social action committee and career development committee chairs."

The EC endorses this request.
This proposal was approved in principal at the summer business meeting in 2006. We will call a second vote at the upcoming business meeting, and a 3/5ths majority is required to complete this process.

FTA Feminist Transformation of the Academy
FTA proposed to be made into a standing committee.

The EC discussed the proposal and did not emerge with a recommendation on this proposal. Council is asking that the proposal be revised and resubmitted. We feel that in principal, this is an excellent idea, but that in practice, some of the details regarding coordination with other committees and division of labor.

EC grants a $300 travel reimbursement to the publications co-chairs, since they have to meet with the publishers.

11. EO Procedural
a. Should the business meeting agenda include all reports and proposals? We should instead make some, say 25, copies of the reports and proposals, unless there is a particular issue that we anticipate everyone will want to see.

Business Meeting II
2/4/07; 8:00am
Presider: Manisha Desai, President
Minutes respectfully submitted by Tina Fetner, Secretary

I. Announcements
Some auction items went unclaimed at the banquet. These items were matched with various members.
Manisha asked new members to stand to be acknowledged. Welcome.

II. Reports
A. Committee Reports:
Womens Committee
1. Retired members will be honored at the summer meetings. The Awards committee would like to be notified of all retired or retiring members.

2. We recommend that March 1 will be the deadline for all awards.

3. Committee composition: we recommend that the nominations committee make recommendations to ensure diversity on the awards committee.

4. We recommend that all awards get the same amount of support.

Tracy Ore moved that we budget $500 toward each award winner’s travel, plus $100 toward a plaque and banquet ticket.

Myra Marx Ferree seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Risman claims that we should reimburse student awardees’ travel up to $500 for attending the winter meetings, in addition to the existing travel policy.

Kathleen Slobin reminds us that any new monies need to be discussed by Executive Council.

5. The undergraduate activist award organized and granted by the social action committee must be institutionalized. Members agreed, and added that we should make a bigger fuss about them.

Tracy Ore moved that we transition this award to the Awards Committee.

Dana Britton seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

Discrimination Committee

no report

International Committee

no further report

Network News

Send committee reports to Leslie Hossfeld, Network News Editor, as well as Tina Fetner, SWS Secretary.

Publications Committee

no further report

Social Action

Marybeth Stalp reports that she will be emailing the historical list of those interested to see if people are still interested.

This year’s topics for Fact Sheets are:

1. women and size
2. women and environmental justice
3. disability
4. open

The committee is keeping a list of member concerns for hotels. Given the short timeframe for meeting location decisions, we are thinking through a way to accommodate at least some of these

Career Development

Tammi Smith announced that Erin Anderson is going to be our new Professional Needs Development. Lara Foley will be our new Hey Jane! columnist.

The CDC put on two workshops this meeting: Interviewing for Academic Jobs, and First Year in Academic Jobs.

The summer meeting workshop topics are: The Feminist Teaching Portfolio, and the Employment Package Critique Me, in which stations will be set up around the room to give feedback to people on their employment package.

The CDC is expanding into IT, so they have designated a committee member to be the IT liaison, and maintain a page on the website, including a “shout out” column, in which people can acknowledge mentors.

Another page, accessible only to members, will collect the various lists of recommended films and readings on a particular topic that are generated from the listserv.

G&S

Send good papers!

Membership

Cathy Zimmer is rotating off the committee. Cindy Anderson is the new Vice President and will become the chair of the committee now. We had 11 matches in the Hand Program. Please continue to volunteer.

The MFP program liaison is Heather Laube, who began to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with the ASA. Chris Bose will take over this process.

We have had a great number of requests from chapters. Mary Virnoche has shepherded them well. Local chapters have asked for $700 for a variety of initiatives.

We will be putting tampons, condoms, and dental dams out with SWS information at the summer meetings. We will have a “dry run” at the Southerns to see how it goes.

Gift memberships: Please use guest memberships. Special thanks to Irene Padavic, who signed up 7 students for 2006 and 2007.

Marcia Segal wants to keep retired members in the fold, so please encourage them to keep coming to meetings.

We need to target recruitment of award winners, so we will be working on that.

We want, in the winter meetings, to recognize new members/first time meeting attendees. We will put a dot on the nametags of people who are new. Another suggestion was that we put the state or province where people are located on nametags.

We are interested in having a new subposition within the committee, so that membership’s recruitment and retention needs are met from meeting to meeting.

We have established a “hospitality liaison” to coordinate with the President elect to this end.

Nominations Committee

Chris Bose reports that they have brainstormed on recruitment practices, and they will be actively recruiting nominees.

Tracy Ore is concerned with the transparency of the nominations process. She recommends that we have a nominations policy and procedure written down. Chris Bose will take that under consideration.

Myra Marx Ferree recommends that one of the jobs of committees as they meet is to come up with recommendations for nominations. A reminder should be on the Business Meeting I agenda to remind committee chairs of this responsibility.

Denise Copelton has written position descriptions for each elected position. These must be circulated and posted on the web.

Diane Everett, Sarah Soberaj and Miliann Kang are also members of the committee. Please contact any of us with questions or nominations.

Scholarship and Human Rights

no report

Student Concerns Committee

Minjeong Kim reports that the number of student members has increased lately. Students want to get involved but don’t know where to start. The committee wants to expand to create SCC liaisons to other committees, who are members of both SCC and their committee placement.

15 students came to the happy hour.

Minjeong will contact committees to see if there are existing students on standing committees, and see if they want to perform this liaison role, and will draw from students willing to volunteer to introduce to committee chairs.

Other ideas that came up was to integrate students with the panels, for example, having students introduce panelists.
**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 scholarship that addresses the 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. Applicant 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.

Barbara Risman moves that we approve this proposal as written.

The motion carries unanimously.

**B. SWS’s support of the ASA’s MFP Scholarship**

Members present discussed the MFP scholarship's use of the term "fellow" and the appropriateness of this usage for a feminist organization.

Barbara Risman expressed concerns about other issues within the Memorandum of Understanding. Chris Bose gave an update on the status of the draft of the MOU.

Manisha moves that we support the increase in funding for this year, with faith in the continuing development of the memorandum of understanding.

Chis Bose seconds.

The motion passes with one abstention.

**IV. More Announcements**

**A. Executive Office**

1. Jessica Holden Sherwood called for IT task force volunteers to contribute institutional memory to the website updating project.

The following members volunteered:

- Tracy Ore
- Cathy Zimmer
- Betsy Local

**B. Student Concerns**

Minjeong thanks students with great ideas: Tammi Smith and Marianne Noh, Suzanne and Wendy Christensen.

**C. Next Winter Meeting**

Joey Sprague, President-elect, announces that Ana Prokos is the local arrangements chair, for our next meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The topic is “Thinking Like an Organizer as We Do Our Work.”

**D. Auction Proceeds**

Manisha announces that we raised $2,725.50 for Incite, an organization that works on issues of violence among communities of Women of Color.

**E. Miscellany**

Myra Marx Ferree offers thanks to Manisha and Jessica for running a professional meeting. We have become professional without being strangled by bureaucracy.

**Executive Council II Meeting**

February 4, 2007

Present: Chris Bose, Kathleen Slobin, Joey Sprague, Cathy Zimmer, Jessica Holden Sherwood, Tracey Steele, Manisha Desai, Tina Fetner, Minjeong Kim

Presided by Manisha Desai, President

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tina Fetner, Secretary

1. **Treasurer**

We have several requests for funding from committees.

**Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee requested funding for $500 for the Mentoring Award. The council approves this request.

The Awards Committee requested funding for participation of student award participants at the winter meeting over and above the existing travel policy, in the amount of $500. The EC tables this request until next year. In the meantime, we will remind the Membership committee to invite award participants.

**Career Development Committee**

Tammi Smith requests funding in the
amount of $500 for a tax preparer to discuss tax preparation and financial planning. The EC declines this request and sends it back to committee to reconsider and clarify the relationship to career development.

Tammi further requests gift memberships to give out as prizes in the network bingo game. The EC approves this request.

International Committee
Trina Smith requests $796 for attendance to the World Social Forum. We voted over email. The EC passed voted that we would pay for fees for WSF registration costs, and dinner with Sociologists Without Borders. We think that the sponsored activity ($100) did not happen. The actual registration costs was $110. The reimbursement for the dinner will be submitted ($150). This funding request actually added up to $260, which we approved. If the sponsored activity did happen, we will pay for that.

Membership Committee
Cathy Zimmer requests additional funds in the amount of $200 for regional receptions, as requests exceeded the committee’s budget this year. The EC approves this request.

FTA Task Force - proposed Creating Inclusive Academies
Abby Ferber requests $1,000 for a graduate research assistant building databases of organizations representing academic professionals, review of resources, and best practices to creating inclusive department cultures.

Jessica recommends that the student bill SWS for hours of labour, up to $1,000.

The EC approves this request and recommends the Task Force prioritize this list.

2. EO Concerns
We discussed the timing of business meeting, and the practice of holding the travel reimbursement until the 2nd business meeting. We can hand out forms at the end of the first business meeting and the beginning of the 2nd business meeting.

International Committee's work on SWS UN ECOSOC Representative’s support of a statement. The international chair should be the point person for representatives, who can communicate with the past-president. If the past president (as chair of scholarship and human rights) has a question, she can communicate with the EC.

The selection of UN representatives is that the International committee review the applications and then submit the selections to the EC. Now, we will send it to the past president as chair of scholarship and human rights, who will bring it to the EC.

3. Retiring Members
There is a proposal for honoring retiring members. Membership will send out a call for retiring members.

4. Membership directory
In the future, the directory will be online and searchable. In the meanwhile, we should make a list annually to email to members. What month should this be produced? The EC recommends April or May.

5. Make Beth Hess Award officially administered by SWS
De facto, we already administer this award. As the funding for this award is still being sought, we should wait on this decision. We will remind Myra that she has committed to continue asking for money from other organizations.

6. Question on the rights to material archived at Schlessinger/Radcliffe
The archivist questions the copyright over SWS materials at this library. We should check with Shirley to tell her that it is the opinion of the EC that this issue is resolved, and to check if she is in agreement.

7. Propose forming an SWS Historians taskforce
There is a proposal to do a more systematic writing of the historical and ongoing work of the SWS. Jessica has found a student to work on this. The EC recommends that we give her this task for now, and keep open the possibility of creating a task force for this.

8. Increase focus on undergrads
At the EO site visit, this issue came up, since URI is an undergraduate campus. Minjeong will be recruiting winners of the Social Action Undergraduate Award. We suggest the Membership Committee and the Student Concerns committee consider the practice of recruiting the students in the ASA honors program. Another idea is a Hand program that matches grad students with undergrads. We can encourage the FTA Task Force/CIA Standing Committee to also think about supporting ways that our mission can be carried into undergraduates curricula.

9. Petition to the ASA about Indian mascots and nicknames
Some concern that this petition is watered down. The past-president can write a letter, but we invite Social Action Committee's input on a more strongly worded letter of support on this issue.

10. ASA Ethics guidelines
Should we adopt or adapt them?
The EC discussed this issue. It is not clear what adaptations might be called for, or whether the SWS needs to adopt ethical guidelines, given that we are as sociologists, bound by the ASA Code of Ethics. The EC will read the code of ethics and discuss it further at the Summer meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

SWS STUDENT CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT
By Minjeong Kim

Marianne Noh, Sarah Swider, and Minjeong Kim attended the Student Concerns Committee (SCC) meeting during the SWS Winter Meeting in New Orleans. Afterwards, these ideas were shared with the 15 student members attending the Student Happy Hour on February 3, 2007. The following report also includes what has been developed subsequent to the winter meeting.

1. Reorganization of the Student Concerns Committee
Past SCC Chairs Marianne Noh and Marcia Hernandez proposed to change the SCC structure in past meetings. With advice from Tamara Smith, the past Career Development Committee (CDC) liaison to the SCC and current chair of the CDC, those who were present at the SCC meeting were able to shape a concrete idea for a new SCC structure.

[A] Connecting the SCC with other SWS Committees
Even though the SCC has always been open to any SWS member who wants to address student concerns, the committee itself did not have official elected or appointed committee members except for the Student Representative/ Chair of the SCC.

While the number of SWS student members has increased in recent years, there are students who want to get involved but do not know where to go. Even though many
SWS programs are explicitly or implicitly intended to encourage students to get engaged in SWS activities, students often feel that they need more personal guidance from someone at their career level.

The SCC will have committee members who can act as liaisons to other committees that are open to student members. This can serve three purposes: (1) Having designated SCC members will give more opportunities for students who want to get involved in SWS activities. (2) These committee members, who will be a joint member of or liaison to a designated committee, shall provide information to new student members who would like to learn more about SWS committees. (3) SWS Committees will be more fully aware of student concerns.

In an effort to recruit members to join the SCC, I contacted committee chairs, posted the announcement to the general and graduate student listservs, and personally solicited students at the meetings and elsewhere. This year’s SCC members include: Laura Bunyan, Laurie Chancey, Hae Yeon Choo (Sister-to-Sister), Carolyn Corrado (Career Development), Minjeong Kim (Membership), Astrid Eich-Krohn, Jenny Unghba Korn, Rachael Kulick, Stephanie Jo Nawyn (Social Action), Marianne Noh (Discrimination), Peggy Phillips, Jodi Ross, Sarah Swider (International), Cindy Whitney, and Lauren Westbrook. [In parenthesis are the committees to which members are joint members/liaisons.] The SCC remains open to other students who are interested in being involved with the SCC. Stephanie J. Nawyn, an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University, who was the first Student Representative of the SWS, will serve as our faculty member.

[B] Graduate student listserv managers

The Graduate Student Listserv was created in 2001 and has provided students with an on-line venue where students introduce themselves and share other information related to SWS. This listserv that also includes non-SWS members has been managed by three listserv managers in 2006. From this year (2007), graduate student listserv managers are also SCC members. Our two listserv managers are Jenny Unghba Korn and Laurie Chancey. I thank Laura Fuller for her service in 2006 as well as Jenny and Laurie for their continued involvement.

To join the listserv, email SWS-Grad-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.

[C] Undergraduate students

SWS is dedicated to helping women/feminist students who are pursuing a career in academia. Undergraduate students who are thinking about going to graduate school, who are engaged in feminist activism, and who are studying gender will find great resources at SWS and the SCC.

We also invite undergraduate Social Action awardees to the Winter Meeting but they are usually isolated from the overall events. The SCC can provide a welcoming place for them and graduate students and undergraduate students may have a time to share their feminist ideas and experiences as well as the information related to graduate programs with each other. Peggy Phillips who was at the 2007 Winter Meeting became a SCC member as an undergraduate student and we hope to have more members like her. The SCC will discuss a plan of action with the Social Action committee for welcoming and assisting future awardees to be involved in SWS.

2. SWS SCC Representation at Regional Meetings

With more SCC members, the SCC is branching to sociology regional meetings. Carolyn Corrado, Sarah Swider, and I will act as SCC liaisons at the Committee on the Status of Women Events (Co-Chairs, Tamara L. Smith and Laura West Steck) at the Eastern Sociological Society (March 15 – 18, 2007) and the ESS chapter of SWS.

Cindy Whitney and Jodi Ross will serve as SCC liaisons to the Midwest MSWS (President, Angie Moe) and North Central SWS at the joint Midwest Sociological Society-North Central Sociological Association meetings (April 4 – 7, 2007).

These SCC representatives will be available for any students who are interested in SWS and SCC to encourage them to become more involved and to provide any information to them.

With 15 SCC members, SCC can be present at other regional meetings to represent SWS student members and their concerns. Furthermore, in the future, I hope to make connections with SWS local chapters in order to form SWS student networks connected to each other.

3. Tracking Sessions and Workshops for Students at Professional Meetings

At the SCC meeting in New Orleans, the members suggested we keep track of the schedules for professional sessions and workshops offered for students. There are many workshops and sessions directed to graduate students who are in the job market or who would like to publish an article. However, most sessions are prepared at willing facilitators’ initiation, so we do not know when those sessions will be available. However, as more new students join the SWS, the need for these workshops continues.

Examples of workshops and sessions which have been offered in the past SWS meetings or are considered to be the most helpful to many students include “Orientation for New Members and First-Time Winter Meeting Attendees,” “Navigating the Job Market,” “Interviewing for Academic Jobs,” “Balancing Personal Life and Academia,” “Getting Articles Published,” “Research Abroad/Field Research,” “Qualitative Research Methodology,” “Dissertation Process/Writing,” “Dealing with Dissertation Committee Members,” and “Mentoring across Race and Gender Lines.”

SWS has provided a place for women graduate students to experience mentoring relationships that may otherwise not have been available to them and these workshops can be great resources to them.

We will post the schedules of these sessions at SWS meetings as well as other major meetings including ASA on the SCC webpage. I especially thank Sarah Swider for shaping this idea. Please let us know if you have any more suggestions.

4. Other Ideas

At the SCC meeting, Sarah Swider also suggested making an SCC information flyer to promote the SCC to students and to help students have better ideas about the roles of SCC. In addition, at the Happy Hour, Suzanne Slusser suggested that more students have active roles in organizational events (e.g. an organizer of a panel in a plenary meeting) in order to make SWS student members more visible in the organization. The SCC will work on these ideas.

We will try to utilize the SCC website to post the news and information related to the SCC as much as we can. So please check out our website, http://www.socwomen.org/student/studentconcerns.html, for future development.

5. Closing Remarks

Finally, in addition to all of new SCC
members who made this year’s beginning great, I would like to thank Marcia Hernandez, Jessica Holden Sherwood, Suzanne Slusser, Tamarra Smith, and Christine E. Bose for their ideas, support, and thoughtful advice.

Awards Committee Meeting
February 2, 2007 -New Orleans, LA
By Tracy Ore

The Awards Committee met on Friday, February 2. The following is an update on our current projects.

1. Honoring Retirees
Members of the awards committee have finally realized that recognition of some accomplishments is long over due. At this year’s Summer Meetings we would like to begin a new tradition, recognizing at the awards banquet the retirement of those who came before us, the women whose shoulders we stand upon, and honor them/introduce them.

We are aware that Pat Martin and Carla Howery are retiring this coming year. We are also soliciting names of other members of SWS retiring this year. Send names and a brief description of the retiree by June 1 to Tracy Ore at teore@stcloudstate.edu. Descriptions must be less than 125 words; should include illustrative, funny, creative, imaginative, and/or touching, anecdotes. They cannot include anything found on a CV. In your descriptions, we encourage creativity (think poetry, haiku, etc.).

2. Deadlines
The deadlines for awards vary from award to award, and this often leads to confusion. The committee proposes that there be a common deadline of March 1 for each award. This deadline would take effect in 2008 and a notice of this date change will be posted in Network News.

3. Committee Composition
The proposal by the Sister-to-Sister Taskforce (now committee) to offer a Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship, along with their suggestion to have members of the Awards Committee sit on the ad hoc committee for this particular award, highlights the issue of the diversity of the Committee’s composition. We recommend that the Nominations Committee review the make-up of the Committee at each election cycle and make nominations accordingly that would ensure its on-going diversity.

As a related matter, committees should have input regarding nominations. For future elections, nominations for the chair of Awards should include input from the Committee and should consider Committee members as candidates.

4. Consistency among Awards
The Committee recommends that there be consistency among awards with regard to tokens of recognition as well as monetary compensation. All award recipients should receive travel assistance, a plaque, and a monetary award. Currently, the Mentoring Award does not come with any type of monetary compensation. The Committee recommends an amount of $500.00 be added to this award.

5. Undergraduate Activist Award
The Social Action Committee of SWS currently coordinates the awarding of the three Undergraduate Social Action Awards (this award has been given three out of the past four years and is designed to carry on the SWS tradition of acknowledging, affirming and inviting students to participate in SWS). In an effort to institutionalize this award—and to raise its visibility and to facilitate its coordination—we recommend that its “home” in SWS be moved to the Awards Committee.

6. Transparency
In an effort to foster transparency, the Awards Committee will work with the executive office to get the contact information about the chair of each award committee as well as information about the nomination process available on the SWS website.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
By Tamara Smith, Incoming CDC Chair

The Career Development Committee met on Friday, 2/2 in New Orleans. Tamara Smith, Denise Copelton, Lara Foley, Erin Anderson, Lara West Steck, and Carolyn Corrado attended. The following is a report of our current activities.

First, I would like to thank Denise Copelton for all of her work, enthusiasm, support and organization as outgoing Development Committee Chair. I feel really fortunate to be taking on this role after her. Second, please help me welcome Erin Anderson (eanderson3@wash-coll.edu), our new Professional Needs Mentoring Coordinator. Also, thanks so much to Jenny Keys, outgoing coordinator, who has so seamlessly run the Professional Needs Mentoring program this past term. While I’m at it...we had two new members join our committee at the winter meeting- Laura West Steck and Carolyn Corrado. Welcome to you both! Carolyn will be serving as the Liaison between the CDC and the Student Concerns Committee.

Now to the meeting itself...

1. We held two workshops at the New Orleans Meetings: Interviewing for Academic Jobs, and Adventures in First Jobs. Thank you to all participants and organizers, including Michelle Bemiller, Rachel Schneider, Wendy Grove, Jean-Anne Sutherland, Sharon Bird, Toni Calasanti, Denise Copelton, Julia McQuillan, Marybeth Stalp, Heather Dillaway and Patti Giuffre.

2. In the next few months, we will be creating a Career Development Committee mission statement for the website. This will serve to inform members of what we do, and it will also ensure that our aims do not cross the aims of the Feminist Transformation of the Academy Taskforce (now referred to as CIA).

3. Lara Foley reported on the Hey Jane column. She has been doing such a great job as the Hey Jane writer/coordinator... thanks, Lara! We brainstormed various new Hey Jane articles to consider for future columns, and would like to solicit advice from a broader spectrum of members. We will be sending email inquiries prior to future columns asking for volunteers. Please help!! Thank you to all anonymous contributors to past columns of Hey Jane.

4. Upcoming Summer Meeting Activities: We are requesting room on the schedule to run two workshops for the upcoming summer meetings. The first is "The Feminist Teaching Portfolio", an instructional workshop on how to create a portfolio that addresses the special circumstances that feminists face in the classroom (issues of teaching as a woman, hostility in the classroom, in evaluations, etc). The second workshop is going to be "The Employment Package: Critique Me!" This workshop will be much more hands-on, materials-needed to participate workshop. We will
have a number of stations around the room- the cover letter station, the teaching CV station, the research CV station, the teaching portfolio station, the "tough personal questions-how to answer them" station, etc. etc. We need people to be available at these stations to review materials- any takers? PLEASE bring your materials to the summer meeting to be critiqued!

5. Upcoming Winter Meeting Activities: We are requesting room on the schedule to provide one panel, one workshop and networking bingo for the upcoming winter meetings. The panel session will be "Intergenerational Connect: Learning from Feminists". This will be a panel consisting of founding SWS members discussing lessons they've learned from their careers, how SWS has impacted their career, and what advice they have to share with new members. We're doing this to create more of a connect between new members and established members. Our winter workshop will be "What Can I Deduct? Strategies for Tax Preparation and Deductions for Academia". We have requested $500 for a tax preparer in Las Vegas (site of the next winter meeting) to come to discuss what things sociologists can deduct from taxes. We've also requested $140 for 10 complimentary student member dues as bingo prizes.

6. Upcoming Web Activities: We are going to be adding two new pages to our website section. First, we are going to implement a "Shout Out Page" where members can leave messages to members and feminists who have helped them at some point in their career. Second, we are going to implement a "Compilation Page" which will have a listing of different compiled lists of resources from the listserv (for example, from this week: good statistical films, resources on Asian women's reproductive rights, etc.). I strongly feel that moving into this medium is necessary and useful. This entails a lot of work, and we discussed the possibility of having an actual "IT developer" position within the Career Development Committee. The person will be recognized on the website and program in the same way that the Professional Development Needs mentor and the Hey Jane columnist are currently recognized.

7. Our committee met with the CIA to discuss strategies between the CDC and the CIA. We reiterated that our committee's goal is to help individuals navigate through their careers, rather than the structural change associated with changing the academy. We discussed having two-part panels at future meetings to address this. So, for example, a feminist teaching portfolio workshop by our committee, followed by a "why do feminists have to create separate portfolios- institutional situations that need to be addressed" workshop by the CIA during the same meetings.

I'm really excited and honored to be chairing this committee. Thanks for the opportunity. This is an open-membership committee, which means that individuals who are interested in learning more about the CDC or serving on the CDC are welcome! Please email me at tsmith@skidmore.edu with any comments or suggestions.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SWS Winter Meetings 2007 - New Orleans
By Trina Smith

Members Present:
Trina Smith, chair
Ana Prata Pereria
Kristin Blakely
Shweta Majumdar
Shobha H. Gurung
Miho Iwata

1. Introductions among members started the meeting.

2. New Chair Introduction: Trina stated she was the new chair.

3. United Nations Representatives: The newly elected United Nations representatives were stated the group: Kristin Blakely (present) and Joanna L. Kempner. Trina told present members the ECOSOC reps: Trina Smith, Nancy Mezey, Keumjae Park, Kristin Blakely, and Joanna L Kempner. She also stated the DPI representatives: Diana Papademas and Eileen Moran. A small discussion ensued discussing the past work of the international committee in obtaining NGO status for SWS and our role at the UN with NGO status.

4. Communication/Email List/Member List: Trina updated the group that in the files she was given as International Committee Chair the last list of international committee chairs was dated. She stated she would like to set up a new list and email list for the committee and will query the general SWS list serve to ask for those who are members or want to be members of the committee to contact her.

5. International Collaborations: Trina stated the role of the international collaborations part of the committee and noted prior communication with Manisha Desai, incoming SWS president, about this part of the committee. As past sub-committee chair of this has been unresponsive to lists of organizations we could partner with, Trina suggested a call to the SWS members on organizations they could nominate. The committee present today stated this would be a good idea. Kristin Blakely will help craft a letter to send to the membership after Trina has talked with Manisha about content of said letter and the correct process of selecting organizations (does international committee select? Can it happen over email discussion? Does the Executive Council need to approve also?) and Kathleen Slobin, SWS treasurer on the budget we have allocated for this to see how many organizations. Then said letter would be sent to the SWS list serve soliciting names of organizations to collaborate with. The organizations will be looked over by the international committee and then if we need final approval by the EC, we will do this before partnering with them.

6. International Committee Sponsored Sessions at SWS/ASA Summer 2007 NYC: Manisha stated during the SWS meetings during one of her presentations SWS may do something with the UN this summer during our meetings in NYC. During the international committee meeting, we talked about a few sessions the international committee would like to sponsor during our summer meetings. Trina Smith, chair, will create a document to send to Manisha to see the feasibility of these. One possible session would be on the experiences of UN representatives. Another possible session would be something highlighting the international research members are engaged in. We also discussed getting feedback from SWS members in general on sessions they would like to see from the international committee at future meetings.

7. “Giving Back to SWS” and Organizational Issues: Trina Smith, chair
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

2007 Winter Meeting – New Orleans
By Cathy Zimmer

Current Committee Members: Cathy Zimmer, Chair (2/07); Heather Laube (2/07); Mary Vrnoche (2/07); Anastasia Prokos (2/08); Elisabeth Sheff (2/08); Marianne Noh, Student Representative; Tina Fetner, Secretary; Marita McComiskey, Listserv Manager

New Committee Members: Cindy Anderson, Vice President-Elect and Chair-Elect (2/09); Denise Copelton (2/09); Shannon Davis (2/09)

Thank you to all the committee members for the great work they have done since the summer! Special thanks to outgoing members Heather Laube, who organized the Minority Fellowship Program over the last year, and Mary Vrnoche, who kept track of regional/local chapters.

We welcome new members to the committee. Cindy Anderson will be taking over chairing the committee from Cathy Zimmer and Denise Copelton and Shannon Davis join the committee.

As of the end of 2006, we had 940 members in SWS. However, as of the beginning of these meetings we have 400 members, but growing every day. The number of listserv subscribers is much higher at almost 800, so renewals are in order. We encourage all members to renew their memberships annually as early as possible. The best incentive of all for renewing is that you cannot get SWS travel reimbursement without being a member in good standing. And we want new members to join us – there can never be too many feminists in one place – so take our brochures and put them in students’ and colleagues’ mailboxes!

Our new recruitment idea, championed by Elizabeth Sheff, of putting baskets with tampons and condoms in the rest rooms at summer meetings, will be put to the test in New York in August. Each tampon or condom will have a message referencing SWS and encouraging membership. We are looking forward to a trial run at the 2007 Southern Sociological Society meetings with the help of SWS-South.

Another recruitment effort will be targeted at winners of SWS awards and fellowships. They will be emailed about upcoming meetings and informed about our travel reimbursement program.

To increase the effectiveness of networking at future Winter Meetings, the Membership Committee plans to ask that state of residence be added to name tags. In addition, to identify those attending their first Winter Meeting, we suggest that green dots be available to put on name tags. Then we can be sure to give an extra welcome to those folks.

Our complete budget allocation for 2007 is $1000 ($700 for regional/local chapters and $300 for miscellaneous committee expenses).

A. Hand Program

Our Hand Program coordinators this year have been Ana Prokos and Elizabeth Sheff. They made 12 matches of senior and junior members at the Winter Meeting. We thank all of the senior volunteers and the junior members who benefited from being matched with them. The senior members who were matched at either the 2006 Summer Meeting and the 2007 Winter Meeting will be listed in an upcoming Network news for well-deserved recognition. Shannon Davis and Tina Fetner will take over the Hand Program next year.

SWS LOCAL & REGIONAL CHAPTERS 2006 REPORTS AND 2007 FUNDING REQUESTS

Submitted by Mary Vrnoche
Chapter Liaison, SWS National Membership Committee

Total Chapter Funds Requested: $800
2006 Free Memberships Awarded to (By):

The Executive Office notes that there were 12 free memberships awarded in 2006 up from two in 2005. At this point we can only trace the below three new members to the local and regional chapter free membership give away programs:

• Sara Howard, Mills College (SWS West)
• Donna King, UNCW-Wilmington (North Carolina – SWS Southeastern)
• Linda Gjokaj, 1st Year Graduate Student (Michigan State University, Lansing)

Local Chapter Reports
Florida: Tallahassee
Contacts
Irene Padavic (ipadavic@fsu.edu) and Pat Martin (p martin@fsu.edu).

Activities
We meet twice a semester, and activities vary. So far this academic year we have met to discuss Linda Hirshman’s Get to Work: A Manifesto for Women of the World and to get to know the new feminist Sociology professors.

Request for Funds
We request $50 for refreshments for the first meeting of the year in January.

Michigan: Michigan State University, Lansing
Contacts
Lori Baralt (baraltlo@msu.edu) and Julie Hartman (hartma75@msu.edu)

Activities
In the spring semester of 2006 we hosted a brown bag lecture by Dr. Zakia Salime on women’s movements and Islam, which had an excellent turnout of around 15-20 students and faculty members. We also hosted a small end-of-semester potluck for SWS members at the end of the Spring semester. This fall our chapter hosted a potluck at one member’s home to welcome several new women faculty members to the department. We have also had two membership meetings, one of which was a tea party hosted by a faculty member.

Request for Funds
We began 2006 with $100 we had been given by SWS for the 2005-2006 year, and we used $50 to provide light refreshments at the brown bag lecture we hosted and purchase paper products (plates, napkins, etc) for the potlucks and tea. After discussion by the membership we decided to use the remaining $50 to make a donation from SWS to the Kimberly Perez Memorial Fund.

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Funds Request:
We would like to request $50 funding for refreshments for this year’s meetings.

North Carolina: Southeastern
Contact: Leslie Hossfeld, HossfeldL@uncw.edu

Activities:
The SWS Southeastern NC chapter met several times over the year. The Chapter requested and received $50 from SWS National to assist in recruitment social for students and faculty. Funds for this will be used in the Spring 2007 to supplement student recruitment event in March.

Funds Request:
No additional funds requested.

Ohio: SWS-Akron
Officers – 2006-07
Kathy Feltey, Advisor President: Suzanne Slusser email: suszann9@uakron.edu Secretary: Shawna Rohrman email: sr35@uakron.edu Treasurer: Marianne Noh email: mnn1@uakron.edu

Activities
We will be co-sponsoring a conference at U of Akron with CROW (Committee for Research on Women/Gender) this spring, a multi-disciplinary group on campus of faculty and graduate students who are sharing, supporting and doing feminist research. We will be holding a reading club this January. The book to be read will be chosen soon by our members. We will be having two service projects. First, this holiday season, we are asking faculty and students in our department to donate items for the local Battered Women’s Shelter. In the spring we are going to have a book drive for “Books for Women Prisoners.” Additionally, we are seeking to reconnect with the Kent chapter by opening our events to those students and being involved in Kent’s events.

Funds Request:
We are requesting $50 to fund refreshments and social gatherings.

Ohio: SWS-Kent State
Contact
Aaron Korora (funk462@aol.com)

No report submitted other than contact name.

Regional Chapter Reports
Midwest SWS (MSWS)
Contact
Mary Beth Stalp marybethstalp@uni.edu

Activities:
MSWS (the Midwest chapter of SWS) had another active year, primary with our involvement in the annual MSS (Midwest Sociological Society) meetings. For 2006, we organized and co-sponsored over 30 sessions and workshops, and had an excellent turnout for our annual business meeting, program planning meeting, and dinner. We again have a full slate of co-sponsored sessions and workshops for the upcoming joint MSS/NCSA (North Central Sociological Association) meetings occurring in Chicago April 4-7. We will hold our annual business meeting April 5 and program planning meeting April 6. In addition, we are planning a joint social gathering with the NCWS April 6. Report submitted by Angie Moe, Chair. Angie.moe@wmich.edu.

Funds Request
We ask for $100 toward the costs of appetizers for this social, which will occur in our hospitality suite at the MSS/NCSA conference hotel.

SWS-East
Contact
Laura West Steck lsteck@ycp.edu

Activities
The Eastern Chapter will meet for the first time at the upcoming ESS Meetings in Philadelphia. Topics for the meeting will include ideas for sessions sponsored by the chapter at future ESS Meetings; collaborations and co-sponsored sessions with Eastern’s Committee on the Status of Women and discussion on other possible collaboration opportunities; strategies for recruiting ESS members to SWS; planning for an SWS reception at future ESS meetings.

Request for Funds
The chapter requests $200 to fund food/refreshments for our scheduled meeting at the 2007 ESS Meetings in Philadelphia.

SWS-South
Contacts:
Michelle Emerson, President (memerson@kennesaw.edu)
Shannon N. Davis, Membership Chair (sdaviso@gmu.edu)

Activities:
Organized 8 co-sponsored sessions at the annual Southern Sociological Society meeting.
Organized and co-sponsored a silent auction during the Southern Sociological Society meeting. The auction netted
$2,071, which was split between the SSS Katrina Relief Fund, the Association of Black Sociologists Katrina Relief Fund, and the ASA Minority Fellowship fund (the usual recipient of our auction funds). A local artist also donated a mural, completed at the meeting, which was purchased by Howard University for $900. The purchase price of the mural was split between two New Orleans non-profit organizations working with Katrina survivors, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center and The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Request for funds:
$100 to offset liaison travel to SWS Winter Meeting

SWS West
Officers President, Mary Virnoche, Mary.Virnoche@humboldt.edu, Humboldt State University
Vice President, Anastasia Prokos, prokos@unlv.nevada.edu, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Secretary, Kathryn Hausbeck, hausbeck@unlv.nevada.edu, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Treasurer, Marjukka Ollilainen, MOLLILAINEN@weber.edu, Weber State University

Activities:
In 2006 we hosted our first annual continental breakfast during the PSA meeting in Hollywood. We publicized the gathering with flyers and word of mouth. About 30 women attended the event. Many were not SWS members and we provided information about the organization. We compiled a list of all attendees and raffled off a free membership to a new member. Sara Howard, Mills College, won the membership. The event was fun and we are organizing again for a 2007 breakfast at the PSA meeting in Oakland. The PSA subsidized the breakfast, which cost about $400. SWS contributed $100. We are increasing our funds request this year for the breakfast, anticipating that the PSA will again cost-share.

Request for Funds
We request $200 that we will use to sponsor our second annual SWS breakfast meeting at the 2007 PSA meeting in Oakland, California.

Chapters in Formation

Minnesota:
Teresa Toguchi Swartz, University of Minnesota (tswartz@umn.edu) Sharon Preves and Melissa Embser-Herbert at Hamline University are also helping. They just got the Minnesota SWS list to use in recruiting for the Minnesota Sociology meeting.

New York:
Albany/Tri-Cities – Sally Dear (sdear@binghamton.edu) is still interested in forming a chapter. I recommended that she might try to organize something at the Eastern Sociological Association meeting.

Philly Area:
Elizabeth Borland (borland@tcnj.edu)
Initiated interest in 2006.

Chapters Closed

New York: New York City
Contact
Jackie Skiles reported that their chapter had lost energy and gone dormant. She inquired about funds for a graduate student to help organize events, but did not respond with any requests or other reports.

Massachusetts: SWS Pioneer Valley
Contact
Kat Jones, University of Massachusetts (kjones@soc.umass.edu)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
2007 Winter Meeting – New Orleans
By Susan Hinze and Toni Calasanti, Co-Chairs

We’re happy to report that our year has been somewhat calm in the wake of last year’s Sage contract negotiations and G&S Editor selection and transition. At this meeting, we welcome new Publication Committee members Margaret Hunter and Kerry Ann Rockquemore. The multiple responsibilities of the Publications Committee have been shared by Co-chairs Susan Hinze and Toni Calasanti. Rockquemore was selected to replace Hinze for a two-year co-chair term that commences with the close of the Winter meetings.

Gender & Society

Editorial Office
The editorial transition from Texas to Kansas is complete, and symbolized by the move from a burnt orange cover to purple and gold for the February issue. Gender & Society editor Dana Britton will submit a separate publication and budget report.

Publications committee reviewed and approved a special issue proposal by Associate Editor Denise Segura. We also approved a guest edited symposium of invited papers responding to Maggie Anderson’s 2004 feminist lecture on intersectionality. This innovation by Dana may become a regular feature of the journal.

Based upon recommendations from our current editor, Publications committee invited ten members to serve on the editorial board of G&S for a 3 year term.

Our current challenge is to select a new Book Review Editor to replace Barbara Ryan, whose term ends in May 2007. In addition, with help from Dana Britton, we are drafting a new book review editor contract agreement. The call for applications has been printed in Network news, circulated online, and is available right here, right now. The deadline is March 1st. Our recent, very successful contract renegotiation with Sage allows for generous support for the Book Review Editor, including monies for hiring support staff and a summer stipend. We already have several, excellent applications and aim to announce the new editor within the next two months.

We’d like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Barbara Ryan for all her hard work over the past 3 years. The Publications Committee is especially grateful for Barbara’s work on professionalizing her office through documentation and staffing. We now have a healthy backlog of reviews for future issues.

Member Benefit Reminder
One result of our generous contract with Sage is that all SWS members have free access to the full Sage sociology collection and receive a 40% discount on all Sage books and journals. The new SWS website will have detailed instructions for how to access this benefit.

Author Relations
The committee discussed formulating a policy for how to use G&S articles in edited volumes. Issues to consider include: editorial control and royalties.

Network news
Leslie Hossfeld continues to draw rave reviews as Network news editor. Since
Montreal, Leslie has produced Volume 23, numbers 3 and 4, averaging 32 pages. In addition to the eloquent Presidential messages, Award recipient overviews and other standard fare, highlights from these issues include a beautiful cover photo of Gloria Steinem with two SWSers in Montreal, an excellent Film Review essay by Laura Carpenter and an inaugural column on Public Engagement by Leslie Hossfeld. Also, be sure to take a look at the Women and Aging Fact Sheet by Beth Tracton-Bishop in Issue 4. The new Fact Sheet can also be found online at the SWS website. Reprint permission forms and instructions are available online. The Executive Office will handle requests in consultation with Publications Co-Chairs on a case-by-case basis. We look forward to more excellent content and purple ink. Leslie’s term was slated to run until 8/08. However, because of the complexities of coordinating academic and fiscal year budgets, the committee voted to extend the Network news contract until January 1, 2009. We recommend standard January to December terms for future editors. Publications is working with the Network News Editor to develop an editorial contract for the incoming 1/09 editor. Leslie will submit a separate Network news annual report and budget.

**Gender & Society Editor’s Report**
February 2007
By Dana Britton

**Editorial Staff**
The journal’s Managing Editors are Cindy Whitney and Laura Logan. Cindy Whitney is a PhD student who works 20 hours/week. Laura Logan joined the staff in August. She’s a first-year master’s student who also works 20 hours/week.

Deputy Editors Bandana Purkayastha and Sharon Bird assist in the editorial decision process by providing initial reviews of manuscripts, choosing reviewers, and providing assessments of reviewed manuscripts. Each handles approximately 25 percent of the total number of papers we receive. The deputy editor system is working well, and certainly makes it easier to deal with our ever increasing volume of manuscripts.

**Cover Art**
Volumes 21 – 24 of the journal will be in Kansas State purple. Julie Reid, a University of Texas graduate student in sociology, worked closely with Sage to design the most recent cover, which includes a picture of a statue by an Inuit woman artist. I am pleased to say that Julie will continue to design the cover for the journal.

**Volume 20 Report**
In volume 20 of the journal (2006) there were 32 book reports and 29 articles published. Including the table of contents and index we used 792 pages of our 960 page budget.

**Statistics**
From January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006, Gender & Society received 271 submissions; 199 new and 73 revised manuscripts. This is up from 232 manuscripts in 2005; most of this increase in volume came during the last three months of the year.

Between the Austin and KSU offices, we sent 556 review packets out to reviewers, 535 were returned. The average reviewer response time was 33 days.

Through December 31, 2006, there have been 258 editorial decisions. This includes 25 accepts, 16 conditional accepts, 68 revise and resubmits, and 149 rejects (70 of which were rejected without external review). Our acceptance rate on the year is nine percent.

So far in January we have received 27 new manuscripts and 7 revised manuscripts, sent out 26 review packets, and made 21 editorial decisions. The total number of manuscripts received in January 2007 is up 11 over January 2006.

The average time from submission to editorial decision is 46 days. The average time from submission to editorial decision for externally reviewed manuscripts is 68 days. The range of decision was 9 days (min.) to 107 days (max.).

**At a Glance Statistics 2005 - 2006**

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**Manuscript Central**
The online submission and review process became operational in October 2006. The transition has not been without its problems, but we hope the electronic format will allow for better record keeping, manuscript processing, and collection of statistical information, in addition to increasing our pool of reviewers for manuscripts. It does appear that the number of submissions is up, though our early guess is that too are the number of inapplicable/insufficient manuscripts.

Since going online, we have received 70 Manuscripts, 34 of which have been received since January 1st, 2007.

**Special Issues**
Denise Segura and Patricia Zavella have a proposal for an issue on “Gendered Borderlands” (proposal to be distributed). Pending approval, look for the call for papers soon. The next special issue proposal, from Beth Schneider and Jane Ward, will be ready for consideration at the summer meetings in NYC.

**Social Action Committee Meeting**
February 2, 2007, New Orleans
By MaryBeth Stalp


**Agenda Items**

*Continued Afghanistan Educational Support for Girls*

Jennifer Glass requested that the SAC be formally responsible for the distribution of monies ($1000.00 annually) to Nasrine Gross in Afghanistan. The committee agreed to take this responsibility, with one year remaining in the original agreement made by SWS.

**Action:** SAC member Stephanie Nawyn will be responsible for completing this task.

**Fact Sheet 2008 Topics and Committee Responsibilities**

We have decided upon five fact sheet topics for 2008, with the fifth being an open category, to encourage development of ideas from the SWS community and beyond. The five topics are listed below.
We have appointed a “point person” to each fact sheet topic to more formally integrate SAC members into the work of the committee. This point person will assist the committee chair with putting out the CFP for each topic, reviewing and finding appropriate reviewers for fact sheet proposals, and editing and distributing fact sheets to places outside the academy.

Fact Sheet Topics for 2008 and “point person” from SAC committee

Women and Size (fat studies) Chris Bobel

Women and Environmental Justice Tracy Ore

Women/Gender and Disability Gayle Sulik

Gender and International Adoption Rachel Kutz-Flamenbaum

Open category Andrea S. Boyle

We have increased the author honorarium to $750.00 per fact sheet.

We discussed the CFP for fact sheets, to include a request of possible organizations to distribute the fact sheet to, and to also include an example of a well written proposal, to “raise the bar” in terms of our expectations for fact sheet proposals and final documents.

Availability and Marketing of Fact Sheets

In hopes of a wider audience of the fact sheets within the academy, we request $50.00 to have fact sheets printed out and available at SWS Summer Meetings.

Action: Need to request Publications Committee, and request monies.

We hope to increase visibility of fact sheets outside the community through the use of the website. A goal is to get all fact sheets in pdf form made available online, and to make the approach to the fact sheets more user friendly. Another goal is to track online when fact sheets are accessed and downloaded from SWS website.

Action: Contact IT Committee with request.

In revisiting the process of fact sheets for authors, we are hoping to somehow streamline the process from fact sheet to Network News, with a header/font format for the authors.

*“Laundry List” of meeting venue expectations

Typically, after the SWS meetings are complete, attendees approach the SAC with a set of expectations regarding meeting venues. We have been keeping track of this list, which includes: Union hotel, Fair trade coffee, Childcare, Bar in hotel, Breast feeding facilities, Accessible for the disabled and elderly at the SWS

Additionally, we have been approached with reminders about scheduling: Happy hour/social hour at beginning of meeting (e.g., Thursday evening)

Make meetings more accommodating for graduate students (e.g., more affordable)

Considering the tight schedule we have in planning these meetings, the Local Arrangements Committee is not often able to make these requests reality. We distributed this list to the Local Arrangements Committee for Winter 08 Las Vegas—Ana Prokos, Membership Committee, and to incoming SWS president Joey Sprague to make this list of things happen if possible, cognizant of our tight scheduling system (not suggesting that we change the scheduling timeline, but that we remain aware of the difficulties facing Local Arrangements Committees)

*Mission Statement and Job Description of SAC

A goal is to develop a mission statement and job description of the committee (including fact sheets), and post this on the SWS website. We believe that this will keep the committee on task, make aware our committee goals and accomplishments, and attract new members. Additionally, we will develop a protocol of this committee’s duties, to make available through the SWS EO as well as to pass along to subsequent committee chairs.

*Undergraduate Activism Award transfer to the Awards Committee

We request that the Undergraduate Activism Award be transferred to the Awards Committee. The SAC has created and managed this award, but have found it difficult to have consistent presence in the general program. We feel strongly that this award is better suited within the Awards Committee, so that it is considered an award among awards. We believe that this action will allow this award to become a more institutionalized part of the SWS Winter Meetings, and more formally recognized within the program.

Action: Request was accepted.

Job Opportunities

University of Rhode Island

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Rhode Island invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology to begin in September 2007 or January 2008. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in Sociology with a specialization in criminal justice or a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with a substantial background in Sociology by the time of the appointment, demonstrated ability for excellence in undergraduate teaching, and demonstrated ability to conduct independent scholarly research in criminology and criminal justice. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of a criminology and criminal justice curriculum within a BS in Sociology program. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated ability to secure external funding for research, the ability to teach research methods, and one or more of the following substantive specialties: police, courts, juvenile justice, and/or comparative cross-national criminal justice. Candidate should submit (no emails or faxes, please) a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, a sample of written work and contact information for four (4) professional references to: Leo Carroll, Search Committee Chair, (Req #911647), University of Rhode Island, P. O. Box G, Kingston, RI 02881. Review of applications will begin on April 2, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. The University of Rhode Island values diversity and is an AA/EEO employer. URI is also an NSF ADVANCE institutional transformation university working to advance the careers of women faculty, especially in the science and engineering disciplines.
# 2007 Membership Dues

(Effective Jan 1-Dec 31, 2007)

- New Member
- Student
- Renewal
- Gift Membership *(New!)*
- New Address

Federal Tax ID
23-2162891

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(Foreign postage subsidized by SWS)

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___ I do NOT want my name included when SWS sells its membership list (usually to publishers)

___ I do NOT want to receive the Gender & Society journal

___ I do NOT want to be included in the directory

## Membership Fees – Please Check All that Apply

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<td>Life Membership</td>
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<td>Library Rate Only (Network News Only)</td>
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### Voluntary Information
(Used for membership recruitment efforts only)

#### New Members – How did you hear about SWS?

- Professor
- Grad Student
- Website
- Professional Meeting
- Other, please specify __________________________

#### All Members – What is your current job position/title?

________________________________________

## Contribution Opportunities

- SWS operations
- Minority Scholarship
- Feminist Lectureship
- Natalie Allon Fund (discrimination support)
- Barbara Rosenblum Fund (dissertation award)
- Beth Hess Scholarship

### Miscellaneous:

- Electronic Copy 2007 Membership Directory
  (free; email address must be completed above)

### Make checks or money orders (in U.S. currency) payable to: Sociologists for Women in Society

- SWS Executive Office
- Department of Sociology
- University of Rhode Island
- Kingston, RI 02881
- Fax: 401-874-2588
- Phone: 401-874-9510
- Email: sws@etal.uri.edu
- Website: www.socwomen.org

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<th>Visa</th>
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<td>Signature:</td>
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**CHARGE WILL SHOW AS UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**
**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION** – Areas are consistent with ASA sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application and Practice</th>
<th>Politics and Social Change</th>
<th>Sociology of Culture</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparative and Historical Approaches</strong></td>
<td>H.8. Social Change</td>
<td>N.1. History of Sociology/Social Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.2. Animals and Society</td>
<td><strong>Race and Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Work, Economy and Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender and Sexuality</strong></td>
<td>J.3. Migration/Immigration</td>
<td>O.3. Occupations/Professions</td>
</tr>
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<td>D.2. Sexualities</td>
<td><strong>Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance</strong></td>
<td>O.5. Social Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.1. Disabilities</td>
<td>K.2. Criminology/Delinquency</td>
<td><strong>Qualitative Approaches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.3. Race, Class and Gender</td>
<td>K.4. Law and Society</td>
<td>P.2. Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.4. Stratification/Mobility</td>
<td>K.5. Penology/Corrections</td>
<td><strong>Quantitative Approaches</strong></td>
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<td>F.1. Alcohol and Drugs</td>
<td><strong>Social Psychology and Interaction</strong></td>
<td>Q.2. Quantitative Methodology</td>
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<td>G.2. Environmental Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>G.3. Rural Sociology</td>
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<td>G.4. Urban Sociology</td>
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**List 3 areas in order of importance:** #1 _______ #2 _______ #3 _______

**Gift Membership Receiver’s Information:** Please print the complete name and address of the gift receiver.

________________________  
________________________________  
________________________________

**Non-Member Referrals:** Please print the names and emails of friends and colleagues to whom you wish us to send information and a membership form.

____________________ _______________________ _______________________
____________________ _______________________ _______________________  

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**Sociologists for Women in Society**

[www.socwomen.org](http://www.socwomen.org)

2007 President: Manisha Desai  
Executive Officer: Jessica Holden Sherwood

SWS Executive Office  
University of Rhode Island  
Department of Sociology  
Kingston, RI 02881  
Phone: 401-874-9510  
Fax: 401-874-2588  
Email: sws@etal.uri.edu
**Local and Regional Chapters**

**ACTIVE STATUS**

*(Meet on a regular basis)*

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**REGIONAL**

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**EAST (SWS-EAST)**
Laura Steck (laurawesteck@yahoo.com)

**INTERESTED IN FORMING CHAPTER**

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**MINNESOTA**
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**PHILADELPHIA AREA**
Elizabeth Borland  (borland@tncj.edu)

**PLEASE SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO MARY VIRNOCHE (MV23@HUMBOLDT.EDU)**