

SWS

FALL 2009 • VOLUME XXVI NO. 3

Network*news*

The Newsletter of Sociologists for Women in Society



Article:

Summer Meeting Minutes

Article:

**SWS Joins the Women's
Working Group (WWG)**

SWS Elections:

Candidate Profiles



President's Message: Moving Forward...?

By Shirley Hill
SWS President

I owe a debt of thanks to all of you for the wonderful meeting we had in San Francisco. The meeting featured some of our traditional summer meeting events, including a talk by our feminist lecturer and an awards banquet. We were honored to have Professor Paula England, a pioneer in the field of gender studies, as our feminist lecturer. In an interesting and insightful lecture, Paula drew on a class perspective to analyze gender inequalities in the labor market. The awards banquet was held at the City Café of San Francisco, and I congratulate all of those who won awards. Also, I want to express my deepest thanks to Rebecca Bach and the members of the awards committees for their hard work in selecting the award winners, and to our EO Jessica Holden Sherwood for finding the lovely banquet location. One of our goals is helping orient new and first-time attendees to SWS meetings, and the HAND program is one way we try to do that. Thus, I was delighted when EO Jessica shared with me some comments the program had gotten from HAND program participants. I'll share one: "I believe that meeting my mentor in the Hand Program was very helpful. She helped me navigate which sessions, section meetings, and workshops to take advantage of at ASA and SWS. She was also helpful in providing me with information about the Sister-to-Sister network and the names of colleagues that share my areas of research. Overall, it was also beneficial meeting another Latina sociologist with whom I could share my experiences with. The free dessert was an added bonus."

Beyond these summer meeting traditions and the usual committee meeting, the rest of

the meeting agenda emerged as a result of inspiration from our members, who offered some dynamic and timely sessions. The session on the murder of Dr. Tiller, facilitated by Carole Joffe and Tracy Weitz, drew about 35 and resulted in a great discussion. Persis Karim's session on women in the Iranian movement also gave us an opportunity to discuss a timely current issue, and Persis was pleased with the interest and ideas that came from the session. Our committees hosted some of the sessions, which will be described in meeting minutes elsewhere in the newsletter. I attended the session organized by the Sister-to-Sister Committee co-chairs, Marlese Durr and Marcia Hernandez called "Centers of Silence," where we engaged in a frank discussion about the racial and intergenerational tensions that periodically emerge in SWS, and possible solutions to those tensions. SWS's ongoing interest in creating a fair and equitable organization is commendable, and I think we're making much progress towards that goal. But our ability to discuss issues of social inequality—especially race—seems to run exactly counter to what is going on in the larger society.

The election of the first African American president in America's history is a significant milestone in race relations, but fear that it signals an end of white privilege has ignited a storm of protest over every move President Obama makes, even a benign message urging teenagers to stay in school and work hard. Publicly expressed disdain for the President, starting with Rush Limbaugh's hope that "this presidency fails," is widely applauded by many and has been replicated in events such as Senator Wilson calling the president a "liar" during his congressional address, Senator DeMint's proclamation that the best

way to "break" the President is to defeat health care reform, and prayers by several Christian pastors that President Obama would "die and go to hell." It's not surprising that this generalized anxiety has found a focus in President Obama's major policy initiative, health care reform, which has sparked more national protest than the Bush administration's decision to invade Iraq and Afghanistan. I understand there are legitimate concerns (and fears) over health care reform, that people have every right to express those concerns, and that not all protest over health care reform is not racist. But it was disheartening to see so many town hall meetings upended by protesters who had no intention of discussing/learning about proposed health care legislation, vicious campaigns of misinformation about health care reform, and a major television network refuse to even carry the President's address to Congress on the issue. Among the many demeaning signs carried by those protesting health care reform, the one of President Obama dressed like a witch doctor under a caption reading "go back to Kenya" was hard to miss and difficult to attribute to differences over health care reform. Yet, while Glen Beck can publicly claim that the President "has a deep-seated hatred for white people" and the Fox News website can post an article that alleges health care reform is a stealth form of reparations for slavery (whites will pay, blacks will get the benefits), any suggestion that race may be a factor in the protest over health care is met with swift and vehement denials by those on the right. The new post-racial America seems less like a place where race doesn't matter, and more like one where any public discussion of it is forbidden.

The SWS Health Policy Wiki is up and Running!

By Christine Morton and Cameron MacDonald
SWS Health Care Wiki co-chairs

If you have signed up on the Wiki, great! Come back and participate. Remember the web link is: <http://swshealthpolicy.wetpaint.com>. There are some discussion threads started or you can start your own. There is always room for more content -- your favorite weblinks, your course syllabi, and your classroom tips for teaching health policy:

If you haven't signed up but would like to join, email SWS.Health.Policy@socwomen.org and within a few days, you will receive a formal invitation. This step is necessary because the wiki is restricted to SWS members at present. If you signed up but forgot your username/password, just email our SWS wiki help address: SWS.Health.Policy@socwomen.org.

If you don't know what a wiki is, or why you should be going to look at this newest resource for SWS members, there will be a dedicated workshop to introduce you to all things Wiki at the SWS Winter Meetings in Santa Barbara. At that time, we will also solicit and encourage members with expertise in certain areas to volunteer to be topic content editors. Much like I'm doing with reproductive care, and Joey with 'breaking news' -- being a topic editor just means taking an hour or so a week to post something of interest, or respond to something that has been posted.

Remember, the value of a wiki is only as strong as the contributions of the group. While research on online communities shows that only about 1-2% of any group publicly posts or is active in discussion threads (while the majority are free riders), we know SWS is above the curve! We encourage you to become Wiki-Savvy and an active member of the SWS Health Policy Wiki.

SWS **Networknews**

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

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Graphics Editor Allison Alvarez Hedrick

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International Pat Ould
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Publications Kerry Ann Rockquemore
Social Action Jodie Lawston
Nominations Joey Sprague
Sister2Sister Marcia Hernandez
Gender & Society Editor Dana Britton
Book Review Editor Martha McCaughey

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601 South College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403. Phone: (910) 962-7849.
Email: HossfeldL@uncw.edu

Deadlines for submission:

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

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

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

Invoices will be sent after announcements appear.

Please send membership and change of address information to: SWS Executive Office, URI Sociology, Chafee Social Science Center
Kingston, RI 02881
Office: 401.874.9510
Fax: 401.874.2588
Email: swseo@socwomen.org

Gender & Society Book Review Editor: Call for Applications

Linda Grant and Kathrin Zippel, Publications Committee Co-Chairs

The Publications Committee seeks applications and nominations for the position of Book Review Editor for *Gender & Society*. The Book Review Editor is responsible for coordinating (with the journal editor) the following tasks: 1) selection of books for review, 2) selection of reviewers for books, 3) supervision of the review process, 4) editing reviews for publication, and 5) preparing and presenting activity reports to the Publications Committee at both the Summer and Winter meetings. Approximately 50 reviews per year are published in *Gender & Society*. The Book Review Editor receives an annual stipend of \$5000, an additional \$2400 for required travel to both the Summer and Winter SWS meetings, and funds for hourly student support. For the editorship, desirable resources and skills include experience with journals, editing and publishing. The Book Review Editor must be a member of SWS. For more information on the requirements and work of the position, please contact the current Book Review Editor, Martha McCaughey (email: mccaughey@appstate.edu).

The appointment is a three-year term, beginning May 15, 2010. Applications should be emailed to Linda Grant, Co-Chair of Publications Committee (lgrant@uga.edu). The application should include: 1) a statement of background and interest; 2) a statement of goals for the book review section; 3) a CV; 4) a statement of supportive resources, including (but not limited to) the extent to which the applicant's institution supports the position in terms of space, management, and administrative issues. The deadline for applications is December 1st, 2009.



SWS Winter 2010 Meetings

Call for Abstracts for Panel Proposals and Round Table Presentations

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



DATES: February 4-7, 2010

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

www.hotelmarmonte.com



California, like much of the nation, is deadlocked over competing visions of the future. Long heralded as the “left coast” for its diversity, liberal democratic majority, strong system of higher education, Hollywood, and a strong environmental lobby, California is now rife with conflict over definitions of citizenship, control of bodies—immigrant, children, female, queer—and their racialization and increasing demonization as expressed by the passage of legislation by state voters. For example, Proposition 21 facilitates trying and sentencing minors, largely of color, as adults. Proposition 187 (struck down by the courts) proposed to deny education and health benefits to undocumented immigrants and their U.S.-born children. Most recently, the passage of Proposition 8 restricts legal marriage to heterosexual couples. How the public and policymakers define and patrol “borders” is one of our most hotly contested issues. “Borders” refers both to the geographic terrain as well as the ideological dimensions that seek to restrict and control access to the “pursuit of happiness.” Contestations over appropriate borders, ideological and political, are not restricted to California but are sweeping the nation. “Left Coast Feminisms” are not specific to California or the Pacific Northwest; rather, the term is a proxy for a national engagement with social justice shared by feminists across the nation. These engaged feminisms articulate visions of social justice and programs, intellectual, pedagogical, and grassroots, that articulate this vision.

SWS members are invited to submit proposals for panels and abstracts that interrogate concepts of borders, bodies, and the law within the rubric of left coast and all engaged feminisms. Please submit abstracts 250 words or less to conference coordinator, Brianne Davila (meeting@socwomen.org) by **November 1, 2009**.

If you have any questions, please email Denise Segura or Brianne Davila at meeting@socwomen.org.

See you in Santa Barbara!



SWS Business Meeting Minutes - Summer 2009

Sunday, August 9, 2009, 10am

I. Welcome and Introductions.

A. Welcome and Announcements by President, Shirley Hill

Introduction of parliamentarian for this meeting, Tiffany **

A taskforce will be established to review composition of Executive Council and the Executive Officer Board

The Executive Office, with the assistance of council and committee chairs, is developing a procedures manual detailing policies and procedures for committees

Council and the Awards Committee are reviewing process for creating new and naming and for the nomination process.

B. Treasurer's Report (Tracey Steele)

Summary of Treasurer's report. SWS is doing better financially than expected. Tracey Steele is working on procedures to streamline processes and describe in manual.

C. Report from Executive Officer (Jessica Holden Sherwood)

1. Rachel Weiss Smith has been added to the executive office staff.

2. Website needs the following improvements:

Improved timeliness and more appeal to general public

Data base for substantive expertise (web manager working on this)

3. First report from Communications Officer and media plan will be published in *Network News*. Request for membership to please provide feedback.

II. Pending business

A. Mainstreaming and Communications Report

1. Joey Sprague informed members that Jessica Holden Sherwood was hired as the Communications Officer.

2. Theda was hired as the Media Specialist.

The Mainstreaming Team will be creating a database of SWS member experts in 15 different areas of expertise. The call for participants will be in *Network News*.

4. The press release resulted in many hits on the website. However, we will redesign the website before releasing another press release.

B. SWS activism on Health Policy

Joey Sprague reported that the winner of white paper competition is Elisabeth.

The health care wiki is up and running. We are looking for people with expertise in this area to participate. There is a link to the wiki on the SWS Member's Page. Please visit to read, if not post.

We are also looking for editors and feedback about how to improve.

C. Second vote on changing Bylaws to add President-Elect to EOB

Passed unanimously

D. Second vote on adding to Bylaws that we'll re-vote in the case of a tie

Unanimously rejected.

III. New Business

ASA Minority Fellowship - Myra Marx Feree proposed that SWS committees consider endowing a specific minority fellow in ASA and Executive Council and EOB begin discussing how we might support this program in ASA. Marlese Durr suggested we put something in *Network News* about this program and how individuals can participate.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Nominations (Joey Sprague) - The nominations committee is constructing the slate of candidates and reminded membership that a recommendation for nomination does not necessarily mean that person

will end up on the ballot.

B. Awards (Rebecca Bach)

The Awards Committee has pushed up the deadlines and process, so award winners can make it to meetings. Awards geared toward faculty/mentors had decline in nominations. There were no nominations made for feminist lecturer award. Activism award only came after extending deadline. Awards Committee wrote procedures for establishing and naming awards and forwarded it to Council for review. Awards Committee proposed to council that all award winners receive the same award.

C. Sister to Sister (Marcia Hernandez)

There was a huge volume and high quality to the applicants for the Women of Color Dissertation Award. The committee is working on streamlining the process including moving toward electronic nominations process. Committee will also be discussing whether or not the award should be limited to sociologists or should include all social sciences. The Committee is also working on interracial and intergenerational tensions and strategies to facilitate mentoring. This will be included in Network News.

D. Membership (Susan Farrell)

The response rate for the ASA candidate factsheet was good and most candidates were expecting it. The committee is discussing whether or not we still need it.

The committee is working on a webpage for membership committee. Local and regional are doing well and growing. Reminder that there are funds available for local chapters. Committee is working on problems with membership retention including developing a database of who stays and who leaves. Trying to figure out why they don't come back. There is question about comfort for new members and how we might make new members feel more valuable to the organization. Also discussing how to provide more pragmatic resources to grad students and faculty. The committee requests ideas from members about this issue. Laura Kramer suggested that the organization consider what the organization can do for senior scholars (as well as what seniors can do for the organization).

E. Student Concerns (Crystal Jackson)

The committee is working on student involvement, especially in terms of electronic social networking (e.g Facebook, reading/writing sharing groups).

Committee is working on promoting people on the job market. Including a biography on website and perhaps in Network News. ABS participants will be meeting with Student Concerns committee next year at ASA in Atlanta.

F. Publications (Kerry Ann Rockquemore)

Book review editor term is up in 2010, advertising for new book editor and will be selected at winter meeting. Description of the process by which the new contract with Sage was negotiated. The Publications Committee will send recommendations for changes to the process to council. Lisa Brush provided and overview of past contract and how the new contract is similar and different.

G. Gender & Society (Dana Britton)

General statistics are very positive (see Editor's Report) and general trends in the manuscripts that are rejected before external review. There is not a special issue slated, so members should contact Dana with ideas and if interested (special issue editors must be on G&S editorial board)

H. Academic Justice (Kris DeWelde)

The committee is following up with Contemporary Society about eliminating gender as a substantive area. The committee discussed the proposed Lorber Award and will be tabling it for winter meetings.

I. Discrimination

No report

J. Career Development (Tamara Smith)

9 matches for Professional Mentoring and thanked Leslie Hossfeld for making the program visible in *Network News*. The committee is working on electronic version of "Hey, Jane" so people can add and comment.

K. Social Action

No report

L. International (Pat Ould)

Information about UN participation will be published in Network News. SWS will appoint 2 reps and 1 alternate to attend. Committee will put out a call on listserv for people interested in participating in World Social Forum. Committee received 2 applications from potential international partnership and have established one international partner. Committee will write a piece about this for Network News and post on listserv.

M. Scholarship & Human Rights (Joey Sprague)

An SWS representative will be participating in the ISA Research Committee (32) in the 2010 World Congress Forum.

V. Winter 2010 meeting preview

Denise Segora invited members to the winter meeting in Santa Barbara the first week in February.

Theme: Left Coast Feminism: Re-imagining Borders, Bodies, and the Law.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm

SWS Executive Council I Meeting - Saturday, August 8, 2009, 10:30 am

Presider: Shirley Hill

Respectfully submitted by Mimi Schippers, Secretary

Present: Shirley Hill, Joey Sprague, Jessica Sherwood, Tracey Steele, Crystal Jackson, Laura Kramer, Susan Farrell.

1. Report/follow up from EOB

A. Tracey Steele, Treasurer, provided a summary report to council. There are several items that EOB will bring to council after site visit in October.

2. Mainstreaming Task Force update

A. Joey Sprague reported that the mainstreaming task force is in good shape. So far, there are 13 people identified as node leaders of specific specialty areas. Joey requested that members of council think about additional specialty categories we should be considering and to let Joey know about their ideas. In the fall, the mainstreaming task force will invite all members of SWS to be included in a data base as possible contacts for media and to be considered part of the specialty network. Executive office will create this data base.

B. New Media Specialist suggested the SWS website needs to be updated. Mainstreaming task force has proposed allocating \$15,000 for overhauling the website. Council approved the allocation of up to \$15,000 for update. Jessica will distribute to members of council a questionnaire about what the website should do. Will then get estimate for redesign.

C. Theda also suggested redoing the logo. Council discussed the possibility of having a contest among members to redesign the logo and then have membership vote on top design. Jessica and Theda will discuss implications of logo redesign.

3. Report from Communications Officer

Jessica Holden Sherwood reported that she is working on a media plan, its function to answer question: What are we doing here and why? Jessica will continue to discuss this with Theda.

4. Council discussed the protocol for signing contracts.

Council approved protocol that the executive officer and the current president sign all contracts. Jessica will include this in the procedures manual.

5. Council discussed whether or not there should always be a competitive bidding process for publishing journals. Council will recommend to publication committee that they enter competitive bidding process. This recommendation will be included in the Publication Committee Chair's Procedure Manual.
6. Jessica is working on developing procedure manuals for chairs of all committees. The manuals will include a basic mission statement for each committee. Council will approve the mission statements for each committee. When committees revise the procedure manuals, the chairs must submit revisions to council for approval. Jessica compiling committee descriptions and will check to see if a description of each committee's charge is included in the bylaws.
7. Review of Awards
 - a. Awards committee submitted a proposal for standardizing the process for establishing new awards and naming awards. Members of council agreed to review and revisit at second Council meeting. President's report will include information about award procedures.
 - b. Denise suggested creating a task force to review existing awards and procedures for nomination. Council will inquire with the committee about whether or not a task force should be established.
8. Review of proposals
 - a. Journalism Award - Council agreed to the following criteria:
Award will be for single work rather than body of work. The award winner will make a presentation at the winter meetings. The forum of presentation will be determined by President-elect and might include part of a plenary session/lunch or part of banquet. Awards committee will award the journalism award. Council recommends establishing a special committee including Communications Officer, Media Specialist, 2 people from mainstreaming team, and anyone else interested to review nominations for Journalism Award. The Communications Officer will chair that special committee.
 - b. Lorber FTA award
Shirley requested that the Transformation of the Academy Committee submit a formal proposal to establish this award. That proposal has not yet been submitted.
9. Requests for funding
 - a. Chair of international committee requested we provide funds for travel to the World Social Forum Meeting working women's group as representative of SWS. Council agreed that this request should come from International Committee rather than an individual member. Council is willing to fund up to \$500 for international travel for individual members as representatives of SWS, but all requests must come through the develop a procedure for evaluating and approving individual requests for international travel. Council requests that funded international travel include efforts to seek connections with other feminist scholars and organizations. Council will request that the International committee ask membership who does international research to recommend potential scholars and organizations.
 - b. International Committee requested \$300 for speakers on world-wide grassroots organizations. EOB recommended SWS provide \$300 for honoraria and funds for organizations. Council approved this request.
 - c. Council will reiterate that committees must give council at least 30 days to consider proposals and requests for funds.
10. Joey Sprague proposed removing awards from membership forms and instead, request donations when award is given at the awards banquet and when awards are announced in Network News. Council approved the following:
 - a. Only Feminist Futures donations will be included on the membership form.
 - b. Membership form will include website address and link to where donations can be made.
 - c. A description of the award and the accomplishments and contributions of the person for whom the award is named will be provided when the awards are given and on the website.
 - d. Envelopes for each award will be circulated at the awards banquet.
11. Council discussed whether or not nonmembers can buy a gift membership? If a non-member expresses an interest in buying a gift membership, Jessica will send them the form.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

SWS Executive Council II Meeting - Monday, August 10, 2009, 8:30 am

Presider: Shirley Hill

Respectfully submitted by Mimi Schippers, Secretary

Present: Shirley Hill, Joey Sprague, Jessica Sherwood, Tracey Steele, Crystal Jackson, Laura Kramer, Susan Farrell, Denise Segura.

Contract with Sage

Report from Publications chair Kerriann.

Publications Committee made the following recommendations:

More communication between the Publications Committee and Council during contract negotiations. Standardize the procedure for contract negotiations and documentation of process. Revisit who is on the negotiating committee. Include legal expertise on the negotiating committee. New contract and new editor should be staggered. A competitive bidding process

Council will discuss who will be on the contract negotiating committee. Council will approve negotiating committee before moving forward with negotiations.

Jessica Holden Sherwood will look for nonprofit lawyer. Council will review the current contract and seek legal council. Council will strongly recommend that there is a competitive bidding process and council member will be on negotiating committee. Council will vote on contract during a phone conference after the EOB site visit.

Mainstreaming media plan

a. Council discussed placing links to other websites on the SWS website and whether or not a disclaimer should be included. Jessica will check with media specialist about disclaimer and whether or not we want to link.

Council will revisit this during a conference call meeting in October.

b. Jessica is seeking input from council about priorities of the mainstreaming plan. Jessica will seek input from council about what website should do. By August 31st, Jessica will provide a questionnaire to council.

Awards committee proposal

Council reviewed the proposal for standardizing the process for creating and naming awards.

Council made specific recommendations for changes to the procedure, will revert back to Awards Committee for review. All new awards and named awards must be submitted to the awards committee and then to council for approval. Jessica will develop system for making donations to organization in individuals' names. Council will move forward on new award and renaming proposals as proposals are submitted.

Discussion about how to include more membership in voting and whether or not voting should be online or in person business meeting. Council will revisit the voting issue on conference call or at winter meeting.

VI. Review of proposals

a. Council approved the Journalism Award and will put up for vote by membership at the winter meeting.

- b. USSF Representative request was sent back to International Committee for detailed proposal including detailed budget.
- c. Council approved funding the Chair of the International Committee for travel as representative of SWS to World Social Forum Meeting and will request a report.
- d. SWS Nominations procedures. Council sent the proposal back to nominations to consider number of candidates and filtering process.

Meeting adjourned at 10am.

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT, SUMMER 2009

Jessica Sherwood

1. AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

A. STAFF

Rachel Weisz-Smith is here for her first meeting as SWS-EO Administrative Assistant. Her contact info is at the bottom of this letterhead. Like me, Rachel grew up reading *Ms.* Magazine, so she is a good fit for SWS. Rachel is cheerfully and very capably filling some big proverbial shoes. A fond farewell to Kristen Baxter, with thanks for her work and very best wishes in her new home of Chicago.

B. FISCAL NOTES

Since EO news often concerns rising expenditures, I thought I'd share some recent good news in my continuous efforts to spend wisely:

- * Summer 2009 meeting: saving \$1200 at the City Club banquet by comparison shopping. (Original quote was for \$10,817; final contract is for \$9592.)
- * Summer 2009 meeting: saving \$800 by supplying a (borrowed) projector, rather than renting.
- * Winter 2010 meeting: saving \$1500 by negotiating waiver of room rental fees.

2. ON THE INTERNET

Our online functions are up and running: membership (including gift memberships), donations, meeting registration, election, the Health Policy Wiki, and access to the SWS members' directory. Please see the Communications Report for details on our expanding online presence. On the other hand, the website still needs improvement on two fronts: its timeliness and appeal to the public, and the less visible workings of the online functions and database. For the former, please see the draft Media Plan included in the Communications Report. For the latter, I'm pleased to have a new webmanager, Subash Manickam. Feel free to email him at web_reply@socwomen.org with updates.

3. HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO

<u>Many thanks to:</u>	<u>for volunteering to:</u>
Gail Wallace	compile the list of 2009 books by SWS members
Christine Morton	bring her projector for our meetings
Tracy Ore	photograph the awards banquet
Tiffany Taylor	serve as Parliamentarian
many more	staff the SWS Desk and Hospitality room.

SWS Midyear Treasurer's Report 2009

By Tracey Steele

At the midpoint of 2009, our financial resources remain strong and our expenditures are well in line with last year's projections.

Assets—SWS has managed to maintain a healthy bottom line despite the continued challenges to the economy. Our current assets total to nearly 1.4 million dollars largely due to a rebound in the financial markets. In fact, our investment accounts, managed by Rainbow Solutions, have done quite well outperforming even the S & P 500. Last year’s projections for 2009 suggested that at year’s end we would have \$976,567.92 in assets and \$866,949.75 in adjusted assets*. At the midpoint of this year we have already exceeded those expectations. However, given the vagaries shown in the markets of late, it is not certain that this trend will hold. Nonetheless, it seems that at minimum, cautious optimism regarding SWS assets is not unwarranted.

Revenues—There is good news in the revenue department as well. Income and revenues remain quite strong. Thanks primarily to 1) another year of impressive excess royalty revenues from Sage (over \$40,000 above 2009 projections and about \$4,000 higher than 2008 payments), 2) nearly \$3000 in interest on our money market accounts, 3) stable membership and meeting registration revenues, SWS revenues in 2009 should far exceed expectations.

Expenses—With minor exceptions, organizational spending is right on track through June of 2009. Higher than expected winter meeting member reimbursements were offset by savings in accommodations (Nice Job Shirley and the Savannah local arrangement committee!). Costs are also outpacing projections in the expenses associated with our web/online activities (e.g. meeting registration and membership). However, as always, EOB and executive council will continue to provide oversight for these and all other organizational costs.

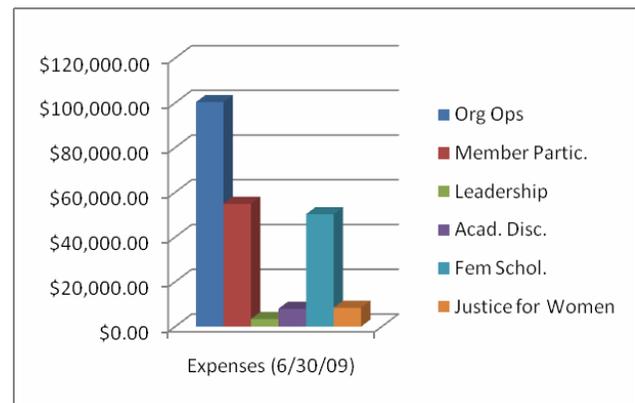
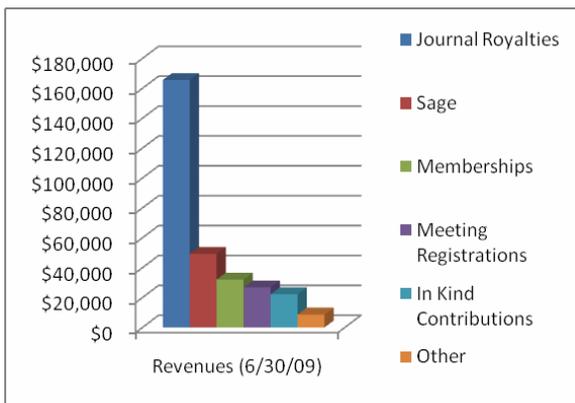
In the Works—The Executive Office and Budget Committee (EOB) will continue to work on an organizational spending plan that will help to provide structure for the current and future financial activities SWS. In addition, the treasurer, Executive Officer, and EOB will continue to work to formalize many of the procedures and informal policies involved with managing the finances of the organization.

*Adjusted assets, adjusted revenues and adjusted expenses refer to ‘real’ assets, revenues and expenses and excludes items such as pass through monies and items which have monetary value but do not involve the actual exchange of money (e.g. the value of the free memberships and ‘in kind’ services).

Pass-through money is money which comes into our accounts but is paid out to (and intended for) a third party such as the income from the winter auction and money paid by Sage for the operation of the journal

In-kind services are services or benefits provided to SWS by a third party such as the student assistance provided to the organization by Kansas State University and the University of Rhode Island.

Treasurer’s Report



Membership Committee Report

By Susan Farrell

Susan A. Farrell, Chair

Patti Giuffre, Julia McQuillan, Bernice McNair Barnett, Miriam Sessions, Lisette Garcia

Crystal Jackson, Shannon Davis, Jennifer Caputo, Erin Anderson — chapter liaison

Gail Wallace —MFP liaison, Kristen Schilt — Hand matching Program for Summer 2009

According to the Executive Office, our 2009 member list numbers 983 but this does not yet include members we picked up in San Francisco. The committee explored various ways in which we could improve some of our membership activities. Julia McQuillen will be continuing to explore why SWS members don't renew and what we can do about retention. She is working with the database provided by Jessica Sherwood and the SWS Executive Office. Julia and her team at the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Lincoln, Nebraska are preparing a sample questionnaire to follow up on these members. Lisette Garcia volunteered to do a simple webpage for our committee for the SWS website as this committee has never had one. We decided to keep it simple since SWS will be doing a major renovation of the whole site and we might have to do further work later on. Patti Giuffre is preparing a message to the Seniors and Juniors in the Hand Match program to be posted on the webpage. This message is to facilitate the matching process and help seniors and juniors find each other during the meetings. Kristen Schilt continued to work on the Hand matching program at the Summer meetings as she did for our Winter Meetings. Erin Anderson is working with local and regional chapters and sent a report on their activities. I'd like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support.

Committee on Academic Justice, Summer 2009 meeting minutes

1. Project involving **SWS Seals of Excellence, Gender Equity, and Gender Scholarship** certificates and letters have been completed and sent.
 2. **Lorber Prize update:** Decision to postpone Lorber "Feminist Transformation of the Academy" award until the naming of the "Women of Color Dissertation" award is resolved.
 3. **Feminist /Gender friendly publishers:** We will circulate a call for proposals on this research project; it will be (ideally) paid (\$1,000); we will offer a timeline of 1 year to complete the project and publish the results. If this time expires then we reserve the right to publish it on the website. The process will include:
 - Sending the draft to non-CAJ members to serve as preliminary editors once the author has results (3 months timeframe). This is in keeping with our approved protocol for evaluating committee documents for publication.
 - Author will then send findings/article out for peer review and publication.
- Budget: We will be requesting a budget line to award money for ongoing and recurrent research projects (such as the one described above).
4. Brief discussion to follow up on the status of **Contemporary Sociology categories**. *Follow up:* Sica resolved the controversy by deciding to alphabetize the reviews and offer a key word index in the back of each journal.
 5. **Climate survey audit:** tabled until winter meeting.

Career Development Committee Report - Summer 2009

Attending: Wendy Christensen, Carolyn Corrado, Astrid Eich-Krohm, Marcella Gemelli, Joya Misra, Susan Hinze, Tamara Smith, Laura West Steck

We discussed the "Beyond the Tenure-Track" session held the previous day and co-sponsored with the Student Concerns Committee, which was quite successful, and plans for the upcoming Hey Jane! column,

incorporate the insights of the panelists, along with some SWS members who were not at the meeting. Carolyn Corrado noted that she has carried out nine Professional Needs Mentor matches since January, which is consistent to the number of requests the previous Professional Needs Mentor coordinator, Erin Anderson, had received. People ask for mentor matches to help with publications, promotion and tenure, community service. In most cases, she is able to match people with a mentor within a few days. Most people are very responsive, and willing to serve as mentors. We also discussed making the forms requesting a mentor a web-based form, rather than its current .pdf form, which gets mailed to Carolyn.

The committee suggested that it may be worth adding a query to the Membership Form, which could then include whether they would like to serve as a Mentor or Mentee, and on which issues they would like to mentor/receive mentoring. Joya will discuss this with Jessica Holden-Sherwood, and determine if we could do this. We also discussed writing two articles for Network News. One of these will focus on past successful “matches,” and what made them successful, primarily to promote the Professional Needs Mentoring program. Carolyn Corrado and Joya Misra will work on this article together. Another will focus more broadly on mutual mentoring through SWS – meaning mentoring not only between more experienced and less experienced members, but also the lateral mentoring that occurs by being connected with other SWS members. The goal here is to make it clearer how “networking” happens, and why it is so useful to us. Wendy Christensen, Laura Steck, and Sue Hinze will work on this article together.

We discuss panels for the 2010 Winter Meetings (in Santa Barbara) and the 2010 Summer Meeting (in Atlanta). For Summer 2010, we’ll do a “Critique Me II” session, with small groups working on vitas and letters of application for job candidates. We will propose two sessions for the 2010 Winter Meetings: “Presentation of Self in Web-Based Life” and “Preparing Teaching Portfolios.” We expect the teaching portfolio session to be useful for tenure and promotion evaluations as well as for job applicants, and the “presentation of self” panel to be useful for SWS members in many different jobs and career stages. We will seek to co-sponsor one of these panels with Student Concerns.

Sue Hinze led our discussion of Hey Jane!, which she has begun coordinating. We discussed a number of potential upcoming columns, including the “Beyond the Tenure Track” column and a current column on grant-seeking. Both of those should be completed this fall. We also had already rolled out another Hey Jane! on academic job talks. Another priority for the committee was a Hey Jane! on service responsibilities, both laying out the various service jobs that many students and faculty may be asked to do, as well as advice about how to prioritize and weigh the costs and benefits of service work. We considered a column on retirement, but since a Hey Jane! on the topic was posted relatively recently, we decided to focus on some other issues first. Sue’s goal is to alternate between columns focused on issues important to older and younger members. Other column ideas include: building a teaching portfolio, using web-based networking tools, building a career in administration, moving as a senior scholar, identifying the right “fit” between your interests and types of jobs, grievance processes, and getting tenure.

Wendy Christensen led a discussion of how to make the most of blogging and including Hey Jane! and other links and information on our blog. Wendy provided good and creative insights about how these approaches could strengthen our committee’s work and SWS.

In the past, the *Network News* has provided nice “thank you” listings for anyone who has performed Professional Needs Mentoring for SWS. We plan to give the Network News editors lists of names of anyone who has provided information for Hey Jane! or anyone who has provided mentoring, so that both groups’ service to the discipline is recognized. In addition, Joya will coordinate with Jessica in order to send thank you letters on SWS letterhead to members of both groups in order to make this service more visible.

Overall, this is a remarkably vibrant and energetic committee, with many members committed to improving professional development for our SWS members. We appreciate this opportunity to work together.

SWS Social Action Committee Meeting, Monday August 10, 2009 San Francisco

Present: Jodie Lawston (chair), Elizabeth Sternke, Mary Virnoche, Jacqui Brennan

Fact Sheets

We had a good turnout in terms of fact sheet proposals, and the review process was competitive. Out of 22 proposals we chose 4 fact sheets that will be published in 2010 in Network News. The fact sheets for 2010 include the following:

Women and Nutrition (Michael Haedicke, Joanna Nichols and Nicole Taylor)

Women and Wealth (Mariko Chang)

Oppression Without Bigots (Abby Ferber and Dena Samuels)

Gender and Medicalization (Miranda Waggoner and Cheryl Stults)

We also discussed revisions of fact sheets that are 5 years or older. We decided that all fact sheets that are 5 years or older will get archived; the chair will contact all authors to explain their fact sheet is getting archived. If they choose to update their fact sheet then once the revisions are complete it will once again be posted on the main fact sheet page of the SWS website.

SAC Panel During ASA

The SAC organized a panel that was co-sponsored by both SWS and the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities section of SSSP, "Sex in the City: Sex Workers and the Unionization of their Labor."

This panel was held on Friday August 7 from 12:30 – 2:10 pm in the Stanford Court Hotel. The panel was very well attended. Presenters included Danielle Hildago, Carol Leigh, and Carol Queen; Hildago, a member of SWS, is currently doing research on sex work and both Leigh and Queen worked on behalf of Proposition K in San Francisco and have worked tirelessly for sex worker rights. The presentations were interesting and dynamic, and generated much discussion even after the time had ended.

Local/Fair Trade Ideas

We continue to encourage the use of local and/or organic foods at the Winter meetings, as well as fair trade coffee or other products.

At the summer meeting, we made stainless steel water bottles available for purchase. The proceeds of the purchased bottles went to St. James Infirmary, which offers free, confidential, nonjudgmental medical and social services for female, transgender, and male sex workers; this also fits well with the SWS focus on health and healthcare.

Water bottles are still available; if you would like to purchase one for the winter meeting please email: sws-socialaction@gmail.com. Special thanks to Elizabeth Sternke for her outstanding work on this project!

Undergraduate Student Activism Award

The SAC is currently writing a policy that clearly enumerates what the U.S.A award covers when recipients attend the winter meeting.

SWS Awards Committee - Summer 2009 Report

Rebecca Bach, Chair

In fall of 2008 I instituted a change in the deadlines for submissions for all of our awards. One goal of this change was to reduce confusion about the deadlines of the various awards and the various announcements about awards on the SWS listserv. Another goal was to respond to a request from the Executive Office to work toward moving the award process forward in order to allow decisions to be reached in time for award winners to make appropriate travel and scheduling plans to attend the awards banquet. We experienced mixed results with the change in deadlines. The awards that are geared toward students, the Cheryl Allen Miller Award, the Rosenblum Award, the Beth Hess Award, and the Sister-to Sister Award appeared to have no shortage of quality applicants. However, the awards geared toward faculty/professionals, Feminist Lecturer, Mentoring, and Feminist Activism awards experienced a decline in the numbers of nominations. In fact, no nominations were received for the Feminist Lecturer award and nominations for the Activism award only occurred after an extension of the deadline. The dearth of nominations may or may not be directly due to the

change in the deadline (to March 1), because the pool of nominations for Feminist Lecturer and the Feminist Activist in 2008 was also quite small.

The following SWS members served as chairs of award committees in 2009: Susan Hinze (Rosenblum), Ana Prokos (Cheryl Allen Miller), Marlese Durr (Women of Color Fellowship), Myra Marx Ferree (Beth Hess), Andrea Miller (Feminist Activism), Lisa Brush (Feminist Lecturer), Judith Wittner (Feminist Mentoring), and Kate Linnenberg (Student Activism). The 2009 winners of the awards will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet in San Francisco. As usual, the wonderful folks at the executive office coordinated plaques, checks, and other perks for the award winners.

In spring of 2009, I was asked by Council to review a new award that they had proposed and to search for an official awards policy statement. I was unable to find a policy statement, although Jessica uncovered a brief policy statement created in the early 1990's. Council then asked the Awards committee to create a policy regarding the creation of new awards, the naming of awards, and how SWS should handle endowed awards. A draft of the policy statement was submitted to President Hill in June. I am unaware of action taken by Council with regards to the awards policy.

At the 2008 winter meeting I proposed a review of the awards to attempt to streamline the benefits given in the graduate student awards. Below is a table of the benefits associated with each of the awards marked with an X. An asterisk indicates a proposed change in the benefit structure in order to create consistency across awards. If Council does not object, I will institutionalize the proposed changes for the next award cycle.

Proposed Changes in Award Benefits

Title of Award	summer reg & banquet	plaque and check	travel reimbursable	winter mtg reg	winter travel grant	membership fee
Beth Hess Award	X	X	travel grant included	X	*	X
Cheryl Allen Miller	X	X	X	*	*	*
Women of Color	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rosenblum Award **	X ?	X	*	*	*	*
SWS-ASA-MFP	X	X (ASA provides \$)	ASA provides	X	X	X

**Given in odd years

International Committee Meeting Agenda SWS Summer Meeting, August 2009

Present: Pat Ould, Susan Lee, Astrid Eich-Krohm, Diana Papademas, Jessica Sherwood, Tracey Steele, Marina Karides, Silke Gisela Heumann.

Member information forms: Pat passed out member information forms for people present to fill out and state their interest in the committee's work. She will make a posting to the listserv and submit it to Network News so that those not present may fill one out as well.

UN CSW meeting report: Good turnout this year at CSW staggered across the two weeks of the meeting. A total of 17 people attended. 3 official reps and a group of students and other interested members attended. A report of our participation was published in Network News. Regarding future participation – we can submit a statement on the priority theme for the coming year and we plan to initiate that process. Diane Papademas the main rep for DPI reported on the DPI meeting in Mexico City, which will take place in three weeks. Diane will be the only UN rep who will attend. It is a great way for SWS to network with other women from around the world.

UN representative applications: Susan Lee reported on the applications she has received for the current year and outlined the expectations for the reps. The committee considered the applications. There were three applications and two positions available. The committee voted unanimously to appoint Astrid Eich-Krohm and Barret Katuna as our official ECOSOC rep for the coming year. Danielle Jauk was appointed an alternative to ECOSOC should a vacancy open up.

WSF participation: Marina Karides explained the Women's Working Group of the United States Social Forum, a coalition of grassroots activists. The USF is affiliated with the World Social Forum. In 2004, SWS was registered for the First Social Forum of the Americas and sponsored three SWS events. The Women's Working Group is one of the groups within the Social Forum and includes such organizations as labor alliances and NOW. SWS has been invited to be part of the planning group for the June 2010 meeting and Marina would like SWS to formally join the Women's Working Group of the US Social Forum. Once SWS joins, we will be able to present three two-hour sessions at the next US Social Forum. Marina suggested a budget of \$500 for the Women's Working Group participation; we will present this request at the winter meeting. Tracey Steele suggested we set our Social Forum participation and budget request within the overall goals of the SWS mission. Diana Papademos moved that the International Committee support SWS participation in the Women's Working Group. She asked for more information to defend our participation to the SWS Executive Board.

The motion passed. More detailed information will be presented at the winter meeting. Marina led a workshop on the US Social Forum at this summer meeting and received some support from SWS for registrations.

International Partnership Program: Marina Karides has received two applications and a third is forthcoming from Esther Chow. Pat Ould also has two centers in mind and will solicit the proper documentation for consideration at the winter meeting. Pat Martin recommended the Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (CSG) of the University of Trento, Italy. Joan Spade recommended the Center for Intercultural Psychology and Education (CIPE) at ELTE University of Budapest Hungary. Joan was in residence at the center. Several scholars research gender issues. There is little support in Hungary for higher education and the Center would highly value a connection with SWS. The director of the program has submitted a letter of application to the partnerships program and expressed particular interest in the journal subscription. She promised to write an article for *Network News*. Pat Ould made a motion to approve Joan Spade's application; the motion passed. Marina will serve as the chair of the International Partnership Program committee.

Budget Request: Pat Ould explained the rationale for our budget request to the Exec Comm. We are requesting a total of \$4,400 to fund the International Partnerships Program, hosting a side event at the 2010 UN-CSW, and travel for UN Reps.

New Business: Marina Karides raised the issue of our participation in RC-32 of the ISA in Goteborg, Sweden in 2010. She suggested that SWS sponsor a reception at the meeting.

Student Concerns Committee Meeting Report

Crystal Jackson

SCC is very active online, via the e-mail list-serv (e-mail either j-korn@northwestern.edu to be added or send a blank email to SWS-Grad-subscribe@yahoo.com) and a Facebook fan page (Student Sociologists for Women in Society) and Facebook group. Participation in our summer workshop and meeting was low, but the Happy Hour was successful, with around 25 students in attendance. We anticipate the winter meeting to have much higher attendance, as we did in Savannah, 2009.

We are doing several things to encourage student involvement:

1. Promote students on the job market via a posting in the hospitality suite at the SWS Summer Meeting and a page in *Network News* (this issue). Looking into posting the info on the SWS website, as well.
2. Continue to encourage involvement at the national level via practical services like professional workshops.
3. We attempted to organize online editing/sharing groups, which have yet to be utilized. Looking into how to better student ownership of the groups and get them going.
4. Better advertise the mentoring program (<http://www.socwomen.org/page.php?ss=6>) to gain assistance in specific areas from writing articles to being on the job market (thanks to Carolyn Corrado for promoting this program at our workshop). Also, we want to make the Hand Program mandatory for all students, especially at the Winter Meeting. This happened in Savannah and the students were all very happy to have been matched with a more senior member.

Finally, the SCC encourages students on existing committees (membership, sister-to-sister, etc) to attend the SCC meetings and report on what those committees are doing, to prevent overlap and to encourage collaboration (thanks to Stephanie Nawyn for emphasizing the importance of this at our workshop). At the Winter Meeting, the SCC will discuss having student appointees on each committee to accomplish this goal and encourage student participation in all levels of SWS.

Many thanks to previous Student Representatives, especially Minjeong Kim and Wendy Christensen, for all their guidance and support! Please contact me (cajackso@unlv.nevada.edu) if you want to help out with any of these initiatives or have questions.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry Ann Rockquemore and Linda Grant Co-Chairs

The Publications Committee is co-chaired by Kerry Ann Rockquemore and Linda Grant. The members of the Publications Committee are Margaret Hunter, Jan Thomas, Kathrin Zippel, Karen Pyke. The Ex Officio Members are Tracy Steele (SWS Treasurer), Laura Kramer, (SWS Deputy Treasurer), Dana Britton (Editor, *Gender & Society*), Leslie Hossfeld (Editor, *Network News*), Martha McCaughey (Book Review Editor, *Gender & Society*). The committee regularly invites Tom Mankowitz (Sage Publications) to provide a publishers report.

Gender & Society

Dana Britton reported that *Gender & Society* continues to thrive. Submissions remain high (439 manuscripts in the past 12 months) but the average time from submission to editorial decision remains low (57 days on average in 2009). Data provided by Sage indicated that our impact factor this year is 1.387 making G & S the third ranked journal in Women's Studies, and fourteenth in sociology. The journal editor reported that the acceptance rate is 8% for 2009. The special issue on "Heteronormativity and Sexualities" (edited by Beth Schneider and Jane Ward) was published in August 2009. Please see the editor's report for more detailed information.

The committee discussed two concerns that have been raised by members. The first was following up on manuscripts that are internally reviewed and rejected ("pre-jects"). Dana Britton presented an analysis of pre-ject data to the committee and Tom Mankowski (Sage) noted that all Sage journals engage in the practice of pre-jecting submissions that are deemed ill-fitting for the journal according to a clear set of criteria. The committee was satisfied with the analysis of pre-ject data and pleased it will be presented as a consistent part of the Gender & Society Editor's Report to the Publications Committee. The second concern was a request to have the Gender & Society budget presented to the membership as part of the Editor's Report. Dana Britton agreed to publish a summary budget as part of the annual Editor's Report at the Winter meetings.

Editorial Transitions

There will be three editorial transitions in the near future. The first transition is due to Leslie Hossfeld's term as Editor of *Network News* ending on December 31, 2009. From that date forward, *Network News* will be produced and edited by Executive Officer Jessica Sherwood. The second transition is the Book Review Editor. Martha McCaughey's term ends in 2010. The Publications Committee will advertise the position during the Fall 2009 and then review applications and select the new Book Review Editor at the 2010 Winter Meetings or shortly thereafter. The final editorial transition involves Dana Britton's term as *Gender & Society* Editor (ending in 2011). The process to select a new G&S editor will be as follows: 1) the Publications Committee will form an *Editor Search Sub-Committee*, 2) the sub-committee will advertise the position, receive and review applications, interview finalists and recommend a new editor to the Publications Committee, 4) the Publications Committee will vote on the recommendation, and 5) the Publications Committee will forward its recommendation to Executive Council.

Gender & Society Contract Negotiations

The Publications Committee formed a *Negotiation Sub-Committee* at the 2009 Winter Meeting. That subcommittee was composed of the current Gender & Society Editor (Dana Britton), the past, current and forthcoming co-chairs of the Publications Committee (Toni Calasanti, Kerry Ann Rockquemore, and Linda Grant), and the previous Negotiations Sub-Committee Chair (Lisa Brush). The sub-committee negotiated a new contract for the journal and presented it to the Publications Committee for review and approval.

The proposed contract is with Sage Publications Inc and would be for a 7-year period. It includes the following improvements over the past contract: 1) an increase in royalties from 50% to 52% with a guaranteed advance of \$200,000 per year, 2) increased member benefits including full electronic access to all Sage collections and 40% discount on all Sage books and journals for SWS members, 3) a 4% annual increase in support to the editorial office that tops out at \$145,500 in 2016, and 4) a signing bonus of \$150,000.

The Publications Committee voted unanimously to present the proposed contract to the membership at the business meeting, and submit it to Executive Council for review and ratification. The Committee also voted unanimously to include the SWS president-elect in all future Negotiations Sub-Committees to improve transparency and communication between the Publications Committee and Executive Council.

Network News Editor's Report

Leslie Hossfeld

Production is running smoothly. There are still occasional problems with the SWS Bulk Mailing List, but typically individual First Class mailings occur for members who are not receiving their newsletters. Since Savannah meetings I have produced two issues, Volumes XXVI numbers 1-2. Average size per issue was 32 pages with over 1000 distribution. Editorship ends in December 2009, leaving Fall and Winter issues for production.

Gender & Society Editor's Report

August 2009

Editorial Staff

Sarah Donley, Sarah Jones, and Laura Logan continue as managing editors. Betsy Lucal and Bandana Purkayastha continue to serve the journal as Deputy Editors. Deputy Editors assist in the editorial decision process by providing initial reviews of manuscripts, choosing reviewers, and providing assessments of reviewed manuscripts. During the last 12 months, the DE's served as reviewers on 18 manuscripts and together handled 100 as deputy editors. Special issue editors Jane Ward and Beth Schneider handled 40 manuscripts as deputy editors. Britton handled 299 – 68% - of manuscripts received, and rendered decisions on all 439 (statistics from Manuscript Central – these are 12 month figures from August 4, 2008 to August 3, 2009).

Impact factor

The journal's impact factor for 2008 is 1.387 (for 2007 it was 1.4). ISI is now calculating two impact factors, the traditional two year measure and a new five year measure. Our five year impact factor is 1.989. Among 99 Sociology journals, we rank 18th on the two year measure and 14th on the five year measure. Among 29 Women's Studies journals, we rank 5th on the two year measure and 3rd on the five year measure. Basically the impact factor has remained stable. We are pleased with this, particularly given that one highly cited article fell out of the count last year.

Statistics

At a Glance Statistics 2008 – 2009			
January 1 – June 30			
	2008	2009	Difference
New MS	145	169	+24
Revised MS	47	32	-15
Total MS	192	201	+9
Review Packets Sent	248	232	-16
Reviews Completed	231	232	+1
Average Reviewer Days	30	26	-4
Average Decision Days	28	28	0

From January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009, *Gender & Society* received 201 submissions; 169 new and 32 revised manuscripts. This is up slightly (+9) over the same period during 2008. Numbers remain far higher since the transition to the online system. We sent 232 review packets out to reviewers, 232 were

returned. The average reviewer response time was 26 days. Through June 30, 2009, I have made 197 editorial decisions. This includes 16 accepts, 17 conditional accepts, 16 revise and resubmits, and 148 rejects (96 of which were rejected without external review). Our acceptance rate on the year is eight percent. The average time from submission to editorial decision is 28 days. The average time from submission to editorial decision for externally reviewed manuscripts is 57 days. The range of decision was 0 days (min.) to 82 days (max.).

Special Issues

Beth Schneider's and Jane Ward's special issue on "Heteronormativity and Sexualities" was published this month, August 2009. They received a total of 40 manuscripts in response to the call for papers. Of those, 30 were externally reviewed. There were fourteen papers that received revise and resubmit decisions; of those, five were accepted for the special issue. Two additional papers were accepted for regular issues of the journal. There is no new special issue slated at the moment.

SWS Local & Regional Chapters

2009 Reports and 2010 Funding Requests

Submitted by Erin K. Anderson, August 4, 2009

Chapter Liaison, SWS National Membership Committee

Total Chapter Funds Requested: \$2050.00

2009 Free Memberships Awarded:

No chapters noted providing free memberships during the 2008-2009 year. However, several chapters have expressed interest and have mentioned plans to utilize this opportunity in the coming year.

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Arizona: Tucson

Contacts: Cindy Cain (ccain@u.arizona.edu)
Jason Crockett (jlc76@u.arizona.edu)
Karen Gordon (kegordon@u.arizona.edu)
Monika J. Ulrich (mjulrich@u.arizona.edu)
Megan Wright (mswright@u.arizona.edu)

Activities:

SWS-Tucson put on a fantastic conference in April of 2009 called "Bringing the Body Back In: Toward a Corporeal Sociology." It was funded through the Unit Research Activities Fund and the Graduate and Professional Students Council Professional Opportunities Development Fund on the University of Arizona campus.

Request for Funding:

Request \$50 for costs related to guest speakers on gender topics for chapter.

Florida: Tallahassee

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

Activities:

The Tallahassee chapter had four very well-attended meetings in the 2008-2009 academic year. Each of our meetings focused on a specific topic accompanied by a reading, film, and/or guest speaker. Topics included: gender and race in the presidential election, gendered communication, sexuality, and the meanings of the feminist label. We were very excited to not only have discussions led by regular attendees, but also by such special guests as Barbara Risman, who shared some of her research on sexuality with SWSers during a visit this spring to FSU, and Carol Weissert, a political scientist who led an engaging discussion of presidential politics and media coverage last fall. Women and men from the FSU department of sociology, other departments at FSU, and from the community attended our meetings. The Tallahassee chapter met twice this spring and is gearing up for a fall semester of events. We are planning two meetings in the fall – one on feminism and religion and another on gender disparities in health care. In addition, we are excited to have Erica Toothman, a graduate student in the FSU Sociology Department, taking on the new role of chapter co-organizer, with Janice McCabe. Several of our members will be attending the summer meetings in San Francisco – we look forward to seeing you there! Find out more about our chapter and our meetings at: www.sociology.fsu.edu/sws

Request for Funding:

We request \$50 for the Tallahassee chapter for the upcoming year.

Illinois: Chicago

Contact: Erin Tracey (etracey@luc.edu)
Alison Moss (amos4@uic.edu)

Activities:

SWS Chicago did have a meeting over the last regular school year at which we discussed professionalization, work of current students, and both the academic and non-academic job markets.

Request for Funding:

The Chicago area SWS would like to request \$50 for 2010 to host another meeting before the SWS winter meeting.

Iowa: Iowa State University

Contacts: Molly Sween (moll15@iastate.edu)
Anna Kosloski (kos1002@iastate.edu)
Anastasia Prokos (aprokos@iastate.edu)

Activities:

Iowa State University established a local chapter of SWS in the spring of 2009. For our first activity, we met at a faculty member's house to talk about SWS and the benefits of becoming a member. Attendance was high and the students and faculty present were excited about the prospect of starting a local chapter at Iowa State University. For our second and most recent activity, we met at a local park and celebrated the end of the semester while discussing potential future activities. SWS at Iowa State University looks forward to incorporating more structured activities in the upcoming school year and we are excited to become a part of something great!

Request for Funding:

No request at this time.

Michigan: Michigan State University, Lansing

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

Activities:

No activity to report for the previous year. The chapter hopes to become more active in the coming year.

Request for Funding:

MSU's chapter of SWS requests \$50 to host a film/pizza night to be held at Michigan State University. We have not yet selected the film, but in the past we selected a documentary film from Women Make Movies (<http://www.wmm.com/>), and this year, most likely, we will do the same.

Minnesota: University of Minnesota

Contact: Teresa Toguchi Swartz (tswartz@umn.edu)

Activities:

No report received.

Request for Funding:

No request received.

Nevada: Las Vegas

Contact: Jennifer Reid Keene (jkeene@unlv.nevada.edu)

Activities:

Last year our UNLV chapter began a series of talks on feminism in the spring at the request of several graduate students who wanted to learn more about feminism in academia and in pop culture. The talks work to provide a basic understanding of feminism and dispel misconceptions about feminist theory and scholarship. We plan to continue this series of talks in the fall. Hopefully we'll have two meetings in the fall and two again in the spring.

Request for Funding:

The UNLV chapter requests \$50 for the coming academic year. Hopefully we'll have two meetings in the fall and two again in the spring. The money would help us pay for food and drinks.

Ohio: Akron

Contact: Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu)

Daniela Jauk (da18@uakron.edu)

Ohio: Kent State

Contact: Michelle Jacobs (mjacobs2@kent.edu)

Activities:

Akron & Kent SWS Chapters Joint Report

Submitted by: Daniela Jauk (Akron)

The spring semester was a vibrant time for the SWS chapters in Kent and Akron, as many things came to fruition we started preparing last year. After the panty-drive in fall for a local shelter, we concentrated on the celebration of gender scholarship recently: Sparked by the SWS feminist lecturer award, we enjoyed workshops and lectures by Cecilia Ridgeway and Betsy Lucal on both campuses involving very good turn outs and excellent feedback. Especially in Kent State a motivated, feisty, thrilling SWS crowd is building up with many helping hands these days, while the Akron chapter makes progress in maxing out funding opportunities as a registered student organization. On a more self reflective note a workgroup (Jodi Ross, Michelle Jacobs, Tiffany Taylor, Daniela Jauk) started to collect data on the history of the 20 year old local chapter. We intend to open the floor for a closer networking with other local chapters in order to collectively build towards a "toolkit for vibrant local SWS chapters." A roundtable at the winter meeting in Savannah and the presentation of autoethnographic material of SWS activists at the International Conference of Qualitative Inquiry in May in Illinois are first visible milestones in this endeavor. Through fantastic SWS networking (thanks to Barret Katuma and Susan Lee!) at the winter meeting, Sarah Swider (faculty advisor Akron, SWS delegate for UN meetings) and TA Daniela Jauk could enable 10 students to participate in the core meetings of the 53rd session of the Commission of the status of women at the United Nations in NYC. An amazing experience for all of us!

Check out our class blog www.womeninglobalsociety.blogspot.com and our class-facebook group. Besides all the work, SWS members also have fun, for example with participating in the vagina monologues (Kelly Mc Arthur, Mary Laske). More details and pictures about our activities on our blog: www.sws-akron-kent.blogspot.com

Request for Funding:

The Akron chapter requests \$50.00. It will be used for food during a bigger social event in the beginning of the Fall-semester to create an opportunity to invite new grad (and undergrad) students to learn about SWS in an informal and open setting. Along the same lines we would love to make use of the gift membership too. Kent SWS is co-sponsoring a visit from LaShawnDa Pittman, Postdoctoral Fellow at nearby Hiram College (approximately 20 miles from us in Kent). Dr. Pittman received her degree from Northwestern University and her interests include the intersectionality of race, class, gender and sexuality, as well as urban sociology, juvenile justice and policy, and qualitative methods. She also is an activist in the African American community who works specifically with children and juveniles. In addition to supporting this visit by assisting financially with Dr. Pittman's travel or honorarium, we (Kent SWS) would like to host a small reception (with finger foods and drinks) in Dr. Pittman's honor. We also believe the promise of food will help us attract more visitors to the sociology department to hear our guest! We are requesting \$50 from SWS to support this speaking event. Additionally, we would love to have the one free SWS membership for which we are eligible. We intend to raffle it off to one of our department's incoming (and interested) graduate students in the fall.

North Carolina: North Carolina State University

Contacts: Alison Buck (arbuck@sa.ncsu.edu) Abigail Cameron (abby_cameron@ncsu.edu)
Kylie Parrotta (klparrot@sa.ncsu.edu) Elizabeth Seale (ekseale@sa.ncsu.edu)
Stephanie Teixeira-Poit (stephanie_teixeira@ncsu.edu) Lisa Tichavsky (lptichav@sa.ncsu.edu)

Activities:

This year, we held several meetings to form our local chapter and to plan upcoming activities. During a chapter meeting, we discussed how many graduate students are unaware of the Women's and Gender Studies minor program at North Carolina State University. Since its benefits are seldom addressed and its requirements are vague, we decided to sponsor an information session about the minor program. On April 15, 2009, Dr. Chris Pierce talked with graduate students about the importance of Women's and Gender Studies. After doing so, Dr. Pierce presented information and answered questions about completing the minor program.

Request for Funding:

No funding requested for 2009-2010.

North Carolina: Southeastern

Contact: Leslie Hossfeld (HossfeldL@uncw.edu)
Donna King (Kingd@uncw.edu)
Jean Anne Sutherland (Sutherlandj@uncw.edu)

Activities:

The Southeastern North Carolina SWS Chapter co-hosted the campus visit for Michael Kimmel who spoke to the UNCW campus on the topic, "Mars and Venus – or Planet Earth?"

Request for Funding:

No funding requested at this time.

SWS@UNC

Contacts: Mairead Eastin Moloney (moloney@email.unc.edu)
Cathy Zimmer (cathy_zimmer@unc.edu)

Activities: No activities to report.

Request for Funding: No request for funding.

REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Midwest SWS (MSWS)

Contacts: Julie Raulli (jraulli@wilson.edu)
Sue Wortmann (swortmann2@unlnotes.unl.edu)

Summer Update from MSWS

Below are figures from our chapter from 2007-2009. Each year we hold an annual paper competition and we are grateful for the funding SWS has given us in the past to facilitate this competition. We are again requesting \$300 for this year's paper competition.

	2000- 01	2001- 02	2002- 03	2003- 04	2004- 05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09
Employed	41	43	24	21	37	32	-	27	14
Student/R	11	06	08	2	14	49	-	13	17
Total	52	49	32	22	51	81*	-	40	31

Treasury Report

Transferred Balance (8/07) \$2,376.15

Income (2007-2008 pre conference)

Scholarship fund + donations 170.72
Dues 582.58

Expenses (2007) +753.30

Paper Competition 300.00
Hospitality Suite Coordinators
(SWS reimbursed an additional \$100.00) 337.92
Ribbons MSWS Ask Me About it 70.90
- 708.82

Ending Balance (3/24/08) \$2517.83* (this was reported last year, but didn't reflect some dues coming in and interest (95.00 dues and 2.20 interest)

Income (2008-2009 pre conference)

Donations and Dues + 305.00

Expenses (2008) -1257.07

Paper Competitions 300.00
Hospitality Suite/reception 957.07

Ending Balance (1-20-09)

1566.49 (reflects a couple of dollars interest)

Request for Funding:
\$300 for paper competition.

SWS-East

Contact: Laura West Steck (lsteck@ycp.edu)

Activities: During the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, MD, the Eastern Region Chapter of SWS met to discuss session planning for the 2010 Annual Meeting. In our efforts to advance our interest in mentorship, networking, and drawing connections across generations of feminists sociologists, who are members of both SWS and ESS, the ESWS will coordinate an SWS/ESS gathering for the 2010 ESS meetings. Those attending the gathering will be asked to bring a mentor or mentee. The ESWS chapter will also be contacting Emily Mahon, ESS Executive Officer, to request an addition to the ESS registration form, asking members to indicate if they are also members of SWS. The chapter will be coordinating with the ESS Committee on the Status of Women to plan paper, panel, and workshop sessions on the following topics: Women Wages and Poverty, Economic Crisis and Women's Health Care Access, and The Sandwich Generation. These sessions will be planned for the 2010 Annual Meeting of ESS. Our chapter is requesting \$300 to help fund the lite breakfast chapter meeting and the ESWS Reception, both of which we are planning for the 2009 ESS Meeting. We will be coordinating with Kathleen Gerson, ESS president, to schedule time and space for the breakfast and reception shortly.

Request for Funding:

The Eastern Region Chapter of SWS requests \$500 to fund refreshment service at the 2010 SWS/ESS gathering in Cambridge, Mass.

SWS-South

Contacts: Maria Febbo-Hunt (febbohun@meredith.edu)
Shannon Davis (sdavis@gmu.edu)

Activities:

SWS-South held our regular business meeting during the Southern Sociological Society meeting on April 3, 2009, in New Orleans, LA. We began our meeting with a silent auction to benefit the SWS/ASA Minority Scholarship Program and raised \$308 to donate to SWS for this fund. We had a large number of established members in attendance, as well as some new members – including several graduate students. While enjoying beignets from Café Du Monde, we admired our redesigned brochure, which was available for prospective members at our booth in the registration area. The brochures also were sent to SWS chapters in the southern region as part of an outreach effort, and we are modifying this next year by sending brochures to all graduate-degree-granting departments. We discussed our Web site redesign and planned to post our quilt story and create an online payment system for dues. We also discussed mentoring new members and student members, and decided to model our new “Southern Hand” program after SWS’ Hand Program. We donated \$300 to the SSS presidential awards reception, which followed the riveting presentation by SSS President (and SWS-South member) Kathleen F. Slevin, and agreed to donate \$300 to the memorial fund for late member Carla Howery. We sponsored or co-sponsored seven sessions at the meeting, including the ASA President’s Address by Patricia Hill Collins, and plan on meeting or beating that at next year’s meeting in Atlanta, GA!

Request for Funding:

We request \$300 in funding to help cover the expenses of sending two national liaisons to the SWS Winter Meeting.

North Central (NCSA)

Contacts: Natalie Haber-Barker – nhaber@luc.edu
Kathy Feltey – felteyk@uakron.edu

NCSA-SWS 2008 REPORT

The NCSA chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society (NCSA-SWS) hosted a reception for students at the 2009 annual meeting in Dearborn with funding from the national SWS. NCSA-SWS, one of five regional chapters, has been a presence at the regional meeting for many years, hosting lunch meetings for NCSA members to talk about research, teaching, and doing sociology with a focus on gender and women.

This year the reception for students provided a midday break and refreshments to 20 NCSA conference attendees, and a space to talk about feminist sociology and feminists in sociology, and challenges and opportunities

for undergraduate and graduate sociology students. Long-time SWS members, Jeanne Ballantine, Mary Senter, and Kathy Feltey, talked about the history of SWS and their personal histories with the organization.

Student attendees talked about their current work, concerns about the future of the job market, the need for feminist mentoring, and feelings of isolation and/or being “spread-too-thin” to seek out opportunities beyond their departments. Some of the students had never heard of SWS and were amazed (and delighted) to learn about the benefits of student membership at the national and local levels. One highlight was the loud applause and cheering from another meeting in an adjoining room which inspired us as we shared recent accomplishments and milestones! For more information on NCSA-SWS, including a membership form, visit <http://www.ncsanet.org/SWS/index.htm>. To become more involved in NCSA-SWS activities, contact Natalie Haber-Barker (nhaber@luc.edu) or Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu). Submitted by: Kathy Feltey, University of Akron
 Request for Funding: We would like to request \$300 for the joint NCSA/MSS regional conference in Chicago, March 31 to April 3, 2010. This will be the largest gathering of sociologists outside of the annual ASA in 2010. The funds will be used to provide a hospitality room with coffee/tea/snacks during the conference — information on SWS as well as SWS folks will be available.

SWS West

Contact: Clare Weber (cweber@csudh.edu)
 Mary Virnoche (Mary.Virnoche@humboldt.edu)

Activities:

SWS West members and friends of SWS met over dinner during the 2009 PSA meeting in San Diego. We discussed the 2008 SWS West/PSA co-hosted (and somewhat annual) breakfast. There was some concern that few actual SWS members came to that breakfast and that perhaps we should just host smaller members-only dinners like we were doing this year: Most attendees at the 2008 breakfast had been students that organizers felt were just there for the free food and not really interested in SWS. After some discussion, we decided to try the breakfast one more time in 2010. The sentiment was that the breakfasts are in general good networking opportunities (and good PR for SWS) even if students do not immediately become members. And we will raffle off a free SWS membership to a new member. The PSA-SWS new president is Mary Virnoche. Cynthia Siemsen is treasurer and Jane Hood and Clare Weber will help out with organizing as necessary.

Request for funding: SWS West requests \$300 to cost-share with the PSA the SWS West Annual Breakfast at the 2010 PSA meeting in Oakland, California.

Chapters in Formation or interested:

New York - Albany/Tri-Cities – Sally Dear (sdear@binghamton.edu)

North Carolina - SWS@NCSU – Kendra Jason (kjjason@sasw.chass.ncsu.edu).

Philadelphia Area - Elizabeth Borland (borland@tcnj.edu)

Chapter Funds Requested for 2009-2010

Local Chapter Funding Requests

Chicago	\$50.00
Iowa State Univ.	\$0.00
Michigan State Univ.	\$50.00
Minnesota	\$0.00
Las Vegas	\$50.00
Ohio-Akron	\$50.00
Ohio-Kent St.	\$50.00
North Carolina Southeast	\$0.00
North Carolina State Univ.	\$0.00
UNC	\$0.00
Tallahassee	\$50.00
Tucson	\$50.00

Regional Chapter Funding Requests

Midwest	\$300.00
East	\$500.00
NCSA	\$300.00
South	\$300.00
West	\$300.00
Total Funding Requested for 2009-2010	
	\$2,050.00

SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY

FACT SHEET

The Evolution of Feminist Thought about Female Genital Cutting

Prepared by Lisa Wade, Department of Sociology, Occidental College

Fall 2009

The term “female genital cutting” (FGC) refers to a set of practices that involve some alteration, permanent or temporary, to female genitalia. The World Health Organization estimates that 100 million women or more in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia have undergone FGC. Practicing communities offer varied logics for the practice: tradition, national or ethnic identity, beauty, health, fertility, marriage-ability, the repression or enhancement of women’s sexual desire and function, and religious beliefs (including Islam, Christianity, and others). Usually performed at or before puberty, the degree of consent, health consequences, and the conditions of the procedure (how hygienic the environment, specialized the tools, and skilled the practitioner) vary tremendously.

There are five recognized forms of FGC. *Clitoridectomy* involves removal of the prepuce and external clitoris. *Excision* includes clitoridectomy and the trimming of the labia. *Infibulation* typically begins with excision (though not always) and is completed by stitching together the labia majora, leaving a (sometimes very small) hole for passing urine and menstrual blood. *Sunna circumcision* is a term usually used to describe a less extensive version of whatever cutting is traditional among a practicing community. Often, but not always, it involves removing the prepuce (circumcision proper). Finally, *symbolic circumcision*, a practice in which the clitoris is nicked to draw blood but not altered, has been introduced in the last decade as a harm reduction measure. Because of the wide variety of practices, I use the plural acronym: FGCs.

Over the past thirty years, FGCs have become an iconic example of women’s oppression. Within the feminist academy, they are a hotly debated issue that often inflames the divide between feminists who emphasize solidarity among women and those who argue that feminist discourse that does not take into account how women differ—e.g., by race, nation, and class—can itself be oppressive to women. Understanding feminist conflict about the practice is important for academics, but also for teachers who are educating a new round of feminists and activists who are working for social justice.

In this fact sheet I trace the evolution of feminist thought about FGCs. First, beginning with Fran Hosken, I discuss early academic engagement with the practices. Next, I summarize the postcolonial critique of this engagement that turned attention away from FGCs themselves to the Western feminist discourse about FGCs. I then discuss the ongoing conversation. And, finally, I offer four areas of inquiry, of particular interest to feminist sociologists, that have been enriched by scholars who write about FGCs.

The current wave of feminist interest in FGCs began in 1976 when Fran Hosken began writing about them in her newsletter, *Women’s International Network News*.

Driven by ideas of “global sisterhood,” the notion that women around the world are united by patriarchy, Hosken’s goal was to inspire opposition and support for eradication efforts.

To this end she coined the term “female genital mutilation” to replace the term “female circumcision.” By introducing the word “mutilation,” the practices became bad by definition. And, by removing the word “circumcision,” Hosken eliminated the discursive connection between FGCs and male circumcision that inhibited condemnation of the former.

Hosken published dozens of essays and articles and four editions of her book, *The Hosken Report*, making her name synonymous with anti-FGC activism. Other work that shaped early knowledge of FGC was heavily influenced by Hosken. Collectively, this literature defined “female genital mutilation” as a disfiguring genital cutting procedure that happens to women in Africa.

Hosken and her contemporaries mobilized a generation of Western feminists.

Some scholars framed FGCs as an extreme example of violence against women, signifying the presence of an especially barbaric form of patriarchy.

For these scholars FGCs were part of a “bargain” between men and women in patriarchal societies. In a cultural system that valued women primarily for their virginity and, later, their fertility, FGCs were symbolic of sexual purity and fecundity. Being genitally cut, then, was central to marriage-ability, the only “career” available to women.

More than simply one more manifestation of patriarchy, these scholars tended to frame FGCs as particularly barbaric. Terms like “horror,” “brutal,” “cruel,” “torture,” and “inhuman,” used to describe FGCs, threatened to also apply to men and women in FGC-practicing communities.

For these scholars, intervention was essential, needed to begin immediately and, if necessary, without the participation or approval of FGC-practicing communities.

Other scholars, in response, framed the practices as a form of patriarchal oppression that was unfamiliar, but not uniquely barbaric.

Their work included attempts to mediate anticipated ethnocentrism in readers. Anthropologists, for example, offered empirical evidence that FGCs were culturally meaningful, even “lov[ing],” in context. Others offered institutional and structural explanations for why FGCs were often a rational choice.

These scholars argued in favor of alliance between Western and non-Western women instead of top-down, transnational intervention by the West.

Beginning in earnest in the 1990s, a postcolonial critique of the early literature turned attention away from FGCs themselves to the academic discourse about FGCs.

Part of a more general correction to Western feminist theory occurring contemporaneously, postcolonial scholars critique Western feminist “anti-FGM discourse” for ignoring hierarchies among women and, therefore, reproducing racist and imperialist narratives.

Critics argue that the term “female genital mutilation,” in defining all versions of the practice as disfiguring, disallows thoughtful consideration in favor of an uncompromising condemnation that is both insensitive and counterproductive. These critics successfully introduced the term “female genital cutting,” which they feel is more purely descriptive.

They have also shown that Western “anti-FGM discourse” demonizes and infantilizes people in communities that practice FGCs and, in doing so, affirms a false hierarchical binary between the West and the rest. The discourse, it is argued, erases the many similarities between “their” practices and “ours” and the fact that both women in FGC-practicing and non-practicing communities are subject to patriarchal oppression.

Finally, postcolonial critics argue that the binary positions members of FGC-practicing communities as objects of intervention, not subjects in their own right, by erasing the autonomy of African women and the fact that African women were and are engaged in anti-FGC activism.

Some have called the feminist academic conversation about FGCs a “battle.”

Postcolonial critics worry that feminists who object to FGCs are complicit with imperialist narratives. Some argue that Western feminists should defer to women living in communities that practice FGCs who have a long tradition of anti-FGC activism; a few say that Western feminists should not be involved in FGC-related scholarship or activism at all.

Other feminists want to be able to object to FGCs without incurring the imperialist label. They contest the postcolonial critique, arguing that it privileges cultural identities over gender solidarity. FGCs, from this perspective, are exactly the kind of gendered oppression that is unacceptably depoliticized by this approach.

Further, some scholars believe that there is a point beyond which suspending judgment for moral or analytical purposes is unacceptable. They use FGCs to argue against cultural relativism in theory and cultural pluralism in practice.

Still other scholars have tried to theorize us out of this “impasse.”

They have responded by reconceptualizing culture as fractured, uneven, and negotiated.

If members of FGC-practicing communities can be against the practices as well as for them, then there is

an opportunity for feminist alliance across cultures and, therefore, room for individuals outside of the culture to agitate for change.

With a few exceptions, sociologists have come late to this discussion. Here I discuss four active areas of inquiry relevant to feminist sociologists that have been enriched by the involvement of scholars who write about FGCs.

Girls' and women's choices to undergo FGCs have called into question simplistic formulations of notions such as freedom, choice, and autonomy.

Two scholars who made the choice to undergo genital cutting as young adults challenge the idea that choosing genital cutting always indicates oppression.

Njambi (2004), who was born and raised in Kenya, reports that she threatened her Catholic parents that she would “run away from home and drop out of school” unless they would allow her to be circumcised at age 16. Ahmadu (2000), from Sierra Leone, offers a more conflicted story of her circumcision, yet argues that an educated woman can be in favor of the practices.

In at least one instance girls have participated in organized defiance of authority figures in order to practice FGCs.

Thomas (2000) analyzes a rebellion in British-controlled Kenya in 1956 in which that thousands of girls defied a ban against circumcision by purchasing razor blades and excising each other.

Another area of debate involves the idea that cutting is a rationale choice given women's options. Scholars predict that an increase in education and economic opportunities will result in a decline in FGCs.

Some scholars have compared FGCs with other types of bodily alteration, especially of the genitals, to clarify our thinking on bodily alteration more generally.

Davis (2002) compares FGCs to labiaplasty. Both practices reflect the requirement that women conform to cultural expectations for their bodies, by knife if necessary. Most Westerners, however, have an ambivalent or apathetic response to labiaplasty, but are strongly opposed to FGCs. Davis argues that this can be explained by the fact that our perceptions are shaped by racial, national, and global hierarchies.

Bringing FGCs into dialogue with several U.S. practices, Njambi (2004) argues that notions of the “natural” and the “normal” body are culturally and historically contingent and that the framing of FGCs as “mutilation” instead of “enhancement” is based on the use of a Western lens.

Bell (2005) argues that the fact that Americans are largely indifferent towards male genital cutting, but express outrage toward FGCs needs to be explained. To this end she discusses, among other points, how the social construction of female sexuality as fragile and male sexuality as robust makes it seem as if men's sexualities can withstand bodily alteration, but women's cannot.

Other scholars have compared FGCs to bodily alterations as wide ranging as breast augmentation, episiotomy, and transsexual surgery.

Scholars have also used FGCs to think through the social construction of sexuality.

Western feminists' strong negative reaction to FGCs can be attributed, in part, to a culturally and historically contingent definition of liberation.

To U.S. feminists, clitoridectomy is a particularly horrendous form of women's oppression because of an emphasis on clitoral orgasm as a measure of women's liberation. However, women in FGC-practicing communities often do not have the privilege to prioritize sexual pleasure and resent Westerners who condemn their culture but ignore the widespread poverty and disease caused by contemporary and historical Western exploitation.

Listening to women who have undergone genital cutting also complicates our understanding of sexual pleasure

Many women with various types of genital cutting, including infibulation, report experiencing sexual desire, pleasure, and orgasm. What sexual pleasure is, and whether and which kinds of FGCs actually eliminate sexual pleasure and orgasm, is hotly debated.

Studying the abandonment of FGCs has contributed to our understanding of social change.

Boyle's (2002) book length project examines the diffusion of state-level anti-FGC policies in the 1990s. She argues that the case of FGCs supports a neoinstitutional understanding of globalization as a top-down process. Change resulted from a Western consensus that pressured nation-states to enact laws that often contradicted the desires of local populations.

Coming from a more social psychological perspective, Mackie (1996) showed that footbinding was a "self-enforcing conventions" that persisted because of collective commitment. It ended as soon as community members promised each other not to bind their daughters and to marry their sons to women who had not been bound.

Mackie argued that a similar public shift in collective commitment would be required for the abandonment of FGCs. Successful abandonment efforts support his theory.

In 1997, encouraged by an organization called TOSTAN to set their own goals, women in Malicounda Bambara, Senegal, made a public, collective commitment to end FGCs. Follow up studies confirm that approval and incidence of FGCs has decreased significantly and, according to TOSTAN, the approach has been used successfully in almost half of the villages in Senegal and in five other African countries.

In contrast to the above examples, research by Leonard (2000) reminds us that social change is not always unidirectional, predictable, or instigated for purposes of gaining or preserving privilege. She tells of a "fad" for genital cutting in the 1980s. Against their parent's will and their community's norms, girls in Southern Chad began adopting the practice of genital cutting.

As this brief review has shown, a thoughtful discussion of FGCs means wrestling with some of the most fundamental questions of feminist sociology. The practices are, further, ripe for sociological analysis and the discussion can only benefit from the unique perspectives that sociologists bring.

Activist Oriented E-Resources

Equality Now: www.equalitynow.org

FGC Network :www.fgmnetwork.org

FORWARD: www.forwarduk.org.uk

TOSTAN: www.tostan.org

VDAY: www.vday.org

World Health Organization: www.who.int

Further Reading

Fran Hosken and Other Early Influential Scholarship

Daly, M. (1978). *Gyn/Ecology: The metaethics of radical feminism*. Boston: Beacon Press.

El Dareer A. (1982). *Woman, why do you weep? Circumcision and its consequences*. London: Zed Press.

Hosken, F. (1979). *The Hosken report: Genital and sexual mutilation of females*. Lexington, Mass.: WIN News.

Koso-Thomas, O. (1987). *The Circumcision of women: A strategy for eradication*. London: Zed Books.

Lightfoot-Klein, H. (1989). *Prisoners of ritual: An odyssey into female genital circumcision in Africa*. New York: Harrington Park Press.

Walker, A. & P. Parmar. (1993). *Warrior marks: Female genital mutilation and the sexual blinding of women*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company.

Examples in which FGCs are Framed as a Barbaric Form of Patriarchal Oppression

Accad, E. (1993). Excision: Practices, discourses and feminist commitment. *Feminist Issues*, 13, 47.

Annas, C. (1996). Irreversible error: The power and prejudice of female genital mutilation. *Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy*, 12, 325-53.

Hayter, K. (1984). Female circumcision—Is there a legal solution? *The Journal of Social Welfare and Law*, 11, 323-33

Hosken, F. (1981). Female genital mutilation and human rights. *Feminist Issues* (summer), 3-23.

- Levin, T. (1980). Unspeakable atrocities: The psycho-sexual etiology of female genital mutilation. *The Journal of Mind and Behavior*, 1, 197-210.
- Lowenstein, L. (1978). Attitudes and attitude differences to female genital mutilation in the Sudan: Is there a change on the horizon? *Social Science and Medicine*, 12, 417-21.
- McGarrahan, P. (1991). The violence in female circumcision', *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 5, 269-70.
- Simms, S. (1993). What's culture got to do with it? Excising the harmful tradition of female circumcision. *Harvard Law Review*, 106, 1944-61.
- Slack, A. (1988). Female circumcision: A critical appraisal. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 10, 437-86.

Examples in which FGCs are Framed as an Unfamiliar Form of Patriarchal Oppression

- Assaad, M. (1980). Female circumcision in Egypt: Social implications, current research and prospects for change. *Studies in Family Planning*, 11, 3-16.
- Boddy, J. (1982). Womb as oasis: The symbolic context of Pharaonic circumcision in rural Northern Sudan. *American Ethnologist*, 9, 682-98.
- Ginsburg, F. (1991). What do women want? Feminist anthropology confronts clitoridectomy. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 5, 17-19.
- Gruenbaum, E. (1982). The movement against clitoridectomy and infibulation in Sudan. *Medical Anthropology Newsletter*, 13, 4-11.
- Leonard, L. (1996). Female circumcision in Southern Chad: Origins, meaning, and current practice. *Social Science and Medicine*, 43, 255-5.
- Morgan, R., and G. Steinem. (1983). The international crime of genital mutilation. In *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, edited by G. Steinem. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.
- Van der Kwaak, A. (1992). Female circumcision and gender identity: A questionable alliance. *Social Science and Medicine*, 35, 777-87.
- Winkel, E. (1995). A Muslim perspective on female circumcision. *Women and Health*, 23, 1-7.

Examples of the Postcolonial Critique

- Abusharaf, R., ed. (2006). *Female circumcision*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Dawit, S., and S. Mekuria. (1993). The West just doesn't get it. *New York Times*, 7 December, A33.
- Gruenbaum, E. (2001). *The female circumcision controversy: An anthropological perspective*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- James, S., and C. Robertson, eds. (2002). *Genital cutting and transnational sisterhood: Disputing U.S. polemics*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Leonard, L. (2000). Interpreting female genital cutting: Moving beyond the impasse. *Annual Review of Sex Research*, 11, 158-91.
- Lewis, H. (1995). Between Irua and "female genital mutilation": Feminist human rights discourse and the cultural divide. *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, 8, 1-56.
- Morsy, S (1991). Safeguarding women's bodies: The white men's burden medicalized. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 5, 19-23.
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FGCs and the Conversation About Transnational Feminism

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- Boudon, R. (2005). The social sciences and two types of relativism. *Journal of Classical Sociology*, 5, 157-174.

- Calabrese, J. (2003). Reality and representation in the cultural psychology of childcare: Incorporating a critical perspective. *Culture & Psychology*, 9, 499-506.
- Gruenbaum, E. (1996). The cultural debate over female circumcision: The Sudanese are arguing this one out for themselves. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 10, 455-475.
- James, S. (1994). Reconciling international human rights and cultural relativism: The case of female circumcision. *Bioethics*, 8, 1-26
- Kalev, H. (2004). Cultural rights or human rights: The case of female genital mutilation. *Sex Roles*, 51, 339-48.
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Recent Sociological Treatments of FGCs

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Sister-To-Sister Committee Report (S2S)

By Marlese Durr and
Marcia Hernandez

Out of fifty-nine applicants for our second Women of Dissertation Scholarship Award, Corrine Castro, a graduate student at Temple University is our 2009 winner. The title of her dissertation is *Negotiating Academic Governance: Women of Color University Faculty and Professionalism*.

Her work examines prominent discourses of professionalism in the American academy through daily social and embodied experiences of women of color faculty in order to understand more general processes of institutional inequality and discipline. To accomplish this, she focuses on the concept of academic governance as manifested and operationalized through discourses and practices of professionalism.

For her, academic governance concerns itself with contemporary forms of power and control embodied within specific institutional sites' examining how the academy disciplines its workers in realms of knowledge through processes of professionalism.

Through investigating the post-civil rights American academy, she focuses on the experiences of non-white female faculty, a historically marginal group who have only recently made significant gains in representation as academics.

Her project will contribute to existing scholarship on the academy by empirically uncovering the impact of professionalism on minority women through in-depth interviews. In addition, this project heavily draws from the theoretical contributions of Foucauldian-Feminism and opens the possibility for centering the body as a terrain of social control.

Corrine is a first generation college student and the first in her family to pursue a graduate degree. She is the youngest of three daughters of parents both born and raised in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. Her parents immigrated to the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, California. Like many immigrants, they initially settled with close relatives who had migrated some years before, and eventually accessed work in the low-wage industrial labor-market. Corrine attended Los Angeles public schools from K-12 and was one of very few

of children from her neighborhood to participate in the honors and gifted programs throughout secondary school, reaping the benefits of college preparatory and advanced placement instruction



*Ph.D Candidate, Temple University
Emphasis in Women's Studies
Exam Areas: Race and Education*

*Primary Research Areas:
Race and Ethnicity,*

Gender and Feminist Theory, Higher Education, Immigration, Transnationalism, Social Stratification/Inequality, Ethnography, and Qualitative Research.

Master's Thesis: "In the Margins of the Academy: Women of Color and Job Satisfaction"

*BA, University of California, Berkeley
AA, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Los Angeles Valley Community College*

Recommendations for 2010

As our committee engaged itself in its work we found that the following recommendations will make the work of this committee run more smoothly:

1. Applications should be sent to the chair electronically

2. Restrict our call to sociologists

3. Select a date when winners will be notified prior to a general announcement to allow enough time for travel preparations

4. Committee persons make sure they have an e-mail address that can accommodate the number of large e-mail files being sent to them

Our S2S webpage will be updated with the winner's bio and information for applicants for the 2010 Award.

Summer Meeting Workshop

Our summer workshop "Centers of Silence: Interracial and Intergenerational Tensions" had the goal of furthering the discussion on interracial and intergenerational tensions within SWS and the academy. It took place on Saturday, August 8 from 2:30-4:10pm.

The following were questions and discussion prompts to begin our discussion:

1. What are some of the "centers of silence"--- unnamed but commonly practiced institutional or individual behaviors that encourage members to act in an exclusive manner? This can be anecdotal evidence, but we also hope to hear if members have witnessed patterns and trends over time that impact SWS.

2. Networking and mentorship are activities prompted by SWS and arguably among the success stories of the organization. What are some aspects of the formal networking and mentorship programs in SWS that seem to work well to encourage interracial and intergenerational connection and support? We also realize there is always room for self-reflection and improvement. Are there any aspects of the formal networking and mentorship programs in SWS that require a more conscious effort on the part of the officers or program chairs to make these programs more inclusive?

3. New theories and methods, as well as technological changes have created shifts in the discipline for how gender is studied. In what ways do these academic transformations impact the relationship between junior and senior faculty members? Is there tension between junior and senior faculty who use different methods and theories to study gender?

Winter Meeting 2010

We collected a robust amount of information to help mediate some of the structural challenges within SWS surrounding intergenerational and interracial tensions that we will discuss at the Winter Meetings. As was our hope for summer, we hope our winter meeting broadens the discussion of ways in which the S2S Co-Chairs and Committee can partner with other SWS committees to address issues of inclusion and equity within the organization.

We also hope to coordinate a writing and research support session during the Winter Meeting for students, junior faculty and senior faculty to provide critical feedback on SWSer's scholarship. Our goal with this proposed workshop is to create another venue for SWSer's in different stages of their career to meet and offer support to each other through their scholarship.

Article:

SWS joins the Women's Working Group (WWG) of the US Social Forum

By Marina Karides

SWS is now part of the Women's Working Group (WWG) and is helping plan women's and feminist participation in the 2nd United States Social Forum (USSF). The USSF is being held in Detroit, Michigan June 22-26, 2010. Consult <http://www.USSF2010.org/> for more information.

The WWG consists of a number of small and large grassroots and non-profit organizations (a short sample includes Women of Color United, SisterSong, Ms. Foundation, NOW, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, Circle Connections, The Web Foundation) focused on building a movement to confront gender inequity in US with an eye to maintaining transnational links. For example, at the last USSF the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) was formed, the first alliance of its kind in which a network of organizations and activists are pushing for a national policy on domestic workers as well as holding down their own local

campaigns. Jill Shenker, a founder of the NDWA and Coordinator of the Women's Collective of the San Francisco Day Program at La Raza Centro Legal, participated in SWS's program this past August in which we considered how SWS might benefit the social forum process.

The USSF is a result of a social forum process that began with the first World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001. Basically the forums bring together activists, grassroots organizations, in a uniquely egalitarian. Feminists have been active from the start of the social forum process and many of us find it promising (but not perfect) for organizing across sectors and building a powerful grassroots movement.

SWS is also participating in the WWG planning committee, a smaller unit of the WWG, that after months of weekly conference calls meets in Washington DC in early October. As part of the planning committee SWS is strategizing on how to (re)build a US women's

movement, how to make this movement inclusive across class, race, and sexuality and is helping decide what kind of major events the WWG should sponsor at the USSF. The WWG planning committee is also addressing how it fits into the National Planning Committee, the body that is responsible for the over all organization of the USSF 2010, to assure that women's and feminist concerns are integrated into the program.

Social forums represent a new era in social movement organizing and how feminists participate in it together and with other sectors should prove to be an interesting area of research for SWSers. But as we are an organization "for" women in society our involvement in the WWG should also be driven by our activist goals. Along with participating in the WWG, SWS will also be organizing its own events at the USSF. For those interested in organizing and acting please email Marina Karides, mkarides@fau.edu.

Remember Growing Pains



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

Article:

Barbara Rosenblum Cancer Dissertation Scholarship Winner is LaShaune Johnson



The Barbara Rosenblum Cancer Dissertation Scholarship Committee, comprising Sue Hinze (Chair), Gayle Sulik and Jan Thomas, is

pleased to announce LaShaune Johnson as this year's winner! This scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Barbara Rosenblum, an active and longstanding SWS member, who died of breast cancer in 1988. The scholarship encourages doctoral research on women's experience of breast cancer or other reproductive can-

cers. One goal of the scholarship is to encourage winners to make their research accessible to the public through speaking and publishing for lay audiences.

LaShaune Johnson completed her doctorate in Sociology (with certificates in Women's Studies and Human Development) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in June 2009. LaShaune's dissertation, "In My Sister's Shadows: Politics of Authenticity and Worthiness in African-American Breast Cancer Outreach," merges feminist and womanist theories with critical medical anthropology. She uses narrative from African-American breast cancer survivors and organizations to examine discourses about racial identity, breast cancer "sur-

vivor" identity, and intra-racial class conflicts. She finds that outreach organizations struggle to combat the longstanding negative regard of black women who must demonstrate their worthiness of cancer charity and their deservingness of the label of authentic breast cancer survivors. Already an activist and volunteer with local and national organizations, LaShaune plans to present her research in three public settings: the Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation Safe Circle; the Sisters Network Safe Circle; and the Witness Project of Harlem. Please join us in congratulating LaShaune Johnson, and keep your eyes peeled for upcoming presentations and publications on this fantastic work!

Article:

The 2009 Feminist Activist Award Winner is Lora Bex Lempert



SWS is pleased to announce Lora Bex Lempert as the 2009 Feminist Activist Award winner. Dr. Lempert received thirteen letters of recommendations, including a state senator and state representative. Dr. Lempert is the current director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. The committee was

most impressed with Dr. Lempert's work with inmates in the Scott Correctional Facility for women and the "Inside Out Prison Exchange Program." The latter program brings together fifteen outside college students and fifteen inside students from Ryan Correctional Facility. One of her student recommenders writes: "To learn from her is a privilege. . .the opportunity to go behind the walls of a prison to reconsider what I knew about crime and justice was incredible and life changing. She is a rare person on this earth." One of the incarcerated students has written about Dr. Lempert: "I have gained a sense of empowerment and I know I have been made stronger. . .that gift is priceless in itself." And one of the most moving statements about Dr. Lempert also came from one of the incarcerated students: "She fights for us and she heals us." It is with these kind words

from students, faculty, community members and Michigan State representatives that speak to the empowering work of this year's Feminist Activist, Dr. Lora Bex Lempert. If you would like to have Dr. Lempert visit your campus, please send your application to Andrea Miller, Ph.D. at andreamiller31@webster.edu or mail to: Webster University, 470 E. Lockwood Avenue. St. Louis, MO 63119. Please visit the SWS website for specific information on campus visit applications and deadlines.

Feminist Activism Award Campus Visits for Lora Bex Lempert. Applications due: January 9, 2010. Campus Visits will be announced at the Winter Meeting. Please email andreamiller31@webster.edu for information regarding the campus visit application process.

Article:

2009 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Winners

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship is given annually to a graduate student in sociology who began her or his college career at a two-year community or technical college. This year's committee had an especially difficult time selecting from the many excellent candidates. Each possessed qualities that Beth embodied, including: excellent scholarship and overall academic potential, especially in the areas of gender, aging, and social inequality; and a commitment to teaching, mentoring and social activism, especially in a community college setting. As a result, in addition to our scholarship winner, we also selected one honorable mention.

Our honorable mention winner receives complimentary membership in Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), and registration and banquet tickets for the SWS, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), and the American Sociological Association (ASA) summer meetings here in San Francisco.

Honorable mention is awarded to April Cabbage-Vega, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Riverside. As a first generation college student, April attended Orange Coast College, where, after transferring to UCLA, she continued to mentor other students. She says of her experience as an adjunct lecturer at Riverside Community College, "I am always gratified when I see students acquire a sense of empowerment and confidence upon hearing my personal story as they often assume their professors do not come from backgrounds similar to their own." The mother of twins, April's dissertation focuses on how parents construct gendered body standards for their children, especially their use of gendered language to distinguish twin siblings of the same and different genders.

The 2009 Scholarship carries a stipend of \$3500 from SWS, to be used to support the pursuit of graduate studies, as well as

one-year student memberships in SWS, SSSP, and ASA. Additionally, the winner receives travel support and complementary



Georgiann Davis



April Cabbage-Vega

registration and banquet/reception tickets for the summer meetings of each sponsoring organization.

We are delighted to award the 2009 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship to Georgiann Davis. Georgiann began her studies at the College of DuPage where, in

order to fulfill a general education requirement, she enrolled in Introduction to Sociology. In that course, she encountered a variety of sociological perspectives that gave her the tools to make sense of her own challenging experiences, which included leaving the seventh grade to work and help her struggling immigrant parents maintain their small business, being evicted from her home, and living in a shelter. She wrote in her application essay about her experiences working in the fast food industry: "One good thing about my job during those years was that I learned, first hand, how difficult it is to survive with such employment. I saw people get fired for being late for work or missing a day because of a sick child, but I also saw resistance in action. For instance, I witnessed working mothers sneak food out the back door for their children. While the job itself was arguably meaningless, the experiences I walked away from it with are priceless." Her first sociology course cultivated in Georgiann a sociological imagination that enabled her to link her own struggles growing up with larger economic and social forces, and solidified her commitment to becoming a feminist sociologist. To that end, she completed her Associate's degree at the College of Lake County, earned her Bachelor's in Sociology at Northeastern Illinois University, and her Master's in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois, Chicago, where under the directorship of Barbara Risman, she is studying constructions of gender in the intersex movement. In her letter of support, Barbara called Georgiann a "shooting star," and the Hess Scholarship Committee couldn't agree more. For her outstanding research, activism and mentoring in these and other pursuits, we are pleased to recognize Georgiann Davis as the 2009 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Article:

SWS Feminist Mentor Award Winners: Kum-Kum Bhavnani and Michael Kimmel

By Judith Wittner

The Feminist Mentoring committee--Linda Grant, Barbara Risman, Marcia Segal, and Judith Wittner--chose Kum Kum Bhavnani and Michael Kimmel as the SWS Feminist mentors for 2009. We found Kum-Kum and Michael to be extraordinary mentors in their willingness to mentor students and colleagues without regard for formal affiliation, to work with students and colleagues to develop their research, to connect students and colleagues to career-building networks of scholars, to go beyond their campus and their discipline to advance public sociology, to co-author papers and publish articles with their students, and to recruit their students into SWS, thereby assuring that SWS will thrive and remain strong into the next generation of feminist scholars.



Kum-Kum Bhavnani



Michael Kimmel

In addition to their shared strengths, we

noted Kum Kum's ability to develop an inclusive community of researchers, comprised of students, former students, and colleagues. This community is largely organized around Kum Kum's leadership in creating a new paradigm and research program, Women, Culture, and Development, that is a multiracial and multi-ethnic feminist approach to development studies. This community is notable for its warmth and support--important feminist virtues--as well as for its path-breaking intellectual agenda to promote and expand international feminist studies. Kum-Kum has been influential in building communities of women scholars globally and in involving younger women scholars, especially women of color, in SWS. Her influence spans sociology, political science, and media studies, and is global in reach. She has helped many once marginalized women in to produce scholarly research and helped them to find outlets for their work. She is multi-talented, does high quality work in several media, and has been inspirational for many who have come into contact with her.

Michael Kimmel has a long history of mentoring students and junior faculty, including those to whom he has no formal ties. He has been a major developer of cur-

ricular materials related to gender, especially in the area of masculinity studies, and sexualities. The various publication projects in which he has been involved have provided opportunities for countless young gender scholars. Letters from mentees remark on his ongoing willingness to mentor them as their careers develop. He is a frequent collaborator with his students and former students. He was an early member of SWS and has contributed his energies generously to the organization, including serving as the 1996 SWS feminist lecturer. We also noted Michael's strong leadership in bringing public attention to feminist sociology through his international speaking on pornography, rape, and domestic violence, his testimony and writing on gender inequalities in military education, and his widely read feminist analyses of schoolboy violence and terrorism. We were also impressed with Michael's commitment to bringing young men into feminist organizations.

Kum Kum Bhavnani and Michael Kimmel have fashioned two overlapping, but also distinctive models of mentorship that are reshaping sociological institutions, professional careers, and student experience. We are pleased and proud to be able to offer them the 2009 SWS Mentoring Award.

Call for Applications:

Sociologists for Women in Society Undergraduate Social Action Award

Deadline for Submission:
December 1, 2009

What is it?

The Undergraduate Social Action Award is designed to carry on the SWS tradition of acknowledging, affirming and inviting students to participate in SWS. The three winners of this award will be invited to attend the SWS Winter Meeting and participate in a panel session discussing how their internship experience advanced the purpose of SWS by working to improve women's lives and to create feminist social change.

Who is Eligible?

Students who have participated in an

undergraduate internship or faculty-supervised social action work (e.g., internships, community-based research, activism, community work) within the past year.

Requirements:

Students must submit a five-page paper that:

- 1) Describes the history, structure, funding sources, and purpose of the organization or community with which they worked.
- 2) Reports the initial goals of the internship or action work
- 3) Assesses the accomplishments of the internship or action work, particularly in light of how initial goals were met or were altered
- 4) Analyzes and reflects upon what was

learned from the internship or action work

- 5) Discusses the connections between the internship or action work and rest of the student's education

- 6) Reports if and how the internship contributed to women's lives and/or feminist social change.

Award:

Winners will be invited to the SWS Winter Meetings in Santa Barbara where they will offer a panel discussion. They will each be given \$700 to help cover travel and hotel costs.

Submit proposals to:

Kate Linnenberg, linnenbe@beloit.edu
Electronic Submissions encouraged.

Article:

Cheryl Allyn Miller Award – Catherine Connell



This year we were presented with a pool of highly polished papers that were all worthy of recognition. Nevertheless, the winning paper stood out as one with a focus that is at the core of the gender and work research area.

Catherine Connell from the University of Texas at Austin was the winner of this year's Cheryl Allyn Miller Award. The award recognizes a graduate student's out-

standing contribution to the field of women and work. In her paper "Doing (Trans)Gender at Work" Connell carefully demonstrates how transgender workers engage in a gender performance that combines their former and current gender biographies into a new hybrid identity. In her study based on in-depth interviews with 19 transgender workers (transmen, transwomen, and gender-queer), she shows that the transpeople she studied recognized the gendered organization of work and wanted

to act in such a way as to subvert it, as well as the binary gender order. At the same time, they also recognized the "formidable challenge of changing gender in a way that allows for more fluidity of expression." What made the paper stand out was the way that Connell allowed the stories and lives of the workers she studied to shine through even as she made a relatively complex theoretical argument. This is fascinating and original work, and we are pleased to recognize the contributions it makes.



Please Vote:

SWS Annual Elections

We will be electing our officers, chairs, and committee members online from October 15 to 31, 2009. The candidates' profiles appear on the SWS web site (go to www.socwomen.org) so you can review them and decide for you whom will vote.

To vote, log in at www.socwomen.org/members, then click on "VOTE" to view expanded statements online and to cast your votes. Login troubles? If you've forgotten your password, click at the login screen to receive it by email. If you still have trouble, Rachel in the SWS executive office can help: (401) 874-9510, swseo@socwomen.org.

Thanks to each of our candidates for their willingness to stand for election—this is an important service to our organization. They're doing their part. Now is your turn: vote and help us choose our leadership for the coming years. Thanks!

CANDIDATES

President-Elect

Jerry Jacobs Tracey Ore

Deputy Treasurer

Kristen Myers Ana Prokos

Secretary

Shirley Jackson Adina Nack

Student Representative

Rachel Allison Christallee R. Crain
Sergio Mobilia Christin Munsch

Awards Chair

Denise Copelton Heather Laube

Awards Committee

Vrushali Patil Jean Ann Sutherland

Chair of Discrimination Committee

Katja M. Guenther Susan Stall

Chair of International Committee

Pat Ould Clare Weber

Co-Chair of Sister to Sister

Kendra Jason Ronni Tichenor

Career Development Committee (vote for 2)

Carolyn Corrado Kim Price
Laura West Steck

Membership Committee (vote for 2)

Lisette Garcia Helen Mederer
Laurie Schaffner Tamara Smith

Nominations Committee (vote for 2)

Orit Avishai Judy Howard
Florence Maatita Gretchen Webber

Publications Committee (vote for 2)

Marla Kohlman Julia McQuillan
Cecilia Ridgeway Barbara Risman



SWS: Making Change with Investment Dollars

SWS is committed to Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), and our advisors and our portfolio reflect that commitment. Previously in this space (*Network News* Summer 2009 p.17), we spotlighted our investment in Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and the community work done by that company.

Another one of our holdings is Johnson Controls. Johnson Controls is the world's leading car battery supplier, and has now launched an enormous investment in building American manufacturing capacity for advanced batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles.

This investment totals \$600 million, thanks to a grant of \$299 million from the U.S. Department of Energy via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). One component of the investment is a manufacturing plant in Holland, Michigan, slated to open in 2010.

Johnson Controls announces: "Our commitment to sustainability drives our environmental stewardship, good corporate citizenship in our workplaces and communities, and the products and services we provide to customers." We at SWS just know that it's a great time to invest in green energy.

For more information, see: <http://johnsoncontrols.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=113&item=2008>



Members' Bookshelf

Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women's Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World

Hester Eisenstein

Paradigm Publishers, 2009

In a pioneering reinterpretation of the role of mainstream feminism, Eisenstein shows how the world's ruling elites utilize women's labor and the ideas of women's liberation and empowerment to maintain their economic and political power, both at home and abroad. Her explorations range from the abolition of "welfare as we know it" in the United States to the creation of export-processing zones in the global South that depend on women's "nimble fingers," and from the championing of microcredit as a path to women's empowerment in the global South to the claim of women's presumed liberation in the West as an ideological weapon in the war on terrorism. Eisenstein challenges activists and intellectuals to recognize that international feminism is at a fateful crossroads. She argues that it is crucial for feminists to throw in their lot with the progressive forces that are seeking alternatives to globalized corporate capitalism.

Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law

Barclay, Scott, Mary Bernstein, and Anna-Maria Marshall (Eds.)

New York: NYU Press, 2009

Fighting for marriage and family rights; protection from discrimination in employment, education, and housing; criminal law reform; economic justice; and health care reform: the LGBT movement is engaged in some of the most important cultural and political battles of our times. Seeking to reshape many of our basic social institutions, the LGBT movement's legal, political, and cultural campaigns reflect the complex visions, strategies, and rhetoric of the individuals and groups knocking at the law's door. The original essays in this volume bring social movement scholarship and legal analysis together, enriching our understanding of social movements, LGBT politics and organizing, legal studies, and public policy. Moreover, they highlight the struggle to make the law relevant and responsive to the LGBT community. Ultimately, *Queer Mobilizations* examines how the LGBT movement's engagement with the law shapes the very meanings of sexuality, sex, gender, privacy, discrimination, and family in law and society.

From the Student Concerns Committee:

SWS on the Market

Angie Andriot, PhD candidate, Purdue University, aandriot@purdue.edu
Interests: self & identity, sociology of education, gender & science
Dissertation: Gender and Engineering Identity Development among Undergraduate Majors
Publications: *Teaching Sociology*, *Journal of STEM Education*

Wendy Christensen, PhD candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison, wchrists@ssc.wisc.edu
Interests: gender, culture, qualitative methods, social theory, internet technology
Dissertation: Mobilizing Military Motherhood: Negotiating Support, Activism and Politics in the U.S. War on Terrorism
Publications: *Qualitative Sociology*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*

Debra Guckenheimer, Ph.D. (UC Santa Barbara), Postdoctoral Research Assistant for the Advance Program, Northeastern University, debraguckenheimer@umail.ucsb.edu
Interests: social movements and organizations, and gender, race, and class intersectionalities
Dissertation: Insider Activism: Faculty as Institutional Change Agents

Danielle Hidalgo, PhD, Senior Fellow, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara, daniellehidalgo@gmail.com
Interests: Gender, sexuality, gender and work, embodiment, globalization, qualitative methods

Dissertation: Expressions on a Dance Floor: Embodying Geographies of Genders and Sexualities in Bangkok Nightclubbing
Publications: *Sociological Spectrum* (forthcoming), *Journal of Bisexuality*, *International Migration*, co-editor of Narrating the Storm: Sociological Stories of Hurricane Katrina

Kristy Kelly, PhD candidate, Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison, kekelly@wisc.edu
Interests: gender, education, globalization and development, transnational feminisms
Dissertation: Learning to Mainstream in Vietnam: Where ‘Equity’ Meets ‘Locality’ in UN Development Policy

Katrina Kimport, PhD candidate, UC Santa Barbara, kkimport@umail.ucsb.edu
Interests: gender, sexuality, social movements, culture, and theory
Dissertation: The Meanings of Marriage: Gender, Sexuality, and Heteronormativity in the 2004 San Francisco Same-Sex Weddings
Publications: *American Sociological Review* (forthcoming), *Sociological Theory*, and *Information, Communication and Society*

Dalhia Mani, PhD candidate, University of Minnesota, mani0066@umn.edu
Interests: organizations, networks, and economic sociology

Dissertation description: Seeing Both the Trees and the Forest: The Consequences of Nestedness and Cohesive Clustering on Firm Performance
Publications: Under review with: *ASR*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, & *Organization Studies*

Susan Ortiz, Ph.D. candidate, The Ohio State University, ortiz.60@sociology.osu.edu
Interests: gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation & privilege
Dissertation: Disrupting Privilege?: ‘Progressive’ White Heterosexual Men on Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation
Publications: *Sociological Quarterly*

Trina Smith, PhD, University of Minnesota, smit1603@umn.edu
Interests: Gender, globalization, law, health & medicine, qualitative methods, and communities
Dissertation: Reproductive Discourses: International Organizations and Questions of Representation”
Publications: book chapter in *Youth, Globalization, and the Law* (co-authored)

Elizabeth Sternke, PhD candidate, Purdue University, sternke@purdue.edu
Interests: Sex and gender, medical sociology, social psychology and culture, reproduction
Dissertation: Unruly Bodies: Infertility as a Disability
Publications: *Symbolic Interaction* (under review), *Review of Religious Research* (under review)

Announcement:

People and Places

Mary Bernstein received the 2009 Outstanding Article Award, American Sociological Association Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements. "Culture, Power, and Institutions: A Multi-Institutional Politics Approach to Social Movements"

Jennifer Rothchild has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. She has also been appointed as the Coordinator of the Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Program at the University.

Julie Shayne, University of Washington, Bothell, was honored by the "Celebrating University of Washington Women Program." She also received the "Outstanding Teaching Award" from the Associated Students of University of Washington, Bothell.

Announcement:

Job Opportunity

SUNY Fredonia:

The Criminal Justice Program in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at SUNY Fredonia invites applications for the position of Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, tenure-track, beginning fall 2010. The successful candidate should have a Ph.D. in criminal justice, sociology, or other relevant field. Candidates with a J.D. plus publications/research

agenda will be considered. Preference will be given to candidates with program coordination experience. Candidate should be prepared to teach from among the following: Corrections, Criminology, Police Administration, and Judicial Process. Review of applications will commence on November 1, 2009 and continue until the position is filled. To apply, consult the specific guidelines for this position on the Human Resources page of the

SUNY Fredonia website: <https://careers.fredonia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50623> SUNY Fredonia prides itself on an outstanding workforce. To continually support organizational excellence, the university conducts background screens on applicants. An affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, SUNY Fredonia encourages and actively seeks applications from minorities, women, and people with disabilities.

Announcement:

Opportunities to Participate

Paper Invitation:

Papers are being sought for volume 28 of Research in The Sociology of Health Care published formerly by Elsevier Press and now by Emerald Press. The major theme for this volume is RACIAL/ETHNIC, GEOGRAPHIC, GENDER, AND OTHER SOCIAL FACTORS LEADING TO DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE: ISSUES FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS. Papers dealing with macro-level system issues and micro-level issues involving racial/ethnic, geographic, gender and other social factors leading to differences in health and health care issues for patients and providers are sought. This includes examination of racial/ethnic, social, demographic and structural sources of differences in health and health care. This also includes papers that try to link an understanding of the causal processes between disadvantages whether due to race/ethnicity, gender, geography or structure and health and health care outcome differences. This includes a consideration of social sources of differences across the life course. Papers that focus on linkages to policy, population concerns and either

patients or providers of care as ways to meet health care needs of people both in the US and in other countries would be welcome. The focus can be from a consumer side or a provider or policy perspective. Papers that raise issues of the availability of services, access to those services, quality of services and the role of government in services provision would all be appropriate. For papers examining social sources of differences in health and health care delivery systems in other countries, the focus could be on issues of delivery systems in those countries and ways in which revisions and changes impact health or health care, especially if those are then also related to broader concerns in health care in the US or other countries as well. The volume will contain 10 to 14 papers, generally between 20 and 40 pages in length. Send completed manuscripts or detailed outlines for review by February 1, 2010. For an initial indication of interest in outlines or abstracts, please contact the same address by January 5th, 2010. Send to: Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld, Sociology Program, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Box 873701, Arizona State

University, Tempe, AZ 85287-3701 (phone 480 965-8053; E-mail, Jennie.Kronenfeld@asu.edu). Initial inquiries can be by email.

Essay Competition Invitation:

RC 32 Essay competition for new scholars from the economic South on Women's Social Movements: Struggles for Change Throughout the World as part of the RC32 program for 2010 World Congress. The extended deadline is NOVEMBER 15, 2009. The winner will be notified by January 15, 2010. See details at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc32_essay_competition.htm or contact Committee Chair of the 2010 essay competition for new scholars from the economic South: Evangelia Tastsoglou, Saint Mary's University, Canada (evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca). We anticipate partial funding for the winner to attend the 2010 World Congress.

Invitation to Join:

New SSSP Division: "Sport, Leisure, and the Body." People can sign up directly when they renew SSSP membership.

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C.1. Aging/Social Gerontology
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Gender and Sexuality
D.1. Sex and Gender
D.2. Sexualities
Inequalities and Stratification
E.1. Disabilities
E.2. Education
E.3. Race, Class and Gender
E.4. Stratification/Mobility
Medicine and Health
F.1. Alcohol and Drugs
F.2. Medical Sociology
F.3. Mental Health
Place and Environment
G.1. Community
G.2. Environmental Sociology
G.3. Rural Sociology
G.4. Urban Sociology

Politics and Social Change

- H.1. Collective Behavior/Social Movements
H.2. Marxist Sociology
H.3. Military Sociology
H.4. Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution
H.5. Political Economy
H.6. Political Sociology
H.7. Public Policy
H.8. Social Change
Population and Ecology
I.1. Biosociology
I.2. Demography
I.3. Human Ecology
Race and Ethnicity
J.1. Asians/Asian-Americans
J.2. Latino Sociology
J.3. Migration/Immigration
J.4. Racial and Ethnic Relations
Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance
K.1. Criminal Justice
K.2. Criminology/Delinquency
K.3. Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization
K.4. Law and Society
K.5. Penology/Corrections
K.6. Social Control
Social Psychology and Interaction
L.1. Emotions
L.2. Small Groups
L.3. Social Psychology
L.4. Socialization

Sociology of Culture

- M.1. Art/Music
M.2. Cultural Sociology
M.3. Leisure/Sports/Recreation
M.4. Mass Communications/Public Opinion
M.5. Religion
M.6. Visual Sociology
Theory, Knowledge, Science
N.1. History of Sociology/Social Thought
N.2. Knowledge
N.3. Rational Choice
N.4. Science and Technology
N.5. Theory
Work, Economy and Organizations
O.1. Economic Sociology
O.2. Labor and Labor Movements
O.3. Occupations/Professions
O.4. Organizations, Formal and Complex
O.5. Social Organization
O.6. Work and Labor Markets
Qualitative Approaches
P.1. Ethnography (Anthropology)
P.2. Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis
P.3. Language/Social Linguistics
P.4. Qualitative Methodology
Quantitative Approaches
Q.1. Mathematical Sociology
Q.2. Quantitative Methodology
Q.3. Social Networks
Q.4. Statistics
Q.5. Micro-computing

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