Thank you to everyone, especially Wanda Rushing, Joey Sprague and Whitney Denning, who organized our terrific summer meeting! As soon as one meeting ends, we return to planning the next! I am looking forward to an exciting program for the 2017 Winter Meeting Feb. 9-12 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. I hope you will plan to be there! I have a diverse, robust program and planning committee assisting me, and working to make this a meeting that will be personally fulfilling for every participant.

The theme of the meeting is **Intersectionality and Privilege: Inclusive Feminist Praxis**. Every session will focus on this theme. We will focus on doing our own work, in terms of examining the implications of privilege and intersectionality in our teaching, research, activism, organizations (including SWS), and every aspect of our lives. Intersectionality and privilege are central to a truly inclusive feminist vision of social justice. How do our own privileges shape our teaching methods? Our interactions with students, colleagues, etc.? Can all research be intersectional, and if so, how? How do we deal with student or administrative resistance when teaching about privilege? Intersectionality and privilege (not always with those labels) have been written about for over a century, primarily by people of color. They have been engaged more widely within feminism for the past four decades. Why haven't we progressed further? Are we taking some specific privileges (whiteness? heterosexuality? able-bodied and mindedness? etc.) for granted in the operations of SWS? Do we feel we have to leave parts of ourselves at the door when we enter SWS spaces?

Each committee will be examining issues of privilege and intersectionality to develop specific goals to build more inclusive committees, dialogue, agendas and activities. Committee goals and plans will be shared at the Business meeting, and progress reports delivered the following year.

Following these goals, we are accepting two kinds of proposals for sessions:

1. **Roundtable sessions**: if you would like to present research/paper, please submit your proposal to the roundtable committee.

2. **All other proposals** will be submitted through committees (Our bylaws provide a summary of each committee; the by-laws are on-line on the members page). The work...
of SWS gets done through our committee structure. This year committees will be reviewing proposals relevant to their scope, and then forwarding a small number of sessions to the program committee to select from. Sessions should be hands-on, working sessions. They should provide strategies, tools, and innovative ideas that will contribute to our individual and professional development, activism, and organizational development.

Submission Instructions:

Please submit all proposals by Oct. 28 (at the very latest) to my graduate student assistant Diane Berry at: SWSConference2017@gmail.com

Keep in mind that we will only consider submissions that advance this year's theme.

The top of each proposal should clearly state either Roundtable, or the name of the committee it should be forwarded to. If the proposal is consistent with the theme but does not seem to fit within the provenance of any specific committee, write "Unknown" at the top.

All panelists/speakers/presenters are required to pre-register by January 22, 11:59pm CST, and must be members of SWS at that time.

See you in February!

- Abby

News about the Fall Transition

Many seasonal, work, and school transitions occur in the fall, and that is certainly the case for SWS. The executive office is in transition and our search continues for a new executive officer. So let us take this opportunity to update members on the transition, and to explain the process involved in the search.

As you know, Joey Sprague completed her term of service as SWS Executive Officer August 31, 2016. We appreciate her service and all that she has done for SWS.

Council members put together a transition plan this past summer which is now in effect. We are delighted that former administrative officer Jazmyne Washington began part-time consulting work for SWS on August 1, assuming responsibilities for SWS web-based communication. Whitney Denning, the current administrative officer will continue at Kansas through the end of September. Starting October 1, Whitney will consult with SWS, managing financial records and administrative tasks on a full-time basis. You can reach Jazmyne and Whitney via email addresses they have posted on the website. All of us who serve as elected members of Council appreciate Jazmyne and Whitney, and their willingness to work through the transition with SWS.

The search for a new executive officer continues. To date we have received 60 applications in response to the nonprofit administrative ad and 0 applications in response to the university-based ad. The search committee will review applications and make a recommendation to Council for interviewing a short list of candidates after the September 15 deadline. Information about the finalists for this position will be shared with
members through the members-only area on the website, after we obtain consent from the candidates. See more about this below.

Council has a list of criteria for reviewing applications. We want members to know what we are looking for in terms of Education, Experience, Skills, Feminist Credentials, References, and Location. We also have some things to say about privacy.

Education: The candidate must hold undergraduate and preferably graduate degrees with concentrations in relevant areas which may include social sciences, gender studies, intersectionality, and nonprofit administration.

Experience: A record of work experience may include higher education, particularly involving students and faculty; research; nonprofit management; or, other relevant employment.

Skills: The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of QuickBooks, accounting practices, budget planning and implementation, financial reporting, conference planning, and organizational management.

Feminist credentials: A commitment to feminist principles is mandatory. SWS membership, or eligibility for SWS membership, is required.

References: The names of three references are required for consideration. References of all finalists will be contacted.

Location: The applicants we interview must be able to identify the location of the prospective new executive office. The accessibility of that location for national access by Council members, and the availability of affordable space are important. The location can be almost any place in the continental United States where these conditions can be met. In the future, we hope the location will not change when the executive officer changes, therefore selection of a sustainable location is an important factor.

Privacy: Council must protect the confidentiality of employees. Discussions of work performance, health, and any number of personnel issues cannot be discussed outside of Council. We do seek input from members who may have questions, concerns, and positive comments about the finalists for the position. We ask that you share those comments ONLY with individual members of Council. We request that you do not post these questions to the listserv. We will not create a message board. Also note that these finalists may have privacy concerns regarding their current employment. Several applicants have stated that they are happy where they are and do not want to send the wrong message to their current employer because they have applied for another position. We understand and respect their situation and will do everything we can to maintain privacy.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has participated in the discussions regarding the search for an executive officer, and the future of SWS. We encourage you to read the information we provide about the finalists for the position, considering our criteria. We encourage you to communicate with individual members of Council about your assessments of the finalists as we continue the transition. Best wishes for the fall months ahead.
Geographical Cost Comparisons for Potential Executive Office Locations

Abby Ferber

Council members have been busy following up on the many questions as well as excellent insights shared at the business meeting regarding the ongoing EO search. One of the tasks I have taken on is the request for more information about estimated office space costs in some of the cities some top candidates reside in. I was asked to provide data for Denver, CO, Austin, Texas, and New Haven, Connecticut. I am pleased to share that information with the membership. Please keep in mind that this research has been conducted over the internet. Offices in Denver are in great locations, and very nice buildings that I am familiar with. Jazmyne Washington has provided me with feedback on the various New Haven locations. I know nothing about Austin, however. Hopefully this snapshot will provide you with some insight into the costs and quality of office space. This is all hypothetical given that the search continued, and we will be updating our candidate rankings. We also do not know exactly where in these areas candidates live. We will have many variables to negotiate, such as renting or leasing; whether or not it saves us money to locate in a space that provides us full service, etc. I have been researching all of these items and more so that when the time comes, council will be able to make educated and informed decisions. (I appreciate members insights and knowledge; if there is any factor you believe I may be overlooking, please email me: aferber@uccs.edu). Offices available started at 80 square feet, however I focused on spaces in the 150 to 300 square foot range.

The one thing I have concluded from my research is that there are high quality offices available at very affordable prices in all three of these locales. There are many other options available, and listings change all the time. These looked like some of the nicest spaces, with central locations and easy highway access. I have also provided more detailed information about these spaces when it was available.

*Note: Full Service means the price includes janitorial, utilities, maintenance, and parking

**Austin, Texas**

1) **217 SF for $5,520 annually**

   Full service

   In the Summit executive Center office building. One executive office with shared break room includes fridge and large kitchen sink


2) **250 SF for $4,500 annually**

   Full Service

   Break room, snack bar, and conference room available, all included in the price

   Recently extensively remodeled

   In the Executive Office Terrace

3) **200 SF for $4,800 annually**

"The Westgage building was designed by Edward Durrell Stone, the internationally-famous New York architect who designed the original Museum of Modern Art and the GM Building in midtown Manhattan, as well as the Kennedy Center and the National Geographic Society Building in Washington DC. Building amenities include 24-hour security, valet parking, fully-equipped gym with Jacuzzi and dry sauna, rooftop swimming pool and large function space on the 25th floor with soaring ceilings... walking distance access to the Capitol (across the street), the County Courthouse or Supreme Court (2 blocks); the premises features the most dramatic view of the Capitol in Austin, and is the absolute ultimate in style, grace, prestige and location.

http://www.loopnet.com/Listing/19617497/1122-Colorado-St-Austin-TX/

4) **165 SF for $3900 annually**

Full Service, including both outdoor and indoor parking

http://www.loopnet.com/Listing/19890281/7901-Cameron-Rd-Austin-TX/

**New Haven, Connecticut**

1) **160 sf for $5,100 annually**

Full service

This is a single interior office on the 6th floor; brand new carpet and paint. Ideal for an individual requiring an office in a prime downtown building and location. Sophisticated eight story, multi-tenant office tower with attractive views and on-site valet parking lot. Strategic location with frontage along three streets. Tenant amenities include on-site management, security, shared conference room, bike storage room and shower rooms. Located in New Haven's CBD (Ninth Square), one block from the New Haven Green, two blocks from the State Street train station, and three blocks from Yale University. Steps away from dining, shopping and accommodations.

http://www.loopnet.com/Listing/16077736/55-Church-Street-New-Haven-CT/

*(note: offices with windows may become available at any time)*

2) **250 sf for $6,000 annually**

(Note: these costs are an estimate based on information provided online)

"Beautiful Historic 80,000 sqft office building located in Downtown New Haven. Great views of the New Haven Green. Amenities include Tenant lounge/cafeteria; Tenant gym with changing rooms and shower; After hours controlled access; No CAM charges; Park views; Cleaning Service; On site management; Attended lobby; Large operable windows"

3) 250 sf for **$3,500 annually**

In Orange, 8 miles from New Haven


4) 210 sf for **$6,000 annually**


*Fees apply as used

Located in North Haven, Connecticut, Our center is a modern work environment in a convenient location. North Haven is only ten minutes from Downtown New Haven and is a great mid-way point between Hartford and Stamford as well as Boston and New York City."


**Denver/Aurora, Colorado**

*Aurora borders Denver and is an excellent location for a Denver-area office.*

1) Two spaces open in same building:

   A) **191 SF for $2,483 annually**

      Interior office, common area, conference room and kitchen

   B) **515 SF for $6,695 annually**

      Suite with reception and two window offices

      Full Service

"Pavilion Towers provides a professional office environment with many upgraded amenities, including modern lobby areas, full service deli, fitness center with sauna and multiple tenant conference facilities. Covered and reserved parking, on-site fitness centers and tenant training facilities. Conveniently located in Aurora, Pavilions Towers are near the Denver Tech Center with easy access to Highway I-225 and I-25 and 20 minutes to downtown Denver. On-Site Deli, Full-Service Building, 24-Hour Programmable Access.

2) **273 SF for $385 per month ($4,620 annually)**

   Full service.

   Highly sought after spaces in the desirable Cherry Creek neighborhood of Denver, at 3rd & Milwau-
   kee.

3) **263 sf for $3,419 annually**

   Full service

   Clock Tower Square is a multi-tenant, professional office park located at I-225 & 6th Avenue in Au-
   rora, Colorado (less than five minutes from Denver). The property is comprised of seven 3-story
   buildings surrounding a beautifully landscaped courtyard and features upgraded, modern common
   area. Easy Access to Denver International Airport. Minutes from Denver Tech Center Highways I-
   225, I-70, I-25. Fed Ex & UPS Drop Box On-site, Ample parking, shared conference rooms, RTD
   FasTracks station within two blocks, Vending Machines, Security Available, Key Card Access.


4) **200 sf for $3,000 annually**

   Bridge Creek is a quiet three building campus with great access to major thoroughfares. Easy access
to Denver Tech Center, major highways and outdoor space. On a street with many restaurants, offic-
es, grocery stores, etc.

From the Executive Office:

The State of Our Operations

I completed my duties as EO on August 31, although I will continue to manage the KU grant and approve Whitney’s pay and absences until the grant expires on 9/30. I wanted to use this last column to take stock of our operations.

We have organized committee records and other documents and made them available online through Dropbox folders, updating access as new leaders replaced old ones and new committee members became involved.

We began a practice of providing leaders with data to inform them of the implications of decisions they were facing.

We have revised the membership form to describe the charges of each committee and ask people to indicate which they would be most interested in. We then send their names and contact information to the chair of the relevant committees so they can contact them about potential involvement.

We worked with technical advisors on getting the website rebuilt in an up-to-date content management system and redesigned to make it more useful to members and other visitors. We now use the website to publicize members’ participation in the media and new books.

In consultation with past presidents, I developed a template for Winter meetings that avoids scheduling conflicts for leaders whose role includes serving on multiple committees, maps committee meetings in ways that would enable cross-committee collaboration where that seems likely, allow committees time slots for programming if they wish, and build in 3 to 4 presidential programmatic sessions.

In response to member feedback, we instituted two orientation sessions at the start of Winter Meetings, one for new members on how the organization works and how they can get involved and the other for new leaders so they can learn how to work with the executive office and get updated by the people they are replacing.

We moved to holding elections online which has decreased the work of managing them while it has increased voter participation rates.

After surveying several previous incumbents of each elected position on the kinds of skills required to do their job well and what kinds of prior experience would be
most helpful, we generated a Skill Set document. We provide that information to each Nominations committee, incorporate it in the online ballot and ask candidates to address relevant skills and experience in their statements.

We have created documents that would make it easier for others to replace us, including outlining the job responsibilities of the AO, building an annual calendar of tasks by dates, summarizing the practices and ideal timing for organizing meetings and running elections.

There is more to do, of course. The most important thing on the agenda, from my perspective, is to rationalize the budget process. Up until now, Treasures have developed budgets as predictions based on past years’ spending patterns. Then we decide whether or not to spend money as new requests came along. I would like to see us be more intentional about developing a budget in line with our goals—making spending decisions in each category and then holding to them. In other nonprofits, the Executive Officer works in coordination with the Treasurer to develop a budget proposal to present to the board—in our case, Council—for approval. I think we should move to this process.

I would also like to see us move to booking hotels for our Winter Meeting 3 to 5 years in advance. Our hotel consultant has been advising us to do this for a couple of years now. There are fewer hotels these days that have the facilities to support meetings like ours so the competition for them is getting stiffer. This reduces the number of cities we have to choose from and makes it hard to negotiate the best rates for rooms and catering at the few hotels that are still available.

I began with SWS when I was elected chair of the Social Action Committee in 1988 (before some of you were born!). Since then I have served on Publications Committee, Nominations Committee, at least two taskforces, and for three years in the presidential cycle, as well as serving as your EO for the last 3+ years. I know our staff is leaving SWS operations in much better shape than what we encountered when we started. I want to thank so many of you for helping make the challenging work of EO mostly fun and rewarding.

Please send all your questions or comments to the new AO email address: swsao@outlook.com

And, as Kathleen Gerson likes to say: “Onward!”
Words of Wisdom from Past-President:

Through good and challenging times.

I was recently reading the acknowledgement section of a dissertation by a sociologist who graduated from one of the Mid West universities. In it, she thanks a number of feminist sociologists, scholars with longer and shorter histories, in this organization. As I read the long list of names, I was reminded of the invaluable role this organization plays in our lives. I have repeatedly advised the people I have directly worked with about the life-long benefits of the vital and dynamic networks that are woven through the practices of this organization. In this acknowledgement, I saw the best of SWS again: a large group of scholars who put in a lot of time to facilitate the paths of feminist scholars and feminism in society.

I begin with this statement because as a past President I keep this framework in mind each time SWS goes through some major changes and we express diverse opinions—as we should—about how to move ahead. I recognize every great organization has to change, but I know the details of these changes make a significant difference to the character of SWS as a source and outcome of feminist power in academia and larger society. Since I continue to benefit from the organization, I worry about each change. While I was President, the office moved to Kansas and, thanks to Professor Joey Sprague, we accomplished, among other things, the critical process of organizing SWS’s records, and putting them in an electronic format so that we did not rely mostly on the memories of a few members to figure out what we have done earlier. Over the past few years, we also discussed and voted on a new set of bylaws that were charted with significant member input. We are in another period of change now, focusing on the nature of the executive office, and this process has, understandably generated a set of discussions.

Both the implementation of the bylaws—which represent many changes from past practice—and the changes inherent in setting up a new executive office have generated passionate discussions. My reflections on this process reflect my role as a member as well as my experience as a past President. As a member, I am concerned about the character of the organization: do I understand the direction of the current changes? Will SWS become mostly like the larger and bureaucratic organizations? Will we get an executive office that effectively facilitates the work of the organization? At the same time, as a Past President who spent a good deal of time trying to initiate changes in practice, I also want to know whether our bureaucratic practices and reporting standards are working effectively. Are the professionals who counsel us on sound legal-fiscal operating procedures pleased with how we conduct our day-to-day business as a not-for-profit organization? Can we do better?

At the moment, I do not know whether we will get a new executive office in an academic setting or whether we will set up one outside academia? However, this issue of location is actually a critical operating question, one that has to be answered from the perspective of running a healthy not-for-profit organization. Both locations come with advantages and challenges; candidates within and outside academia will bring different sets of strengths. We need to ensure that the operations reach the most effective standards and the people who are involved in day-to-day practices fulfil the objectives of SWS as a not-for-profit feminist organization. Although I say we, I am acutely aware that the nature of the legal landscape means that the actual detailed work of making this decision has to be accomplished by the Council, and, as appropriate while they maintain appro-
appropriate safeguards about personnel information. Our input as members is critical but the actual details have to be worked out by people we elected to these positions.

As we move towards a new executive office, our own conversations create a landscape of practice that is equally important for an organization such as ours. I have been struck by different patterns of discussions--some clear and articulate--expressing members confidence about speaking up safely; other conversations are quiet, between scholars do not feel they are in a position to speak out publicly. As feminists we are concerned about power and privileges so we—in this case, SWS members—have to make sure we understand both universes exist within SWS, and that we keep open the channels to hear articulate and muted voices. I realize of course that the intensity of our relationships mean we are likely to feel hurt and left out if our views do not overwhelmingly shape the direction in which we are headed. This is the area in which I feel each of us—articulate or quiet members—have a responsibility to keep ourselves open to supporting each other even though we will not always agree.

I have great enthusiasm about our future. Our bylaws and operating principles, carefully applied and supervised, will keep us in good standing with the outside world in which we are enmeshed. Our elected officers and committees deserve significant praise for putting in untold hours to accomplish this task. We can all ensure, through our relationships with each other, that we accomplish much more than that, we remain committed to building and fostering feminist networks. Thus, I end by thanking each of you and Wanda Rushing, Abby Ferber, Jerry Jacobs & Kathleen Gerson, Adia Wingfield, Rebecca Bach, Mangala Subramaniam, Vrushali Patil, and Angela Hattery for keeping SWS relevant to our lives.

ASA/ISA session organized by Bandana Purkayastha, featured Margaret Abraham, Yakin Erturk (from Turkey via video), Eleanor Lyon, Raewyn Connell, Vrushali Patil and Sujata Patel (from India via video).

[thanks to Manashi Ray for the picture.]
Feminist Scholar-Activism and the United Nations

by Heather Hurwitz, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Barnard College & SWS representative to the United Nations.

In the winter 2016 issue of Network News, Joey Sprague called for discussion about creating stronger links between activists and academics. One key contribution to feminist scholar-activism by SWS is our activism at the United Nations (UN). For our fifth year participating at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), SWS held a panel advocating for a sustainable approach to development and for women and girls to be included as equal partners and participants in development efforts. The panelists included Vicky Demos, Kristy Kelly, Kentse Radebe and Chris Bobel. In addition to our yearly SWS panel there are several other ways that SWS might extend scholar-activism at the UN and CSW.

When SWSers attend CSW, we collaborate with and develop feminist community globally. Soroptimist International www.soroptimisteurope.org and other NGO’s lobby their national delegations to eliminate “escape hatches,” or ways governments avoid holding up the CSW60 agreement. The NGOCSW Young Professionals group http://www.ngocsw.org/get-involved/young-professionals held a “gallery walk” discussion about gender inequality and women’s professional development. Also, we are contributing support and suggestions to the campaign for a feminist Secretary General http://www.womansg.org/. By advocating for a comprehensive CSW document, building solidarity with feminists from around the world, networking, and other collaborations, SWS develops scholar-activism.

Also, SWS could extend research on under-studied social problems and assist with exciting new datasets. Sample opportunities include research about women refugees and migrants, and many forms of sexual violence, all issues that CSW participants repeatedly called to have more mention in the agreed conclusions document. SWS might strategize to collaborate with Operation Big Sisters in Iceland or other groups using innovative tactics to research and stop sex trafficking. SWS could seek an opportunity to work with FRIDA the Young Feminist Fund http://youngfeministfund.org/ and AWID’s global women’s rights organization http://www.awid.org and their recently completed a survey of 2500 young women and girl led organizations, which exposes both a terrible lack of funding for young feminists and myriad feminist projects accomplished on a shoestring. As scholar-activists, SWS could find ways to assist organizations and researchers such as these with defining social problems, data collection, and analysis.

Furthermore, SWS could respond to the UN’s need for more feminist research. For example, the CSW60 agreed conclusions document includes an entire section entitled, “Strengthening gender-responsive data collection,” which encourages governments to “improve collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics . . . [and] measure progress for women and girls on sustainable development” (http://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CSW60-Agreed-Conclusions-24March.pdf). In addition, unveiled at CSW60 was UN Women’s "Step it Up for Gender Equality Media Compact." Research is needed to evaluate the program and how successfully it changes gender inequality in media cultures and industries. The CSW community continuously emphasized the value of feminist social science research.

To continue to develop our scholar-activism at the UN, please join the International Committee! Learn more here: https://www.socwomen.org/list-of-committees/international/ Email Hara Bastas to join in: ravinheart@hotmail.com.
SWS Social Action Award Winners

**Campus Teach-In about Women Refugees** - Yasemin Besen-Cassino, Associate Professor of Sociology, Montclair State University. This project aims to bring together both activist scholars and local activists working on and with refuge women for a campus teach-in. The purpose of this event is to educate the campus and local community and discuss appropriate ways in which to effectively engage this issue.

**Chinese Women’s Rights Movements** - Wenjie Liao, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology, North Carolina State University. Renowned Chinese feminist scholar-activist Lu Pin will be invited to NCSU to discuss the state of the Chinese women’s rights movements to the campus community. The purpose of this project is for a US audience to learn about the political situation in China, showcase Lu’s photo collection of Chinese feminist movements, and engage in dialogue with a prominent activist about a non-US based social movement.

**Intersectional Feminism & UMass Boston’s 2017 Social Theory Forum** - Sarah Mayorga-Gallo, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Boston. The purpose of this project is to host a prominent feminist scholar-activist at the 2017 Social Theory Forum conference at UMass-Boston. This speaker will have an opportunity to meet with undergraduate students and discuss intersectionality-based activism and social actions.

**Healing our Communities From the Inside-Out: Restorative Justice Behind Bars** - Heather Mooney, Graduate Student of Sociology, Wayne State University in collaboration with John R. Espie - Prisoner 278182 - Michigan Department of Corrections. The project supports a presentation of a Restorative Justice (RJ) Summit to be held in a Michigan prison in cooperation with the Michigan Theory Group (which includes incarcerated men, professors, and graduate students across Michigan state), the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program and select allies within the state government.

Congratulations to all the winners!

We can’t wait to see the great things you do!
SWS Summer Award Winners:

**Stephanie Bonnes**, University of Colorado Boulder, received the 2016 Cheryl Allyn Miller Award. Her work on the bureaucratic harassment of U.S. service-women stood out among the other strong contenders for the award.

**Karen Buenavista Hanna**, University of California, Santa Barbara, received the 2016 SWS Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Maryjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship. Chairs of the selection committee report that her research methods, theory and the potential of her research to advance scholarship on the diasporic anti-imperialist Filipina/o movement resulted in her application standing out above the rest. They were particularly impressed with her intersectional perspective and commitment to highlighting the essential roles of women, mothers, members of the LGBT community and undocumented activists in her work.

**Kristen De Welde**, Florida Gulf Coast University, was selected as the 2016 SWS Feminist Activism Award recipient. The committee was very impressed by her research record, including her work as a public sociologist. She plays a key role in combining research, teaching, and activism to shape feminist consciousness and activism at her university and in the wider community.

**Beth Schneider**, University of California, Santa Barbara, was selected as the 2016 SWS Mentoring Award winner. The selection committee members were very impressed by the letters of support reflecting her impact on current and former students and colleagues.

**Cinzia Greco**, Paris, France, was chosen as the recipient of the 2016 Barbara Rosenblum Cancer Dissertation Scholarship. The committee was impressed with the potential of her dissertation, “Breast reconstruction in cancer treatment and plastic surgery: A compared sociological analysis.” Her synopsis is powerful, clear, and passionate and her design includes an impressively diverse sample. In problematizing existing definitions of breast reconstructive surgery vs. aesthetic surgery, her research will contribute to literature on breast cancer, health, and social inequalities in countries with nationalized health care systems.
Mary Osirim, Bryn Mawr College, was selected as the 2017 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer. She will develop a Feminist Lecture that she will share with our membership at an upcoming SWS meeting, as well as with a campus in the U.S. that wins the opportunity to host her visit. In addition, her lecture will be published in *Gender & Society* at a future date.

Anastasia Schulhoff, University of Missouri-Columbia, received the 2016 SWS Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship. The selection committee reported that her work exemplifies the spirit of the scholarship, combining a commitment to teaching and mentoring with a research agenda animated by social justice. Her commitment is evident in her wide-ranging teaching experience, in her activism on behalf of both Native American students and native American studies, and in her research.

Ashleigh McKinzie was also recognized with an Honorable mention for the 2016 Beth Hess Memorial Scholarship. Ashleigh, by her own account, received an uneven education—and preparation for college—at a series of small religious schools, eventually winning a scholarship to attend West Arkansas Community College (now the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith). Although interrupted by family tragedy and family commitments, Ashleigh persevered and soon developed a keen appreciation for sociological inquiry and the intersectional influences of race, class, gender, and environment. This was both an intellectual discovery and a pedagogical one: it gave Ashleigh the tools to both make sense of the world, and to help others do so. And this is reflected not only in Ashleigh’s teaching and research, but in her activism in pursuit of equity and diversity at the University of Georgia and beyond.

Ashleigh’s research is a novel and insightful foray into the sociology of disaster. Drawing on ethnographic work in the aftermath of tornados in Joplin, Missouri and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, she investigates the intersection of history and trauma, of continuity and disjuncture, in the lives of two communities and their residents. Her work is deeply contextual, teasing out the ways in which existing institutions and inequalities and capacities shape community response and resilience in the fact of natural disasters. We are deeply impressed by this body of work, and the commitment behind it, and regret that we have but one Beth Hess Award to confer in 2016.
SWS 2016 Minority Fellowship Program Award Winners:

**Celeste Curington**
Undergraduate Institution: Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Graduate Institution: University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Celeste Vaughan Curington is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, she worked as a program assistant for the University of Pennsylvania College Achievement Program (PennCap) and research assistant at the UPenn Africana Studies Center. Celeste’s several lines of research examine race, class and gender through the lens of care labor and migration, family, housing and assortative mating. Her published work has appeared in the *American Sociological Review*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, and the London School of Economics USAPP American Politics and Policy Blog, as well as in several media outlets such as *The New York Times, Washington Post, Time Magazine*, and NBC. Her dissertation ethnography centers on the position of African transnational migrants to Lisbon, Portugal, at a time of economic crisis, care deficit, and increased anti-immigrant sentiment. She analyzes Cape Verdean eldercare workers’ struggles and resiliencies as paid and unpaid caregivers, migrants, mothers and racialized workers in a former colonial metropole. Celeste’s other research focuses on residential segregation and neighborhood choice, multiracial identity, and online mate selection. She is currently pursuing two collaborative projects - one uses data from the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey (LAFANS) and the US Census to examine the locational attainment of interracial households, and the other is an interview study that centers on interracial couples’ neighborhood choices. Celeste has received support from the National Science Foundation and the UMass Graduate School.

**Stephanie Canizales**
Undergraduate Institution: University of California, Los Angeles  
Graduate Institution: University of Southern California

Stephanie L. Canizales is the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants who arrived in Los Angeles as unaccompanied child migrants in the 1970s. As a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California, her research focuses on the unaccompanied migration and integration experiences of undocumented Latino immigrant youth who range from low-wage garment or domestic workers to university graduates. Stephanie received her BA in Political Science, Latin American Studies and Global Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research and teaching interest include international migration, immigrant incorporation, unaccompanied child migration and undocumented youth life course, mental health and well-being. In her dissertation, Stephanie uses in-depth interviews and participant observation with unparented young adults who arrived in the U.S. as unaccompanied minors to understand how youth’s familial and community contexts of reception shape incorporation pathways. She examines the ways in which being received by a non-parent family member, obtaining mentor, or remaining without networks of support shapes participation in work, school, and the local community and youth’s feelings of belonging. Stephanie has received numerous university awards, as well as support from the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, the National Science Foundation, and the Haynes Foundation.
Renew your membership after November 1st when the 2017 membership drive starts!!!

Visit our website at www.socwomen.org/swsmembership/ to access the membership form and submit your information.

Sharing the joy of ASA & SWS summer meetings!

Jo Reger, Tina Fetner, Mary Bernstein and Melanie Heath enjoying dinner! [thanks for the photo go to Melanie]
As many of you know, for several years the SWS Publications Committee has been exploring the possibility of a second SWS journal—one that would have a distinctive mission and not be a clone of Gender & Society. After the survey on members’ responses to one proposal for a second journal (reported on by Adina Nack at the 2015 winter meeting), the Publications Committee commissioned a sub-committee, composed of Chris Bose and Dana Britton, to identify possible models for a second journal along with their pros and cons; and to discuss with Sage which models seemed most feasible. Their report, discussed in the February 2016 and August 2016 Publications Committee meetings, offered two models: a version of Contexts and an applied feminist research focus journal. After considerable discussion, reviewing the SWS survey results, and contacting Sage on feasibility, the Committee decided to proceed with the model of an applied feminist research journal.

As the Publications Committee continues to flesh out what a new journal focused on applied feminist research might look like, we want SWS membership involvement. At some point, there might be a membership vote. But for now, we definitely plan on holding an open session or a “Town Hall meeting with the Publications Committee” at the winter 2017 SWS meeting in Albuquerque. Here we will discuss what such a journal might look like, both substantively and structurally. SWS Council also would be involved as we consider budgetary and cost implications. The Publications Committee would use all this information to specify the framework we expect for such a journal (e.g. goals, topics, article types and length, size and number of issues per year, fiscal model, time frame, etc.) and to outline a call for editor applications, among other concerns. This committee planning model is similar to the one that was used in the 1980s to create Gender & Society—and that certainly turned out well! Please look for and attend our session or contact any of our elected committee members listed below with your input. Thanks!

Publications Committee Elected Members:
Christine Bose (Term ends 2/2017), Senior Co-Chair
Manisha Desai (2/2018), Co-Chair
Christine Williams (2/2017)
Dana Britton (2/2018)
Myra Marx Ferree (2/2019)
Heather Laube (2/2019)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: New Editor of Network News

The Publications Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society is pleased to announce a search for the next Editor of our newsletter, Network News. Network News is the official newsletter of Sociologists for Women in Society and is published four times a year. The newsletter is sent to all members either in hard copy or available through PDF, having a circulation of approximately 1000 readers. The Editor will serve a four-year term beginning January 1, 2017 and ending in December 2020. S/he is responsible for the editorial content of four issues per year, including solicitation of articles for publication and copyediting them, beginning with the Spring 2017 issue, and reports to the Publications Committee at the SWS winter and summer meetings.

At the recommendation of the SWS Publications Committee and the current Editor, the role of the Network News Editor is being changed and strengthened. The Editor’s responsibility will be expanded to envision, commission, and edit engaging essays on a variety of topics including: upcoming meetings, activities of international partners, organizational direction and debate, initiatives and their rationales. The Editor would work with committee chairs and others leading our activities to develop short essays, that emphasize readability and engagement, about how the organization is developing, thus keeping people “in the loop” who cannot attend the winter meetings or Business meetings. The Editor also can commission provocative essays or "backstage" articles (with word limits) on how the organization has changed over time, current discussions and debates, and where SWS is going. In order to keep each issue to 24-28 pages, we expect to begin with 1-2 articles and slowly increase over the course of the editorship.

At the same time, the previously extensive technical components of the job will be reduced because of a new structure in which the SWS Executive Office (EO) staff will gather informational material, do the layout, and arrange the production and mailing of newsletter (in hard copy and e-copy). In addition, the informational material will be posted on the SWS website.

The Publications Committee seeks an Editor with editorial experience and deep connections to and membership in SWS. SWS will provide the Editor with a stipend of $500 per issue and up to $500 travel costs per SWS meeting ($1,000/year), to enable attendance, as well as reporting to the Publications Committee. We will publish up to 4 issues a year. If housed in an institution, editorial applications should indicate if that department/college will offer any supplemental travel costs or support beyond what is provided by SWS. Expected 2017 deadlines for the issues remain the same as in the past: 3/15 for the Spring issue, 5/15 for Summer, 9/15 for Fall, and 11/15 for the Winter issue, and similar article length limits.

A preliminary discussion of the work, key issues, and resources provided/needed is encouraged, with the Chair of the Publications Committee, Christine Bose (cbose@albany.edu) and the current editor Angela Lewellyn Jones (ajones5@elon.edu). Members of SWS are urged to apply and/or suggest colleagues who might be encouraged to do so.

Applications should include a statement of interest, including editorial experience; a vision for the future of Network News; description of any supportive resources from the relevant institution; and Curriculum Vitae by October 31, 2016 via email to: Christine E. Bose (cbose@albany.edu), Co-Chair SWS Publications Committee. Recommendations will be made by November 1, 2016 and the new Editor would begin January 1, 2017.
Members Bookshelf


We are thrilled to announce the publication of our newest book, the 2nd Edition of the Social Dynamics of Family Violence! The ONLY book on the market that examines all forms of family violence—child abuse, elder abuse, intimate partner violence, violence in LGBTQ families—using a feminist, intersectional frame which identifies the causes of family violence as relations of power. Race, class and gender are explored in each and every chapter, including how police and social workers respond depending on the identity of the perpetrator and the victim. Using a sociological lens our discussion moves way beyond individuals and examines the social structures that produce family violence, including demography, culture and the economy. New to this edition we expand our discussion of culture to include transnational marriage migration in the Hmong community as well as an entirely new chapter on institutional gender based violence in the military, the Catholic church, fraternities and SportsWorld. We propose models for social change that would reduce inequalities overall and result in declines in all forms of family violence.


Moving beyond the boundaries of HIV scholarship, *Modernizing Sexuality* shows how Western idealizations of normative sexuality and the power of modernity intersect in U.S. HIV prevention policy. In this book, Anne Esacove gathers interview, archival, and ethnographic data from the United States and Malawi to reveal failing U.S. prevention efforts. As seen in the promotion of "love matches" and women's right to "say no" to sex, modernization embedded within U.S. policy actually limits action against this widespread epidemic, and even exacerbates HIV risk among women. Instead, by illuminating the collective solutions and multiple paths of prevention used by Malawians, Esacove's analysis expertly exposes these fundamental flaws and provides direction for potentially more effective strategies.

Through this analysis, *Modernizing Sexuality* not only reveals major U.S. health policy flaws, but asks important questions about prevention narratives, medicalizing social justice advocacy, and feminist and sexuality theories as a guide for HIV prevention policy. Closing with an alternative narrative, Esacove reimagines risk and offers readers innovative prevention strategies to guide future policy endeavors.

*Decentering Citizenship* follows three groups of Filipina migrants’ struggles to belong in South Korea: factory workers claiming rights as workers, wives of South Korean men claiming rights as mothers, and hostesses at American military clubs who are excluded from claims—unless they claim to be victims of trafficking. Moving beyond laws and policies, Hae Yeon Choo examines how rights are enacted, translated, and challenged in daily life and ultimately interrogates the concept of citizenship.

Choo reveals citizenship as a language of social and personal transformation within the pursuit of dignity, security, and mobility. Her vivid ethnography of both migrants and their South Korean advocates illuminates how social inequalities of gender, race, class, and nation operate in defining citizenship. As the promise of equal rights and full membership in a polity erodes in the face of global inequalities, this decentering illuminates important contestation at the margins of citizenship.


The number of women in positions of power and authority in Japanese companies has remained small despite the increase in the number of educated women and the passage of legislation on gender equality. In *Too Few Women at the Top*, Kumiko Nemoto draws on theoretical insights regarding Japan’s coordinated capitalism and institutional stasis to challenge claims that the surge in women’s education and employment will logically lead to the decline of gender inequality and eventually improve women’s status in the Japanese workplace.

Nemoto’s interviews with diverse groups of workers at three Japanese financial companies and two cosmetics companies in Tokyo reveal the persistence of vertical sex segregation as a cost-saving measure by Japanese companies. Women’s advancement is impeded by customs including seniority pay and promotion, track-based hiring of women, long working hours, and the absence of women leaders. Nemoto contends that an improvement in gender equality in the corporate system will require that Japan fundamentally depart from its postwar methods of business management. Only when the static labor market is revitalized through adoption of new systems of cost savings, employee hiring, and rewards will Japanese women advance in their chosen professions. Comparison with the situation in the United States makes the author’s analysis of the Japanese case relevant for understanding the dynamics of the glass ceiling in U.S. workplaces as well.
**Members Bookshelf**


*Caring for Red* is Mindy Fried’s moving and colorful account of caring for her ninety-seven-year-old father, Manny—an actor, writer, labor organizer, and survivor of the McCarthy Era—in the final year of his life. This memoir chronicles the actions of two sisters as they discover concentric circles of support for their father and attempt to provide him with an experience of “engaged aging” in an assisted living facility. The story is also that of a daughter of a powerful and outspoken man who took risks throughout his life and whose political beliefs had an enduring impact on his family. As she devotes herself to caring for her dying father, Mindy grapples anew with the complexity of their relationship. She questions whether she can be there for him and how to assert her own voice as her father’s caregiver in his last days. This book brings a feminist sociological eye to caregiving, as it grapples with universal issues facing thousands of people today. As an ethnography, this book also provides important insights into the culture of assisted living. Social historian Stephanie Coontz, author of *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*, calls the book “a deeply moving account of the rewards and challenges that emerge as an adult child becomes the caregiver for a beloved and formerly fiercely independent parent. The practical lessons Fried learned will be especially helpful to the millions of Americans facing this transformation in the future.”

Order online:  [http://www.mindyfried.com/home/](http://www.mindyfried.com/home/)


This book brings together empirical research on polyamory and feminist, queer, and critical race theory to begin filling a theoretical gap in our understanding of the role of monogamy in legitimating and perpetuating relations of social and cultural inequality. Through an interdisciplinary exploration of sexual interactions and relationship forms that include more than two people, from polyamory, to threesomes, to the complexity of the ‘down-low,’ *Beyond Monogamy* explores the queer, feminist, and anti-racist potential of non-dyadic sex and relationships.

For over a decade, Jennifer Reich has been studying the phenomenon of vaccine refusal from the perspectives of parents who distrust vaccines and the corporations that make them, as well as the health care providers and policy makers who see them as essential to ensuring community health. Reich reveals how parents who opt out of vaccinations see their decision: what they fear, what they hope to control, and what they believe is in their child’s best interest. Based on interviews with parents who fully reject vaccines as well as those who believe in “slow vax,” or altering the number of and time between vaccinations, the author provides a fascinating account of these parents’ points of view.

Placing these stories in dialogue with those of pediatricians who see the devastation that can be caused by vaccine-preventable diseases and the policy makers who aim to create healthy communities, *Calling the Shots* offers a unique opportunity to understand the points of disagreement on what is best for children, communities, and public health, and the ways in which we can bridge these differences.


Utilizing in-depth interviews with permit holders and-on field observations at licensing courses, I examine how social and cultural factors shape the practice of obtaining a permit to carry a concealed firearm. I argue that risk is not found in the guns themselves, instead, the true threat lies in how this self-defense practice has contributed to a change in our culture. Concealed carry represents a doubling down on the fear and individualism that allows us to ignore the social conditions that produce crime and violence, and instead, people are being encouraged to take up arms. What makes the “good guy with a gun” problematic is that good guys need bad guys, and in the discourse of concealed carry, they find them: in “the monsters” who perpetrate school shootings, or in the “gangsters” who roam the streets of poor, largely black neighborhoods. These mythic “bad guys” are moralized figures, archetypes used to justify inequality, and the only way to stop them is if “good guys” are willing to have the courage to stand up and fight back. Race, class, and gender are central to how these dynamics unfold, and are key concepts in understanding the appeal and consequences of conceal carry.
Announcements, Celebrations, Accomplishments, etc!

Bandana Purkayastha was awarded the 2016 Contributions to the Field award by the Asian and Asian American section of ASA. This award recognizes those professors who have worked to build up the fields of Asian and/or Asian American Studies within their institutions and the discipline at large.

Sylvanna Falcón recently received tenure at University of California, Santa Cruz. In addition, her book recently received the Gloria E. Anzaldúa book award from the National Women’s Studies Association. Congrats!


In her capacity as American Sociological Associations representative to the ISA, Bandana Purkayastha organized two special sessions which were very well attended by SWS members. The session on Movements Matter: Connecting the Local and Global in Addressing Violence Against Women featured panelists: Yakin Erturk, Middle East Technical University, Former Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women; Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, President, International Sociological Association; and Eleanor Lyon, University of Connecticut, Winner of the 2015 ASA award for Distinguished contributions to the practice of Sociology. The Special Session Whose Knowledge? Who Benefits? featured Vrushali Patil, Florida International University, Secretary SWS; Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney and Sujata Patel, University of Hyderabad, Former Vice President, National Associations ISA & Current President, Indian Sociological Society. According to SWS member Nicky Fox: the panel on violence was the best I have heard during the ASAs. Other SWS members expressed a similar sentiment about the panel on knowledge.

Volumes 36 AND 37 of Hey Jane! are now available. These two columns, written by Gretchen R. Webber (Associate Professor, Middle Tennessee State University) and Colleen Ray (Graduate Student, University of Nebraska – Lincoln) address advice for undergraduates considering graduate school (or advice you can pass on to your undergraduates considering graduate school) (volume 36) and advice for graduate students just starting Master’s and Ph.D. programs (volume 37). The Hey Jane! series editor is Christin Munsch.

Kristine De Welde was promoted to full professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, effective August 2016.
**Stacy Marlena Torres** began a position as an assistant professor in the sociology department at SUNY Albany. Not sure if this merits a mention, but just in case, I recently had an op-ed, "As Los Angeles Gets Younger, Skid Row Gets Older," in *Next City* on the changing demographics of LA’s Skid Row (increasingly older, immigrant, women of color): [https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/los-angeles-skid-row-elderly-affordable-housing](https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/los-angeles-skid-row-elderly-affordable-housing).

Another brilliant SWSer has written a blog post for Conditionally Accepted. In this essay, **Sylvanna Fal-cón** suggests that faculty of color avoid the temptation to accept the first job offer they receive. Rather, they should negotiate, knowing the value they bring to an institution: [https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2016/09/16/faculty-color-should-not-just-accept-initial-job-offer-essay](https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2016/09/16/faculty-color-should-not-just-accept-initial-job-offer-essay).

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**Call for Papers: Mobilizing the University: Curriculum, Access, and Solidarity**

I am soliciting chapters for my new book, *Mobilizing the University*, an interdisciplinary collection about the relationship between activism and the university, situated in an intersectional feminist framework. The book explores three themes. 1) how has grassroots activism changed university curriculum? 2) how does activism impact who has access to the university? And 3) how does campus activism demonstrate solidarity with off campus movements?

While providing a theoretically and empirically original case study of a social movement, contributors will address: 1) your social location and why activism matters; 2) how intersectional feminism influences your work, and 3) what lessons can be learned from the history you documented? We seek essays documenting historical and contemporary social justice activism, broadly construed, representing movements from around the world, particularly the global South. We envision activism conveyed through cultural productions, embodied protests, intellectual projects, among other forms of articulation. Additionally, we are particularly eager to receive essays by scholars/activists/artists of color in the humanities, social sciences, and arts.

**Directions:** Please contact Julie Shayne at jshayne@uw.edu for specific guidelines, directions, and deadlines. And follow us on facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/mobilizinguniversity/](https://www.facebook.com/mobilizinguniversity/)

**About Julie Shayne:** Julie is a Senior Lecturer at University of Washington Bothell and author/editor of three books: *Taking Risks: Feminist Activism and Research in the Americas* (SUNY), *They Used to Call Us Witches: Chilean Exiles, Culture, and Feminism* (Lexington), and *The Revolution Question: Feminisms in El Salvador, Chile, and Cuba* (Rutgers).
CEDAW – the international bill of right of women – yet to be ratified by the US and the new initiative Cities for CEDAW

By Solange Simões and Vicky Demos

CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and became an international treaty in 1981. One hundred and eighty-nine UN member nations agreed to be bound by CEDAW’s provisions; the United States is one of the very few nations that has not. In 1980 President Carter signed CEDAW, but several initiatives to have the US Senate ratify it were unsuccessful. Despite, and in response to the failure to ratify, following the Beijing UN Conference on Women in 1995, San Francisco adopted CEDAW as an ordinance. Inspired by San Francisco, in 2014 a broad coalition of organizations launched the Cities for CEDAW initiative that has led to over 40 US cities passing or proposing CEDAW resolutions or ordinances.

SWSers, through the International Committee and our participation in the UN annual meetings of the Committee on the Status of Women have become increasingly involved in efforts to ratify CEDAW, and more recently in the promotion of the Cities for CEDAW movement. The CEDAW subcommittee of the SWS international committee has been created to bring awareness and knowledge of CEDAW and Cities for CEDAW to the SWS membership as well as to assist SWS members in developing CEDAW measures in their communities.

WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID ABOUT CEDAW?

CEDAW defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. By ratifying the convention, nation-states commit to ending de jure as well as de facto discrimination against women by undertaking a series of measures including a) incorporating the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolishing all discriminatory laws and adopting appropriate ones; b) establishing tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and c) ensuring elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises. By ratifying CEDAW countries also commit to providing periodic national reports to the UN CEDAW Committee on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.

The only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations, CEDAW contains general recommendations which allow it to incorporate evolving conceptualizations of gender equality and changing priorities from the agendas of transnational feminisms (Baldez, 2014). For example, despite CEDAW’s broad definition of “discrimination”, it does not directly address violence against women. In order to fill in this "gap" the commission elaborated a general recommendation which now considers the act of violence committed in the public as well as in private as a way of discrimination against women, under Article 1 of the Convention. Moreover, in addition to nation-state annual reports, the Committee welcomes country-specific information from nongovernmental organizations, in the form of alternative or shadow reports. These have been crucial for the effectiveness of the convention in many nations as a mechanism to advance gender equality, especially when local feminist activists and women’s movements use the convention and the recommendations by the CEDAW committees as a tool to legitimize their demands.
**WHY HAS THE U.S. FAILED TO RATIFY CEDAW?**

There have been several initiatives to ratify CEDAW, a recent one having been led by senator Barbara Boxer from California. Interestingly, these often emphasized the international contribution of having the US support CEDAW rather than addressing its domestic impact. This position, even if it was part of a strategic approach to ratification, left largely unaddressed the possible impact of CEDAW on gender inequality in the US, especially since the US lags behind many Global North as well as Global South achievements in a number of key areas.

The United States, in line with the American ideology of exceptionalism, has refused to ratify several international treaties of which CEDAW is one (Simões, S.; Matos, M.; Lee, S.; & Katuna, B., 2014). However, it is noteworthy that while US sovereignty and exceptionalism were invoked not to ratify CEDAW, four other international human rights treaties brought to the Senate in the period 1988 to 1994 were ratified. The refusal is also curious as the US government initially helped to shape the UN global women’s rights agenda and make CEDAW possible. (See Baldez, “Defying Convention: Us resistance to The UN treaty on women’s rights” for an excellent exploration of the broader political context – both domestic and international – and a more nuanced explanation of the gains and limitations of global efforts to promote women’s rights.)

In addition, while transnational women’s movements made CEDAW more powerful, in the US the conservative backlash that has taken place has provided a ripe context for the prevention of ratification. The active and effective opposition to the ratification of CEDAW by right-wing women’s groups and social conservatives within the Republican Party has been noteworthy, as well as (in sharp contrast to feminist movements throughout the world) the lack of attention to the Convention by many in the US feminist movement.

**CITIES FOR CEDAW**

Current efforts by U.S. feminists to advocate for ratification of CEDAW include an initiative that has been led by June Zeitlin of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to promote Cities for CEDAW, which was launched at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014 (See http://citiesforcedaw.org). Understanding that city governments play a legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law and guiding public policy, the United States Conference of Mayors urged cities across the country to participate in the Cities for CEDAW initiative and pass local resolutions or ordinances reflecting the principles of CEDAW.

**SWSERS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE INITIATIVES**

In the SWS Winter meeting 2012, Barret Katuna and Susan Lee of the International Committee, in conjunction with Jeanne Flavin and Trina Smith of the Social Action Committee, organized a session to call attention to the non-ratification of CEDAW by the US, and, not really surprisingly, some of the participants admitted not knowing about CEDAW. Following that, Solange Simões, Marlise Matos, Barret Katuna and Susan Lee co-authored a paper, presented at the SWS Winter meeting 2014, comparing the non-ratification of CEDAW in the US to the strong impact of CEDAW in Brazil where the feminist movement used CEDAW as an effective tool in demands for policy-making and institution building to promote gender equality.

At the UN /CSW annual meetings SWS delegates have had the chance to attend events organized by the Cities for CEDAW campaign and meet with organizers from cities large and small throughout the US. Solange
Simões, came back to Eastern Michigan University with a proposal for the WGST Department and the University to play an important role in bringing the conversation about CEDAW to grass-roots movements and organizations in Ypsilanti. She also contacted the mayor and together with EMU faculty and students organized an ad hoc committee to launch the campaign. She also received an internal grant from EMU for a community engagement project that has been involving students and faculty in conversations with community organizations. Given that a local CEDAW resolution or ordinance requires two major tasks - gender analysis of the city departments and commissions and the engagement of community stakeholders - students from her graduate class on Gender and Globalization and her WGST undergraduate capstone class got involved in a process that combined teaching with research and community engagement. The Ypsilanti Cities for CEDAW campaign was launched at EMU during Women’s international Day with SWS former president, Manisha Desai, as a keynote speaker.

In the SWS Winter meeting 2016 the International Committee members approved the creation of a new subcommittee on CEDAW. Co-chaired by Vicky Demos and Solange Simões, the SWS subcommittee for CEDAW has received the unanimous approval from the international committee to apply for official recognition of SWS as an organization supporting CEDAW. At the SWS winter, 2017, meeting, the subcommittee will then be seeking support from Council to apply for this recognition. Such support will strengthen SWS efforts to make CEDAW a US reality, thus, furthering our mission as a feminist organization. It will mean that SWS will join a coalition of over 200 organizations including the YWCA, the Unitarian Universalist, and the American Bar Association. In addition to its campaign to have SWS officially recognized as an official supporter of CEDAW, the subcommittee will host a Cities for CEDAW workshop to assist SWSers in promoting CEDAW in their communities. The workshop will focus on ways to build community awareness of CEDAW and will provide ideas for those who have few resources at their disposal.

References


For a list of SWS local and regional chapters, SWS committee chairs, and current officers of SWS, please visit the SWS website:

www.socwomen.org
In Memoriam:

Susan Archer Mann

Susan Archer Mann, beloved mentor, dear friend, and Professor of Sociology at University of New Orleans, died on April 8th, 2016, after several years’ struggle with breast cancer.

Originally from Maryland, Susan received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Maryland in 1972 and her M.A. in Sociology from American University in 1975. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto in 1982. Hired at the University of New Orleans shortly thereafter, she spent more than three decades actively writing, teaching, and mentoring in a place she came to love, doing the work that so engaged her passions and intellect even as she suffered from her illness.


In addition to her research on the obstacles to capitalist agriculture, Susan extended her theoretical insights to domestic labor and its ramifications on family life and the social position of women. In a chapter in *Hidden in the Household: Women’s Domestic Labour under Capitalism* (Women’s Education Press, 1980, edited by Bonnie Fox), Susan and co-author Emily Blumenfeld discussed the ways in which household work reproduces the workforce required by capitalism, and yet is itself ultimately incompatible with a capitalist production model. Her Marxist-based theoretical contributions to our understanding of production (in agriculture) and reproduction (of labor power through the family) complemented one another and laid the foundation for her later feminist theory work.

Though focused on gender, Marxist feminisms, and the conditions of women throughout her career, Susan’s writing on feminisms comprised a kind of second intellectual phase for her work, following her contributions to the sociology of agriculture. Susan found her political groundings and activist interests in Marxist feminisms of the 1970s and feminist theories of the so-called second wave. Yet, intellectually, she never ceased to be fascinated and energized by the schools of thought that surfaced subsequent to her own training. She immersed herself in theories of the third wave, intersectionality, queer theory, postmodernist and poststructuralist feminisms, and transnational feminisms, publishing on the connections and innovations in theory across decades in *Science and Society*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*, and a co-authored special issue of *Race, Gender, and Class*. Her recent book, *Doing Feminist Theory: From Modernity to Postmodernity*
(Oxford University Press, 2012), constitutes the most exhaustive yet digestible compilation of feminist theories, criticisms, and counter-criticisms available in print—bar none (in our own humble opinions), cataloguing the many phases of feminisms, and innovatively (and helpfully) positioning them within modernist and postmodernist epistemologies. In addition to highlighting the diversity of feminist thought in different time periods, she discusses feminist perspectives on globalization, imperialism, colonialism, and other elements of modern state economic and political power. In 2015, Susan was pleased to publish the companion volume, *Reading Feminist Theory*, a reader co-edited with Ashly Suzanne Patterson (Oxford University Press).

Susan was a consummate social theorist who mentored several generations of Marxist and feminist students, providing gentle but formidable critiques to knowledge and politics. She was one of the "founding mothers" of the UNO Women's Studies Program and the UNO Women's Center. She also served as Interim Director of the UNO Women's and Gender Studies Minor, as well as Associate Chair and Chair of the Department of Sociology. In addition, Susan served as Chair of the American Sociological Association’s Race, Gender, and Class section.

While Susan was a productive scholar, she was also highly regarded as an excellent teacher and mentor for both students and colleagues at the University of New Orleans. She was an inspiration to many of those that came within even a few degrees of her. For her colleagues and the department she was the socio-emotional leader who not only brought treats to meetings and offered to help solve the most recent predicament (personal or academic), but also shared her deep analytical thinking and strong theory construction to improve others’ work. She was always available to give feedback—unless *Revenge* or *Scandal* was on. Regarding her students, Susan was an agent of social change and innovation. She received the campus-wide Seraphia Leyda teaching award and the teaching award bestowed by the College of Liberal Arts; in fact, she won every teaching award offered at UNO. When asked how she would want to be remembered at work she always said “for my teaching,” and that is clearly the case: since her passing, hundreds of students have given testimonials of how her theory and gender classes were “life-changing”; those who knew Susan best know she would be happiest about this impact.

In the last year of her life, while physically unable to keep up with her university teaching duties, she longed to participate in a writing retreat among feminist colleagues—at the beach and did facilitate reading groups. Her soft-spoken voice and affable, casual personality belied her ability to offer pointed and cogent intellectual critiques but made her a favorite mentor to students for her approachability and warm encouragement. Though she enjoyed sailing, good food, and a strong drink, Susan loved nothing more than sharing an intellectual conversation with colleagues of all ages. She would often convene her graduate seminars in the comfort of her home—a beautiful, southern Victorian in pretty good repair—replete with the food and libations called for by proper southern etiquette. On weekends, she would convene her colleagues similarly in a poker game.

Susan will be remembered for the contributions she made to her family, friends, students, colleagues, and to the larger academy. Her own words capture her essence: “Social theory has been my passion and my life's work. Writing this text was like writing my intellectual life as it represents the culmination of thirty years of reading, writing, and teaching. It is a privilege to have spent my adult life doing work that I love.”
In Memoriam:
Ruth Grossman Sidel

Professor Ruth Sidel died on May 12, 2016. A Wellesley graduate with an MSW from Boston University, she began her career as a social worker in Boston. With two young children, she and her husband moved to New York when he was hired to head Social Medicine and Community Health at Montefiore Hospital.

On a trip to China in 1971, she examined the structures and policies affecting women and children. The result was *Women and Childcare in China*, her first book and a bestseller. She followed that with new studies, a PhD, and in 1978, a post at Hunter College.

“I’ve been here ever since,” she told oral historian Cynthia Tobar shortly before retiring in 2012. “It’s the best job I ever had. I love it, and I love the students.” She taught courses on child welfare and women and leadership, co-founded the Welfare Rights Initiative, and wrote more influential books. One was *Unsung Heroines*, which fought stereotypes about single mothers. A few, written with her husband, compared family-support policies in the U.S. and Europe.

“Ruth was an extraordinary writer, a great scholar, and a role model who gave generously to the many students and colleagues she came to know,” says Professor Lynn Chancer, chair of the Department of Sociology. Professor Chancer also valued her friend’s sense of humor and groundbreaking approach to scholarship: “When she was attacking stereotypes of single mothers and poor and working-class women, few people were doing research in that vein.”

Students saw her as the perfect teacher as well. “Professor Sidel is a gem,” one wrote in a course evaluation. “Absolutely inspiring. Brilliant,” wrote another.

For these qualities and so much more, Ruth Sidel will be lovingly remembered and profoundly missed. In a final act of generosity to those she studied, wrote about and advocated for, she asked that any memorial donations be directed to Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College (wri-ny.org), 695 Park Avenue, Room E1222, New York, NY 10065.

In Memoriam:

Joan Robinson Acker

Joan Robinson Acker passed away on June 21, 2016, in Eugene, OR, as the age of 92. She was born and grew up in Indianapolis, IN, and, after a year of college, moved to New York City and graduated from Hunter College in 1947, with honors in sociology, and a double major in sociology and social work. Encouraged by her mother, and assuming she would need to support herself, she enrolled in the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration program, earning an master’s in 1948. During college, she became active in “left politics,” presaging her life-long interest in social and economic injustice, particularly involving gender, race/ethnicity, and work. In time, she worked as a social worker, married, had three sons, and followed her husband to the University of Oregon-Eugene. At the age of 37, she enrolled in the University of Oregon’s sociology doctoral program and six years later, PhD in hand, joined the sociology faculty—the first woman to receive a regular appointment there.

Between 1966 and 1992, Joan served on the Oregon sociology faculty and helped to found the Center for the Study of Women in Society, serving as its director from 1973 to 1986. Throughout the late 1980s and into the 2000s, she held professorships around the globe, including in Sweden, Canada, Norway, Finland, Australia, and Germany. Joan was active in the Pacific Sociological Association, serving as Vice President in 1975, and she was a member of American Sociological Association’s Council from 1992 to 1995. She received the ASA’s Jessie Bernard Award for cutting-edge work on gender in 1989 and one of its most prestigious honors, the Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, in 1993.

Joan Acker, a feminist scholar and activist, sought to make a difference. Her first publication, “Women and Social Stratification: A Case of Intellectual Sexism,” (a special issue of the American Journal of Sociology, 1973) was on the failings of sociological theory and research in relation to women. Her most highly developed theoretical work, Class Questions: Feminist Answers (2006), which detailed her key scholarly contributions: her re-framing of the intellectual paradigm from patriarchy to gender relations/from sex role to inequality, and her theory of gendered organizations, including the concept of the “gender-neutral worker.” The latter concept, first developed in her 1990 paper in Gender & Society (“Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations”), argues that males’ body and life-circumstances allow them to prioritize paid work over child-bearing, rearing, and other family (non-paid work) responsibilities. As a result, work in organizations is, from the outset, gendered in favor of men.

In sociological thinking at the time, men were workers and women were home-keepers. Given this situation, the sociology of work and organizations is premised on the lives of men and masculinity. If women at work act like honorary men (Acker’s term), they are penalized yet if they act like women their contributions are diminished or ignored. Acker’s 1990 article on the concept of gendered organizations has been cited thousands of times.

Speaking out about gender inequality and sexism was considered “political” activity when Second Wave feminism arose and women (and sympathetic men) demanded changes—in theories, research projects, and personnel. Feminists organized to push for gender equity in ASA’s journals, annual meetings, committees, elected offices, and honors. Acker consistently spoke out about inequality and injustice, and, more broadly, served as a feminist beacon to scholars in many fields besides sociology. She personified the ideal combination of academic excellence with political action.
Joan regularly “talked back to power,” often with an infectious sense of humor and in ways that inspired those with the desire to follow her example. At the 1993 ASA Awards Ceremony, where Joan was honored with the Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, which followed the President’s lecture on democracy. Joan’s first words upon receiving the award were: “We’ll know we’re making progress when eminent men who talk about democracy take women into account.” The president had not mentioned women (or gender) once in his hour-long Presidential Address. Apparently not paying close attention to what was being said, he looked taken aback when the audience twittered. Joan smiled.

Barrie Thorne said Acker “had a passionate commitment to social justice” and Barbara Risman said she was one of the founding mothers of feminist sociology, “[Her death means] . . the world has lost a great scholar and a path-breaking feminist scholar.” Joanne Martin said, "In her ‘seminal’ work on gendering organizations, decades ago, she set an agenda we are all still working on. Re-reading her classic work is something I do periodically, just to fire myself up again when I get discouraged…. It's wonderful when an intellectual ‘mother’ turns out to be decades ahead of us newbies."

At a conference in Washington, DC, in 1995, attended by 45 gender scholars representing eight academic disciplines, Joan was the meeting’s most eminent scholar. Instead of holding forth to “instruct” new (er) scholars, she sat with them to discuss their work and offer guidance. In addition to her scholarly work, she supported the founding of new journals (e.g., *Gender, Work and Organization* and *Organization*) and the work and careers of new scholars, faithfully citing them to bring attention to their scholarship. Joan was investigated by the FBI for her involvement in the women’s movement in Oregon in the 1970s—a fact she was proud of—and, for all we know, she may have remained under investigation for harboring “unpatriotic thoughts” about the U.S. economy or government. When I jokingly made this comment at an SWS banquet in 2005, Joan replied, “I hope so!”

Activist feminist scholarship was Acker’s life. She continued to write and lecture around the world throughout her eighties. She believed that a critical feminist sociology had to be connected to feminist action and that research should always have theoretical and practical implications that make a difference in people's lives. Joan Acker was generous, smart, and formidable. Beloved by colleagues and friends, she will be sorely missed.

Joan is survived by three sons, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Donations in her memory can be made to Special Collections and University Archives or the Center for the Study of Women in Society, both through the University of Oregon Foundation.
In Memoriam:
Helen Raisz

Helen Raisz was a passionate advocate for peace and justice, in the classroom, in her community, and in the world. As a feminist sociologist with a sharp intellect, she shared her love of humanity with a deep commitment to her family. As one of her former students said, “She was truly a wonderful woman with a heart of gold”. Anything but an armchair academic, Helen was an unequivocal fighter for social justice.

Born on November 27, 1926 in New London, Connecticut, Helen was the daughter of Chester and Lucile Martin of Old Lyme, CT, which she called home for decades. She received her BA from Radcliffe College and completed her Masters degree in Sociology at the University of Buffalo. In pursuit of her Ph.D. in Sociology, she worked on a dissertation about the World Trade Organization, demonstrating a commitment to global issues that she sustained throughout her career. Helen lived a long and full life, and passed away at age 89.

Over the years, Helen had a powerful impact on her colleagues and on a cadre of students, where she taught courses on poverty, gerontology and medical sociology. She published a number of articles in professional journals, and reviewed books for Educational Gerontology on issues related to aging and social policy. Sociologist Chandra Waring was an undergraduate student of Helen’s at the University of Connecticut in a course on women and poverty. “As a woman of color who grew up in a low-income household and community, I deeply appreciated (Professor Raisz’s) commitment to explaining the overlapping forms of oppression of race, class and gender in her course.” Sociologist Laura Kramer served with Helen on the Eastern Sociological Society’s Committee on the Status of Women, and will miss Helen’s “warmth, intellectual and interpersonal insight, lack of pretension, and deep commitment to addressing all kinds of inequalities.”

Professor Kristy Kelly, Faculty Chair of the Global Education Colloquium at Drexel University, knew Helen through her work with the International Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). “Helen was devoted to international teaching and activism.” She attended each of the past Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York City, up to 2015, as well as the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Reverend Susan Lee from Boston University says, “Helen was enthusiastically committed to the international peace process that the UN embodies,” Sociologist Daniela Jauk interviewed Helen in 2012 for her dissertation, which probed the involvement of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) members at the UN. “Helen supported the UN’s work throughout her life, and was on the Board of the UN’s Association in Connecticut. She gave continuity to SWS’s presence at the UN as a Department of Public Information representative, and also as Commission on the Status of Women delegate.” Steve Valocchi, Chair of the Sociology Department at Trinity College, remembers “Helen’s warmth, boundless energy, and keen intellect… and her firm, deep progressive politics”. As a community
activist, Helen was part of a number of progressive organizations, including the Greater Hartford Coalition on Cuba and the Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Helen was President and Vice-President of the Connecticut Coalition on Aging and an active member of the Northeastern Gerontological Society. Professor Emeritus Mary Alice Wolf, of University of Saint Joseph said, “Working side-by-side with Helen for 25 years has been a great privilege. Always brilliant, caring, and inventive, she made major contributions to the Institute in Gerontology at the University of Saint Joseph.”

Helen was honored with many awards, including the AARP's highest volunteer award, the 2011 Essential Piece Award from Connecticut Community Care, Inc., 1996 Connecticut Coalition on Aging Leadership Award, and 2011 University of Hartford Gordon Clark Ramsey Award for Creative Excellence.

Commenting on Helen’s remarkable spirit of adventure, Reverend Susan Lee says, “Helen was fearless in travelling to far-flung places. In her last message to me at the end of June, she said she was hoping to do some travelling this summer and talked about visiting Sierra Leone! Despite her advanced age, she was still teaching until last year, passionate about passing along to students an understanding of sociology and justice issues”.

Helen was married to her husband, Lawrence, for 62 years. He passed away in 2010. She leaves behind five loving children and their partners to whom she passed on a spirit of adventure and love of life: Stephen (Pancharatna) Raisz and his partner, Louise (Atitaguna) Raisz (Farmington, CT and Mayapur, India); Matthew Raisz and his partner, Rosemary Raisz (Weymouth, Massachusetts); Jonathan Raisz and his partner, Mali Raisz (Boston); Katherine Raisz and her partner, Stephanie Stewart (Boston); and Nicholas Raisz (Farmington, CT). She also leaves behind six grandchildren whom she loved dearly: Abby (St. Paul, MN) and Eva Raisz (Seoul, Korea), children of Jonathan and Mali; and Gourangi (Old Lyme, CT), Nila (Mayapur, India), Sita (New Britain, CT) and Puri Raisz (Alachua, Florida), children of Pancharatna and Atitaguna. They all – along with a large community of people who respected and loved her – will miss her dearly.
"Sociology has at least three possible political functions or consequences:

1) control -- to maintain the status quo;
2) unmasking -- to reveal how the status quo is maintained; and
3) liberation -- to help change the status quo for the better....

A sociology of liberation must give us ideas about how to get to the future as well as ideas of what it might look like."