New York, New York

“Start spreading the news….we will be a part of it, New York, New York.” The program committee—Barret Katuna, Dani Jauk, Kristy Kelly, Julie Winterrich, Sylvanna Falcone, Shweta Majumdar Adur—the executive office—Shirley Jackson and Jazmyne Washington—different standing and Ad Hoc committees, enthusiastic SWS-ers, and I have been working to create a signature SWS program. Shirley and Jazmyne have found a fabulous Scandinavian banquet site for us to gather on Saturday evening. Start preparing for an intellectual/activist SWS feast.

New York, here we come.

At Tamaya, in February, our speakers discussed ways of linking activist and research knowledge; in New York we will immerse ourselves in some of the same themes. The International committee has invited two of our global feminist partners, Wan Jinling from China (accompanied by Dr. Ping Wang), and Dr. Barbara Poggio from Italy. Come and listen to their accounts of gender scholarship in their countries. Gender & Society Editor Joya Misra will be hosting several international board members; Celia Valiente (Spain), Ray-May Hsung (Taiwan) and Ayesha Imam (Nigeria) may all be at the SWS meetings this summer in New York. The program committee has decided to introduce our international sisters well ahead of the conference. Jazmyne and I plan to post the biographies on the SWS website; you can read about these five scholars before you arrive in New York city and get a chance to meet them. Several SWS-ers are organizing sessions with activists. Some of these will occur outside the formal conference. These are all exciting opportunities to meet new people and hone our skills as activists. SWS-ers are also organizing several panels to enhance our research, teaching, and balancing work-family lives so that we are able to sustain ourselves as scholar-teachers.

So, let’s “(s)start spreading the news….we will be a part of it, New York, New York”

Outside the limelight of the conferences many SWS-ers have been working quietly but persistently to sustain SWS as a strong, (continued on page 2)
forward-thinking feminist organization. I was amazed at the energy and organization that brought so many SWS-ers to New York in March to attend the Commission on the Status of Women events at the UN. We attracted quite a large audience during our presentations at a parallel event. Similarly, chapters have been holding meetings and fundraisers for a variety of causes. Our journal continues to grow in strength and take our research to distant places. Our Strategic Task Force has worked for nearly two years to compile our collective vision and operating procedures. As we continue to meld our research and activist knowledge and re-imagine or question the boundaries of our current circles, we help SWS to flourish. I am very proud to be a part of an organization that frequently sets the standards of good practice for other organizations. I thank all of you for giving so much of your time to make us such an amazing organization.

New York, here we come!

Celebrate Feminists Excellence at the SWS Awards Banquet in New York City!

Join us to cheer the winners for outstanding feminist scholarship, activism, and mentoring at the Sociologists for Women in Society’s Summer Meeting Awards Banquet. The Banquet will be held on Saturday, August 10th at the Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue (just a few blocks from Grand Central Station). The SWS Faculty Awards will be presented to faculty who have made notable contributions to improving the lives of women through activism (Feminist Activist Award) or provided outstanding guidance and mentoring to students (Feminist Mentoring Award). The winner of the SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer will also be announced at the banquet.

The SWS student awards will recognize outstanding emerging scholarship and provide funding for dissertations. The Cheryl Allyn Miller Award recognizes excellence in graduate research or activism in the field of women and work. The Chow-Green Dissertation Award recognizes a minority doctoral student, who studies concerns of women of color in the U.S. and abroad, and the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship is granted to a graduate student who started at a two-year community college. The winner of the Rachel Rosenblum Breast Cancer Dissertation Award will also be presented this year.

Come celebrate feminist excellence—and your own personal and professional milestones—with fabulous feminists at the Scandinavia House. The celebration will begin with a reception at 6:30-7:30 pm and is followed by a dinner at 7:30-9:30 pm. This venue will hold only 144 guests, so make sure to buy your tickets early. For more information about the SWS awards, contact Marjukka Ollilainen, Awards Committee Chair at mollilainen@weber.edu.
Our New Executive Officer

As you know last year Shirley Jackson, a long time and valued member of SWS, stepped up during a time of crisis and took on the role of executive officer. We went through a search process this year. After much deliberation, we decided to transition to a new permanent office within the next month.

Joey Sprague, a past President of SWS, has agreed to become our next EO. She will be searching for an Administrative Officer.

A sincere thank you to Shirley for stepping up when we needed her. We look forward to enjoying Shirley’s vibrant presence at SWS through the years.

As you all know, Jazmyne has been a wonderful AO. Thanks for everything you do, Jazmyne!

An equally sincere thank you to Joey for taking on this responsibility.

We are lucky to have so many committed members in SWS.

- Bandana Purkayastha

Critique me Session in New York

Are you about to go on the academic job market? The Career Development and Student Concerns Committees would like to help you with this important milestone in your career. We are offering a hands-on, ‘bring your job package materials to us’, workshop. Mentors will be available to provide advice on CVs, letters of application, teaching portfolios, research statements, dual career issues, issues for feminists of color, and issues for GLBTQ scholars. If you are just beginning this process, we can give you advice on where to start. Just bring us what you do have, and we’ll go from there! If you are job seeker please contact Veronica Montes our Student Rep at veroncamontes@umail.ucsb.edu to save your spot.

7th Annual Student Roundtables: Emerging Scholarship in Sociology

(co-sponsored by ABS and SWS at the New York meeting)

This session will provide an opportunity for student presenters to discuss their research interests, plans, and goals with other students and faculty facilitators. The main purpose of this session is to create a comfortable and inviting environment where relationships among students with similar research interests can be established and valuable feedback obtained from supportive professors. We encourage participants to maintain and build on these relationships as sources of support and encouragement as they continue to develop their work. The date and location TBA.
## 2013 Membership and Summer Meeting Registration

### Membership (January 1-December 31, 2013)

- $14: Income less than $15,000
- $21: Income $15,000-$19,999
- $31: Income $20,000-$29,999
- $41: Income $30,000-$39,999
- $46: Income $40,000-$49,999
- $56: Income $50,000+
- $180: Life Membership

*(payable in equal installments over 1, 2, 3, or 4 years; $900 for 2 years; $600 for 3 years; $450 for 4 years)*

### Summer Meeting Pre-Registration

- $10: Income less than $25,000 (on-site – $15)
- $10: Income $25,001-$35,000 (on-site – $15)
- $15: Income $35,001-$45,000 (on-site – $20)
- $15: Income $45,001-$55,000 (on-site – $25)
- $20: Income $55,001-$65,000 (on-site – $25)
- $20: Income $65,001-$75,000 (on-site – $25)
- $20: Income more than $75,000 (on-site – $25)

### Banquet**

- $65: Banquet ticket
- $50: Low-income banquet ticket

**LIMITED SEATING**! Buffet banquet will include vegetarian, vegan, non-dairy, and gluten free options. Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, NYC

### Gift Membership (enter recipient's information)

- Name:
- Address:
- Email:
- Phone:

Make my gift membership anonymous (check here) **

### Refereed to SWS by

- Name:

### Contribution Options (enter amount)

- $________: SWS operations
- $________: Natalie Allen fund (discrimination support)
- $________: Rosenblum fund (cancer-related dissertation)
- $________: Beth Hess Scholarship
- $________: Feminist Activism Award
- $________: Distinguished Feminist Lectureship
- $________: Mentoring Award
- $________: Undergraduate Social Action Award
- $________: Chow-Green Dissertation Scholarship
- $________: SWS-MFP (ASA Minority Fellowship Program)

### Total Paid: $______

- Cardholder Name:
- Credit Card #: 
- Billing Address:
- Signature:
- Expiration Date: __________ CSC code:
- Credit Card: [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa

Make checks or money orders payable to:

Sociologists for Women in Society
Department of Sociology
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

203-392-7714, 203-392-7715 (fax) swsseo@socwomen.org [http://www.socwomen.org](http://www.socwomen.org)
From the Executive Office:

Summer Meeting

Planning to attend the SWS Summer meeting in New York City? The SWS meeting will be held at the Sheraton New York. We are busy in the executive office developing a new online system for the Summer meeting registration. You may recall from the last newsletter that we are attempting to eliminate the tedious process of reimbursing each member who registered for the conference on-line, the fee that the company SWS has been using as well as the fact that there is a fee that the organization pays for the use of the site. This does not really make sense and SWS funds can be best used elsewhere. It will also save a step that really adds a needless extra burden on the executive office due to the sheer number of reimbursement checks that must be written and mailed for each registrant who uses the online system for both of the meetings. We are therefore, moving to a system that allows registration for conferences on the SWS site the same way that one registers for membership. For those who want to pay by mail or on-site, these options will still remain. However, given the limited seating at the summer banquet this year, it is best that when the system is open, you do so quickly!

Website

Please make sure that your list of committee chairs and members is submitted to Jazmyne Washington, SWS administrative officer, so that this information can be added to the website. Also, if you have a current book that you would like to be included on the SWS Bookshelf page, please contact Jazmyne. We would like to update this page so that newer works are included, so don’t be shy!

Listserv

Did you forget to renew? Do it now! As the Network News and Gender & Society address labels are updated regularly, you will not receive either if you are not a current member! However, once you do renew, you can receive back copies of the most recent newsletter and journal by contacting the executive office. However, only the newsletter can be sent directly from the executive office. You will receive your back issue(s) of Gender & Society from the publisher.

The Office is in Transition

Jazmyne and I will miss all of the membership and have sincerely appreciated the support of the general membership.
Feminist Activist Laura Kramer Visits Utah

The 2011 SWS Feminist Activist Award winner, Laura Kramer, visited the campus of Weber State University in Ogden, UT in March 25-28, 2013. The Feminist Activist Award provides travel support for the winner to visit two campuses where feminist sociology can provide information and strategies to improve the position women students and faculty. Weber State University was chosen by the Feminist Activist Award Committee members as one campus where such information would be much needed.

On campus, Dr. Kramer’s visit took pace as part of Women’s History Month activities and provided an engaging opportunity for both students and faculty to discuss women’s position in STEM fields. During her visit, Laura Kramer presented to a group of Chemistry, Women’s Studies, and Sociology students about women’s inroads into higher education. Her talk, entitled “Taking the Long View: Achievements and Challenges” drew from her own experiences since the 1960s and described how gender inequities have been reduced in higher education and labor market, but also the challenges that remain. The students were astounded to hear her stories about the past conditions of women college students. For example, when she said that it was perfectly normal for women to be asked in job interviews about what kind of contraception they used, one could hear a collective gasp from the crowd.

Dr. Kramer’s second talk on campus took place in the College of Applied Sciences and Technology and was sponsored also by the College of Science. Her talk, “Making the Most of Our Human Resources: Lessons from NSF ADVANCE Projects” was advertised as a workshop for faculty and administrators and drew an engaged and interested audience. In the workshop as well as during an informal breakfast meeting at the College of Science the following morning, she also outlined various strategies and lessons learned from NSF-funded projects for improving STEM women’s faculty representation. Faculty members who attended the workshop found Laura Kramer’s ideas about how to recruit women to consider the science and technology faculty positions at Weber State particularly useful. Overall, both Dr. Kramer’s visit provided a much needed opportunity not only to revisit the well-known institutional barriers for women in STEM, but also to celebrate the gender advances that have been made in higher education. I highly recommend applying for an SWS Feminist Activist Award winner campus visit. Everyone at Weber found the experience invigorating and fun.

Call for Papers: The Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN) invites submissions for the 2014 Conference, Changing Work and Family Relationships in a Global Economy, to be held June 19-21, 2014 in New York City. The 2012 inaugural conference was a huge success! There were over 750 presenters who discussed the latest work and family research from around the world. We expect that the 2014 conference will also draw many global attendees in addition to providing numerous opportunities for networking and sharing ideas. The deadline is October 18, 2013 and you can learn more about panel types and conference aims at:

http://workfamily.sas.upenn.edu/content/call-papers.
Nominate Now for SWS positions
Patricia Yancey Martin, Nominations Committee Chair

As SWS Past-President, one of my duties is to Chair the Nominations Committee. Four additional members (two elected per year) of the Committee are elected each year and they serve a two-year term. The members are Rebecca Bach, Nikki Jones, Adina Nack, and Abigail Saguy. Along with me, they request your help. Please nominate others and yourself for the SWS positions that are open in this odd-numbered year (see below). Our slate must be completed by August 31, 2013, thus we invite your suggestions now so we can follow-up. Please feel free to nominate yourself!

**Elected Positions.** The following positions are elected in Odd Years with service beginning in February of the next year (2014, in this instance):

- President-Elect (3 year term-Serves as President-Elect, President, Past President)
- Secretary (2 year term)
- Treasurer-Elect (3 year term-Serves as Treas-Elect, Treasurer, Past Treas.)
- Student Representative (2 year term as Chair of Student Concerns Committee)
- Awards Cmte Chair (2 year term)
- Discrimination Cmte Chair (2 year term)
- International Cmte Chair (2 year term)
- Cmte on Academic Justice Co-Chair (1 elected each year for 2-year term)
- Sister to Sister Co-Chair (1 elected each year for 2-year term)
- Awards Committee member (1 member elected yearly for 2-year term)
- Career Development Cmte memb. (1 member elected for 2-year term)
- Membership Committee member (2 members for 2 year term)
- Nominations Committee member (2 members for 2 year term)
- Publications Committee member (2 members for 3 year term)

**Note from Pat:** I want to comment on the high number of elected SWS positions. When we have so many people to elect each year, finding enough candidates who can commit to the terms of the job is difficult. For instance, we need **34 nominees this year for 17 positions.** Now, you might say: 34 nominees in an organization with 591 members is a piece of cake, right? You might be wrong. In our last election, held online and about which Administrative Officer Jazmyne Washington reminded us repeatedly, only 317 SWSers voted (at the time, we had nearly 900 members). When you consider that people like me, who have been around a long time and held many SWS offices, will not and should not run again you realize that our base number is much lower. Then too, many of our student members need to prioritize their education and many untenured members need to (continued on pages 8–9)
focus on promotion and tenure and many associates need to focus on promotion to full. When a person commits to SWS, she or he in effect withdraws efforts from other commitments. Perhaps his/her job and/or life circumstances mean he/she needs to do other things.

In sum, finding 34 people who can commit to a term of two to three years, attend two SWS meetings per year during those years, and perform the duties of an SWS office is not easy. If occasionally we have a single nominee for an office, we should not be too critical. It may be the case that we cannot find 34 “free people” to make the required commitments. If the person nominated is ideal for the job, I urge us to show gratitude to her or him for being willing to serve. In the long run, we may need to embrace shorter-term appointments rather than long-term elective office for some SWS duties. This issue will, I trust, be addressed in our revised Bylaws and subsequent deliberations.

**Terms of office (as things stand):** Service begins at the Winter Meeting and lasts for the term for which the office commits (one year, two years, or three years). Attendance at SWS Meetings is critical for those who hold SWS positions of responsibility. If you agree to be a nominee for an SWS office, committee chairship, or committee membership you will be asked to commit to attend the SWS Winter meeting for the length of your term of service. If you feel you cannot fulfill that commitment, perhaps a later time will be more feasible for you. While some SWS jobs are demanding, they are also rewarding. If you want to know more about a position’s obligations and duties, contact me and I’ll either explain or connect you to someone who can.

Once a person agrees to run for an office, she/he will be asked to supply the following:

- Name
- Position for which you are nominated
- Current job/position/title and employer (including US state)
- Year you first joined SWS & # of years you’ve been a member
- Your attendance at Winter & Summer SWS meetings?
- Prior services performed for SWS (e.g., service on Committee XYZ, chaired XYZ committee, hosted Hospitality Room at Summer meeting, volunteered at Registration Desk, edited Network News, referee for G&S manuscripts, Task Force member, etc.)
- What of your interests, education, and/or experiences qualify you for the position?
- Related professional activities or things you’d like SWSers to know about you, e.g., service in professional associations, at your home unit, with colleagues, etc.
- Your vision for the position for which you are being nominated
- Commitment to attend SWS Winter Meeting during your term of service: Yes or No?
- Anything else you’d like SWSers to know about you and/or your candidacy

**President (elect, current, past):** The SWS President is similar to the Chairperson of a Board. She or He chairs the Executive Council which is the only SWS body where every member is elected by the membership. The President works with the Executive Office—Executive Officer and Administrative Officer—to assure that tasks associated with making SWS work fairly, effectively, efficiently, and legally are done by the appropriate people and on time. The President-elect plans the program for the Winter Meeting (which is held about 1.3 years after she/he was elected). The President-elect selects the city and hotel for the Winter Meeting (although this may change). The President assists all officers and chairs and reminds them of their duties. The President writes a column for each of four Network
News issues per year. The President negotiates with the EO and is ultimately responsible for the hiring and oversight of the Executive Officer and assists the EO in hiring an Administrative Officer. The President signs contracts with Sage Publications for publishing Gender & Society. Duties of the President-elect, President, and Past-President vary (see old Bylaws). The President-elect and President (accompanied by the Treasurer and Treasurer-elect) meet in early fall with the Executive Office staff (and, either in person or by conference call, the accountant and investment counselors) to learn about office procedures and assure that SWS policies and procedures are being followed. The Past President chairs the Committee on Nominations and to other committees.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer monitors the financial practices of the Executive Office and assures the financial integrity of SWS. The Treasurer’s duties include regular (monthly) oversight of all financial transactions, e.g., she/he receives a monthly copy of the bank statement and a record of all actions (entries and expenditures) on Quickbooks. She/He works with the Administrative Officer to assure that proper accounting and record-keeping procedures and fiduciary responsibilities are maintained. The Treasurer, with the President, checks in regularly with the Executive Officer to assure that Council policies and actions are properly responded to. According to our current Bylaws, the Treasurer supervises the Executive Officer. However, given our changed structure, which is more complex (with an Administrative Officer and a different division of labor), supervision of the Executive Office is a joint activity of the President and Treasurer. As noted, the Treasurer and Treasurer-elect travel with the President and President-elect each fall to the Executive Office to assure that SWS policies and procedures relative to finances and other matters are being followed.

**Secretary:** The Secretary is elected for a two-year term and is responsible for recording all minutes of Council meetings, both in person (at the meetings) and in conference calls. He/She is responsible for assuring that these minutes are edited by those in attendance at the meetings and, if need be, corrected to reflect Council decisions and actions. The Secretary is responsible for assuring that copies of Council deliberations are permanently maintained in a reliable manner (e.g., in the Executive Office, in a permanent Drop Box for Council Secretarial work, etc.).

**Student Representative:** The Student Rep is elected for a two-year term and represents the interests of students in Council deliberations. Duties of the Student Representative vary and can be assigned by the President, as appropriate and needed. The Student Representative helps arrange events at the Winter meeting that are oriented specially to student members. She or he assists the Executive Office with maintaining an accurate and up-to-date Listserve for student members.

**Committee chairs:** SWS does not have a detailed description of the duties of every committee chair and member. However, you can see at least a minimalist description of the committee’s charges/activities on the SWS webpage (socwomen.org/). In the near future, we hope to have a detailed Operations Manual (and new set of Bylaws) that will be substantive and spell out many things that are now made known from person to person or through notebooks or records that some committee chairs (and members) maintain.

**Recommendation:** If you recently served on a Committee, consider volunteering to run for Chair. If you have not served on an SWS committee that appeals to you, volunteer to become a member of one that appeals to you. That way, SWS committees will have experienced chairs as well as new members. We can hope that experienced members will be willing in a succeeding year to serve as Chair.
Local Chapters in Action!

SWS-South holds reception and auction to welcome new members, help women’s shelter

The Southern chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS-South) used this year’s SWS chapter funds to hold a “Coffee for a Cause” reception and silent auction at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society held April 24-27 in Atlanta.

This event was a huge success, with approximately 50 people sipping coffee and enjoying cupcakes from noted Atlanta establishment the Highland Bakery while bidding on treasures at the auction. More than just a fun coffee and cupcake break for members, the reception was a visible introduction to SWS-South, providing an opportunity for those interested in the organization to meet current members and become involved. In fact, 14 new members joined during the meeting this year!

Auction proceeds went to both our new awards program, which identifies outstanding papers on gender presented at the SSS meeting, and the Women’s Resource Center to End Domestic Violence in Atlanta. Of the $679 raised, $150 helped fund the awards program and $529 was donated to the center. Announcements and available literature also helped promote the center’s mission and the important services it provides to the local community.

In addition, SWS-South participated in a “Panty Drive” competition with other SWS chapters, collecting two carloads of donations for the Women’s Resource Center that were delivered right after the meeting. In addition to undergarments, donated items included women’s and children’s clothing, baby items, toiletries, paper towels, jewelry, books, and even a new car seat!

Thank you to SWS for providing funds for the reception, and to SSS and SWS-South members for their generosity!
SWS-South sponsors sessions at Southern Sociological Society meeting and elects new officers

SWS-South meets in conjunction with the Southern Sociological Society (meaning, this year we met in Atlanta April 24-27). We co-sponsored 18 sessions on the program, ranging from paper sessions on Gender, Transgender, and/or Gender queer Identities and Communities and Gender and the Economy to a Teaching Mini-Conference on Teaching Social Stratification, as well as invited panels on the Challenges of Being a Public Intellectual in an Era of Sound bites and Beyond Publications and Teaching Evaluations: Public Sociology as a Remedy to Relational Inequalities.

Among other exciting events that transpired during our business meeting, we held elections. We are pleased to announce the election of our new officers:

Vice President = Marni Brown, Georgia Gwinnett College
Secretary = Kylie Parrotta, Delaware State University
Awards Committee = Claudia Youakim, University of Florida
Vision Committee = Sancha Medwinter, Duke University
National Liaison = Louise Seamster, Duke University

Our continuing officers are:
President = Shannon Davis, George Mason University
Membership Chair/Treasurer= Julie Wiest, High Point University
Newsletter Editor = Carmel Price, Furman University

For more information about SWS-South, please visit our website (swssouth.org) or contact any one of the officers.

SWS-East participation at the Eastern Sociological Society

During the 2013 Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society the SWS-East Chapter co-sponsored a paper session with the ESS Committee on the Status of Women entitled “Challenging and Changing Institutional Policies on Parental Leave in Colleges and Universities.” SWS-East was awarded chapter funding to invite Saranna Thornton, author of the AAUP books on the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Pregnancy in the Academy, as the featured presenter. The session also included research by SWS members Catherine Richards Solomon, Erin K. Anderson, and Jennifer Lundquist. Their studies of parental leave policies in higher education highlighted the important role of policy, but also the less emphasized significance of department and college culture, in shaping use of parental leave policies by faculty (Anderson, Lundquist, and Solomon) and staff (Anderson). Beth Mintz presented a case study on how the Women’s Caucus at the University of Vermont helped to institute a more generous parental leave policy, with an emphasis on the strategies they used to secure the support of administration. Finally, Saranna Thornton provided an insightful and succinct overview of how faculty can use existing law to ensure that institutional parental leave policies are administered fairly and to advocate for policy changes. The session was organized by Theresa Morris, SWS member and co-chair of the ESS Committee on the Status of Women.
Kent State and Akron SWS Local in Action

During the month of April, we initiated a donation drive to benefit local domestic violence shelters. We set out to collect items for several shelters, instead of just one as we have done previously. We hoped to donate items to 10 local shelters. Our team contacted shelters to obtain wish lists. We teamed up with Kent State’s Graduate Student Senate, who coordinated placing boxes in each department office on campus. We also contacted several other campus offices, as well as fraternities and sororities, to raise awareness of our event and to place donation boxes.

Away from campus, team members reached out to local hotel businesses for donations of personal care items. We also had the opportunity to collaborate with the Akron Racers Foundation, where we tabled about domestic violence, teen dating violence, and healthy relationships during their 5th annual Rock N Fire softball tournament. This event was also an opportunity to collect donations. Teams participating in the tournament brought items to donate. We were able to collect two boxes of items and nearly $300 at this event alone.

Our drive ended on May 3rd, and we were able to collect and organize our donations on May 7th. We collected 68 boxes of donations, as well as a grand total of $915. The donated money went towards purchases of bedding and kitchen items, as requested by one of our shelters.

In the summer we will conduct our third annual school supply drive for area shelters. During October we will coordinate with Kent State regional campuses to conduct another drive to call attention to this important issue and to help area shelters. Finally, we would like to thank SWS-South and the membership committee for this important initiative. We look forward to coordinating efforts with other regional and local chapters in the future!

Drive co-coordinators and volunteers sort donated items in preparation for delivery to area domestic violence shelters.

Photo courtesy of Tiffany Taylor
Call for Papers: Family-Friendly Policies and Practices In Academe

Scholars are arguing that family-friendly policies in academe are becoming increasingly important given the changing makeup for faculty bodies and the “brain drain” of talented young scholars choosing not to enter academe because of its perceived lack of family friendliness. Academe has long been recognized as a work organization that is built on a model of a (male) faculty breadwinner with a (female) stay-at-home spouse to take care of family responsibilities. This model then may preclude women from full participation in academe and is one reason why women comprise the majority of faculty members in non-tenure track faculty positions. The AAUP has advocated for the inclusion of policies that could help faculty better manage work and family demands.

Stemming from a panel at the 2013 Eastern Sociological Society meeting, entitled, “Challenging and Changing Institutional Policies on Parental Leave,” this proposed edited volume intends to combine empirical research about faculty experiences with family-friendly practices and policies as well as faculty experiences advocating for change on their campuses. We are seeking contributors who can speak to either of these areas. Topics include, but are not limited to, paid parental leave, paid paternity leave, tenure extension (or stop-the-clock) policies, part-time tenure track work arrangements, elder caregiving, or unpaid childcare leaves.

Please send formal papers to both Erin K. Anderson (eanderson3@washcoll.edu) and Catherine Richards Solomon (catherine.solomon@quinnipiac.edu) by September 15th deadline. Please note that a submission of a formal paper does not guarantee selection for addition to the proposed book. This proposed volume has been solicited by Lexington Books.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Cathy and Erin at our respective email addresses.

Thank you,

Erin K. Anderson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Washington College
300 Washington Ave.
Chestertown, MD 21620

Catherine Richards Solomon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Quinnipiac University
Hamden, CT 06518

SWS-South Announces a New Award

SWS-South announces an Early Career Gender Scholar Award (ECGS), which will be given in even numbered years beginning in 2014. The ECGS award will be given to a junior scholar whose work makes a noteworthy contribution to our understanding of the sociology of gender. The award may be given for a single groundbreaking article, for a series of articles, or for a book that is viewed as making significant advancements to the scholarship of the sociology of gender. Nominees must be associated with an institution in the South. The winner of the ECGS award will be recognized at the annual SWS-South business meeting with a plaque and a one-year membership in SWS-South. In the following year, the winner will also be featured in the SWS-South newsletter and will present her or his work at an SWS-South/SSS special session. Those interested in the award should refer to the SWS-South website (http://swssouth.org/) for additional information.
### SWS
Regional and Local Chapter Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arizona-Tucson</strong></td>
<td>Cindy Cain <a href="mailto:ccain@u.arizona.edu">ccain@u.arizona.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Wright <a href="mailto:mswright@u.arizona.edu">mswright@u.arizona.edu</a></td>
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<td>Anne Barett <a href="mailto:abarrett@fsu.edu">abarrett@fsu.edu</a></td>
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<td><strong>Illinois</strong></td>
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From December 2007 to June 2009, a period often termed the Great Recession, the U.S. economy lost the most jobs and saw the longest spells of unemployment since World War II. Many women were impacted negatively by this economic decline, and low-income women were left particularly vulnerable due to changes in social policy over the past several decades. This fact sheet evaluates the extent to which federal welfare policies helped to mitigate the effects of the most recent recession on low-income families. It finds that the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program largely failed to meet increased needs due in large part to the way the program is structured. The fact sheet concludes with recommendations about how to change the structure of federal welfare policies so that TANF can provide better support during the remainder of the economic recovery.

An Introduction to TANF

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides a monthly cash assistance benefit to low-income families with children. It is a critical source of support for families when one or more caregivers are unemployed or disabled, when a household member is escaping domestic violence, and when a parent or guardian is transitioning to employment. Low-income families use TANF benefits to meet basic needs, including housing, clothing, and food costs. TANF also can provide families with access to mental health, job training, and subsidized employment services.

An average of 4.4 million people living in 1.8 million households receive TANF benefits each month. Half of households receiving TANF have one child, and less than 8 percent have more than three children. Among adult TANF recipients, most (85 percent) are women. A plurality of adults receiving TANF benefits (37 percent) is White. One third of adult TANF recipients are Black, 24 percent are Hispanic, 2 percent are Asian, and 1 percent is Native American. Nearly a quarter of adult TANF recipients are Hispanic (of any race).

TANF’s authorizing legislation, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), fundamentally shifted the way the federal government provides cash assistance to low-income families. Before TANF, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program provided cash assistance benefits as an entitlement and did not limit how long families could receive assistance. PRWORA eliminated low-income families’ entitlement to benefits, allowed states to deny benefits to particular groups (e.g., documented immigrants), limited the number of years individuals could receive...
benefits over their lifetime, and required most participants to be engaged in a narrowly-defined set of work activities as a condition of receiving benefits. PRWORA also structured TANF as a block grant program in which the federal government provides funding to states to administer local welfare programs.

In the first five years of TANF’s implementation, the number of low-income families receiving welfare benefits decreased, and the number of single parents who entered employment increased significantly. However, since 2000, TANF caseloads have continued to fall at the same time that child poverty has increased and employment among single mothers has decreased. Over half of the decline in the TANF caseload since 1995 has been attributed to a decrease in the proportion of low-income families receiving benefits, rather than a reduction in the number of poor families with children. Although TANF’s role as a safety net for low-income women and their families started weakening in its early years, that trend became particularly visible during the Great Recession.

State Welfare Programs Failed to Respond to Increased Need during the Great Recession

During the Great Recession, the number of people living in poverty in the U.S. increased from 39.8 million to 43.6 million, the largest number recorded in the 51 years that poverty estimates have been published. During a recession – when many individuals lose their jobs and struggle to find work – we would expect to find increased demand for income support programs like TANF and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Although the number of individuals receiving benefits from SNAP increased by 45 percent between December 2007 and December 2009, the number of TANF recipients rose by only 13 percent (Figure 2). Worse yet, TANF caseloads rose by less than 10 percent in 16 states, remained mostly unchanged in 22 states, and fell in six states.

As part of the economic stimulus legislation, Congress created the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to provide grants to states for subsidized employment, short-term benefits, and cash assistance for low-income women and their families. A survey of states’ subsidized employment programs found that more than 260,000 subsidized jobs were created for low-income youth and adults through the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund. Unfortunately, the fund expired on September 30, 2010, during a time when most states were still struggling to balance their budgets. In 2010 and 2011, six states and the District of Columbia cut their welfare benefit levels, effectively lowering the monthly cash assistance benefit for more than a third of all low-income families who were receiving benefits.

What Accounts for the Failure of State Welfare Programs during the Great Recession?

With the exception of the new TANF Emergency Contingency Fund, states lacked incentives to expand their

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**Figure 2: Percent Increase in TANF and SNAP Caseloads, December 2007-December 2009**

- **SNAP**: 45%
- **TANF**: 13%

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
welfare programs to meet the growing need produced by the Great Recession. Some of these disincentives were tied to the economic downturn, others to the structure of the TANF program, and still others were related to larger social and historical processes. This section focuses specifically on the disincentives related to the current structure of the TANF program. The “Resources” section of this fact sheet includes suggested readings related to other contributing factors.

While state budget shortfalls certainly played a role in the reluctance of states to increase spending on TANF, the failure of state welfare programs to respond to the Great Recession is part of a larger pattern of declining support for low-income families. As Figure 3 demonstrates, for every 100 families with children living in poverty, the number of families receiving TANF benefits declined from 68 in 1996 to 27 in the first year of the economic recovery.9

Particular features of the TANF program contributed to this decline in support, including:

TANF’s Block Grant Structure. The elimination of the federal entitlement to welfare benefits has meant that TANF is no longer easily able to respond, as the federal SNAP program did, to increased need during economic recessions. The flexibility of TANF’s block grant structure also has allowed cash-strapped states to spend a decreasing amount of their federal grant on direct financial assistance to low-income families. During the first several years of TANF’s implementation, when caseloads were declining, states used freed-up TANF funds to pay for child care assistance, tax credits, and child welfare services for low-income families. As TANF funds were distributed to other programs, the percentage of federal and state TANF dollars spent on basic cash assistance decreased from 70 percent in fiscal year 1997, to 28 percent in 2009.10 When the Great Recession hit, states faced budget shortfalls at the same time they faced increased need for TANF benefits. And as states faced competing demands among social service programs, many chose not to redirect funds back to their TANF programs.

Evaluating State TANF Programs Based Primarily on their Work Participation Rate. PRWORA established a set of conditions and incentives that have encouraged states to move TANF recipients as quickly as possible into employment. State TANF programs mainly are evaluated based on the proportion of a state’s TANF population that is engaged in employment or an approved work activity. However, this process-based measure does not take into account the extent to which state TANF programs reduce family poverty or expand to meet families’ increased needs during economic downturns.11 This means that states are incentivized to serve fewer numbers of recipients even when need increases and job opportunities are scarce.

TANF Policy Changes Are Needed to Better Support Families during the Economic Recovery
TANF provides an important source of support for low-income families with children through cash assistance
benefits and child care, job search, and transportation services. Yet, the flaws in TANF’s current structure highlighted above have led to a situation in which TANF is “serving a smaller share of poor families, and providing less assistance to those families, than ever before.” The percentage of low-income single mothers who were not employed or receiving TANF benefits doubled from 1995 to 2009. Currently, all states provide a TANF cash assistance benefit that is half or less than half of the federal poverty level. Unless changes are made to TANF, a critical support for low-income families will continue to weaken. As Congress prepares to reauthorize PRWORA, policymakers should consider:

Changing How TANF Programs Are Evaluated to Include Employment, Education, and Safety Net Measures. State TANF programs should not only be measured based on their ability to engage TANF recipients in employment or a narrowly-defined set of work activities. Programs also should be assessed based on their ability to help reduce family poverty, expand to meet families’ increased needs during recessions, and move adult recipients into longer-term and better-paying employment. State TANF performance measures should take into account the proportion of eligible families that are served by TANF and the extent to which states provide cash assistance benefits that allow families to meet their basic needs.

Automatically Adjusting the Federal TANF Block Grant for Inflation and Requiring States to Spend a Certain Amount of their Block Grant on Cash Assistance or Subsidized Employment. The federal TANF block grant has never been adjusted for inflation. As a result, the real value of federal TANF funding has declined by 28 percent, and cash assistance benefits are the same or lower than they were in 1996 in more than one-third of states. An inflation adjustment to the federal grant should be combined with a mandate that states spend a specified amount of TANF funds on basic cash assistance and subsidized employment to bolster these critical supports in the economic recovery and beyond. Given that research suggests that an annual income increase of $3,000 for low-income families can increase children’s academic achievement and lead to increased employment and work hours later in life, PRWORA also should encourage states to set cash assistance benefits at a level that allows families to better meet their basic needs and to adjust these benefits annually for inflation.

Resources
Gender & Society in the Classroom: Welfare Reform, http://gas.sagepub.com/site/misc/Index/Classroom/Welfare.xhtml

For more information about the effects of the Great Recession:

For information on the historical context of U.S. welfare policy:


*For information on the racialization of U.S. welfare policy:*


Footnotes:
(1) Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. The author thanks Christy Flatt and the anonymous peer reviewers for their helpful feedback on previous drafts.


(10) Pavetti and Schott. 2011.


(14) Finch and Schott. 2011.

(15) Pavetti and Schott 2011; Finch and Schott 2011.

Announcements, Celebrations, Accomplishments, and More!

The 3rd edition of *Privilege: A Reader*, from Westview Press, edited by Michael Kimmel and Abby Ferber, will be published this summer.


Gretchen W. Arnold, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at St. Louis University, won the 2013 Robert A. Johnston, S.J. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Social Sciences.

Julie A. Winterich won Guilford College's "Dick Dyer Faculty Hearts and Hands Award for outstanding participation in student life and dedication to student development." This award is given to one faculty member a year and is based on student nominations. Julie was also awarded a fellowship next year from Guilford's Center for Principled Problem Solving, which provides a course release, stipend, and extra research and travel funds. This fellowship supports faculty work in teaching, research and administration. I am using it for my role as Director of Guilford's Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program to increase student opportunities for experiential and engaged learning in undergraduate research, service learning, internships and study abroad.

Stephanie J. Nawyn was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year. She will be located at Istanbul University, where she will be teaching feminist theory and research methods and conducting research on gender, labor migration, and trafficking.

Zakiya Luna will be joining the Department of Sociology as an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara in Fall 2014.

Lynn Verduzco Baker will be joining the Department of Anthropology and Sociology as an Assistant Professor at Albion College in fall.
Dear Colleagues,

*Gender & Society*, the official journal of Sociologists for Women in Society, continues to strive to reach broader audiences with its articles. Part of meeting this goal has involved organizing the journal’s articles into topic areas that are useful for teaching gender in the classroom, while at the same time providing searchable clusters for research endeavors. While there are several core clusters already in place, we would like to expand the thematic clusters to include the following additional themes:

- Aging and the Life Course
- Bodies & Embodiment
- Care Work
- Crime, Law & Social Control
- Global & Transnational Feminisms
- Health/Medical
- Migration & Citizenship
- Postcolonial & Development
- Transgender
- Work & Family
- Work & Organizations
- Youth & Adolescence

We are looking for individuals to help us organize and catalog published articles from issues of *Gender & Society* into these topic areas. Each cluster should include articles that offer regional and global diversity and are useful for teaching gender. Individuals who organize a section for this project will receive recognition on the website and will be able to credit themselves as a webpage organizer on their C.V. If you are interested in organizing a section based upon the topics above, contact both Marni Brown at Mbrown30@ggc.edu and Mahala Dyer Stewart at gendsoc@soc.umass.edu. In your response, please include your name, contact information, and which of the academic areas you would like to organize.

Thank you,

Marni Brown  
Coordinator, Gender & Society in the Classroom  
V.P.SWS-S  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Georgia Gwinnett College

Mahala Dyer Stewart  
Managing Editor  
Gender & Society
Members’ Bookshelf

Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall: How I Learned to Love My Body by Not Looking at It for a Year.  Kjerstin Gruys;  Avery, May 2013.

“In Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall you will find:

- Humorous anecdotes detailing Gruys’s brushes with the “Bridezilla” culture
- A frank treatment of what it means to have, and recover from, an eating disorder
- Historical and sociological information on beauty privilege and body image
- Meditations on how mirrors inform our self-perceptions and social interactions
- Thought-provoking discussions on how feminism and body image interact and intersect in the 21st century, and much more.

This insightful, and thought-provoking memoir challenges readers to join Kjerstin on her journey to self-acceptance and learn to break free from the standards of beauty that society—and ourselves—impose. “I knew that my struggles with body image were probably similar to those of other women and I wanted to start a new conversation. Instead of changing your body, why not change your mind?”


“Theresa Morris challenges most existing explanations of the unprecedented rise in c-section rates, which locate the cause of this trend in physicians practicing defensive medicine, women choosing c-sections for scheduling reasons, or women’s poor health and older ages. Morris’s explanation of the c-section epidemic is more complicated, taking into account the power and structure of legal, political, medical, and professional organizations; gendered ideas that devalue women; hospital organizational structures and protocols; and professional standards in the medical and insurance communities. She argues that there is a new culture within medicine that avoids risk or unpredictable outcomes and instead embraces planning and conservative choices, all in an effort to have perfect births. Based on 130 in-depth interviews with women who had just given birth, obstetricians, midwives, and labor and delivery nurses, as well as a careful examination of local and national level c-section rates, Cut It Out provides a comprehensive, riveting look at a little-known epidemic that greatly affects the lives, health, and families of each and every woman in America.
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*All the above are the members of Executive Council*

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A list of current committee chairs is available on the www.socwomen.org website.
If you are interested in contributing material for upcoming issues of Network News, please be aware of the publication schedule listed below:

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I welcome all submissions, and would love to highlight the achievements and scholarship of our members. Pictures are always a nice addition, too. If you send me pictures, please note who is in the image, so that I can include a caption. Thanks for your contributions that help create a great Network News!

Angela Lewellyn Jones
ajones5@elon.edu