Hi SWS members!

I am excited to be serving you as President Elect, and even more thrilled to be planning the upcoming Winter 2017 meetings! After this year's fabulous meeting, I can feel the momentum, and look forward to building upon that.

Please hold the dates! The meeting will take place

Far more details go into selecting a site than I ever imagined, and I thank Joey Sprague for all of her work to identify this great location with me. Future emails will present the theme, CFP, and other details. For now, mark your calendars, and I will see you at the summer meetings!

Take good care everyone,

Abby

From the Executive Office:

A Model for SWS: Acting as One

SWS is very effective in supporting feminist scholarship. How can we be better at our other goal: supporting structural change, either in the academy or in the broader society? In the last issue I described one model, “Empowering Individuals,” making a major commitment to building the political skills of our members. This time I sketch how we might harness our huge potential by working together toward a shared goal.

Coming to agreement on the goals won’t be easy. There are so many points of injustice on which to focus. I think it was Deborah King who offered an intersectional principle for proceeding: start from the interests of the most oppressed among us. Political organizers would advise us to pay attention to what’s currently on the public mind. What if we applied these two principles in selecting one issue in the academy and one in the broader society? For example, in the current historical moment in the academy we might start with the issues of contingent faculty and, in the broader society, mass incarceration. (continued on page 2)
Once we know our target issues, we can start to think about how we can bring our particular constellations of social contexts and skills to bear. As teachers we can educate students on the issue whatever our subject matter. For example, both mass incarceration and contingent employment impact families, health, and work trajectories, and could also provide examples for methods and stats classes. As researchers we can provide data the movements can use, not the least of which is how the specific issues impact our local communities—always a key motivator for politicians and voters alike. As members of communities with the credibility that our training and institutional affiliations bring, we can write op-eds, do guest lectures in high schools or for community groups. I am sure you can think of others.

I bet you are already anticipating the biggest barriers to our being able to do these things: time and knowledge. But this is exactly where SWS as an organization can play an important role: doing most of the groundwork and sharing the results with members. Bring experts to Winter meetings to educate members on the issues and videotape the sessions for those who can’t be there. Commission people who are strong in the scholarship of teaching and learning to create teaching materials. Pay staff to contact advocacy organizations to interview them about research needs. Ask our media specialist to create templates for Op-Eds, letters to the editor and blog posts. And collect all these resources on a Wiki on our website that includes a place where members can share what they are learning in using them.

Sure we can all be activists on our own favorite issues in our own contexts—many of us are doing that. But imagine the impact a thousand feminists across the country in a variety of institutions could have if we focused our energy and resources and worked together.

2016 Beth Hess Award Winners Announced

The Beth Hess Award was established in 2008 to support first generation college students who began their academic careers in a community college, faced significant obstacles to pursuing higher education, have demonstrated commitment to teaching and mentoring other first generation students, and exemplify Beth’s commitment to service in both professional fields and in social justice work. Beth Hess was a President of SWS and one of our mentoring award winners; she also was the President of SSSP and Secretary Treasurer of ASA, and these other organizations join SWS in supporting the Beth Hess Scholar each year. Graduate students in sociology or on sociologically relevant topics in a closely related social science field at the dissertation writing stage are invited to apply. In 2016, the committee (Sarah Bruch, chair; Denise Copelton, Myra Marx Ferree, Mairead Maloney, and Nancy Naples) faced the challenge of selecting the winner, who receives a $15,000 scholarship and summer and winter banquet tickets from SWS, plaques and transportation subsidies from SWS and SSSP, and free meeting registration from all three organizations. When there are exceptionally strong candidates whose completion date is near, an Honorable Mention Awardee is also selected.

This year’s Beth Hess Award winner is **Anastacia Schulhoff**. Anastacia exemplifies the spirit of the Beth Hess Memorial Scholarship, combining a commitment to teaching and mentoring with a research agenda animated by social justice. Anastacia is a starkly non-traditional student, raised and educated on a Native-American reservation in South Dakota, and then proceeding from Western Dakota Technical Institute, to Black Hills State University, to the University of South Florida, to the doctoral program in Sociology at the
University of Missouri. Along this journey, Anastacia has transformed obstacles into opportunities, and developed a pedagogical and research agenda deeply-informed by her life and her community. This commitment is evident in her wide-ranging teaching experience, in her activism on behalf of both Native American students and Native American studies, in her research. Keenly aware of the importance, in her own experience, of inspiring teachers and mentors, Anastacia is now committed to assuming that role for the next generation.

Anastasia’s research is wide-ranging. Her dissertation research, an ethnography of elder care in a reservation setting, is at once intellectually ambitious, original, and fiercely engaged. In this work, she explores the stark challenges and inequalities created by the demands of a rapidly aging population on the one hand, and meager professional and material resources in these settings on the other. At the same time, she is attentive to the diverse and uneven expectations of Native American elders, whose end-of-life care involves both conventional health care and Native beliefs and practices. This is a remarkable contribution, and intervention, at the intersection of ethnography, Native Studies, social psychology, and gerontology.

The 2015 Honorable mention goes to Ashleigh McKinzie from the University of Georgia. 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 congratulate both of these impressive students, welcome them to membership in SWS and hope to get to know them better as colleagues in sociology over the years to come.

At the 2016 Winter meeting in Memphis, three Hess Scholarship winners gathered to talk about the award and how it has supported them in their careers—here we share some of their important insights:

GINA LONGO, 2015 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Winner
Winning this award has profoundly affected me both personally and professionally. Regarding my professional life, the award has given me the luxury of time. The financial freedom has given me an opportunity to replace many hours a week where I would have been basically singing for my supper with hours of uninterrupted
I was able to submit my first article out of my dissertation and undertake my next article from my dissertation in what I consider a record time from my original time projection. Additionally, I have had time to begin drafting my job market materials, since I will be on the market in the Fall of 2016.

On a personal note, the Beth Hess Scholarship has really given me a new form of confidence and validation about myself and my personal experiences. I think one of the admission requirements of graduate school is a healthy dose of ‘fraud syndrome.’ While that does dissipate over time, I still couldn’t help but compare myself to individuals who had a more “traditional” route to graduate school. This scholarship honored my own experiences with higher education, which has further built confidence for me. This award has been nothing short of life changing.

AUTUMN GREEN, 2012 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Winner

First, a lifelong commitment to and love for SWS. The scholarship was not only a recognition of the incredible challenges that I personally faced going from GED to PhD one degree up the ladder at a time, but it was also an affirmation that my contributions and camaraderie is valued, acknowledged and heard by SWS. And that makes me want to be part of it!

The second is the lesson of timing: not just in terms of try-and-try-again but in terms of waiting until the moment you are really ready. I tried multiple times before I won the Beth Hess award, but it was the year that I was really ready that I got it. I used this lesson after this in my experiences with publications and with other grants and I’ve been really successful with grants since receiving the Beth Hess scholarship.

The third lesson is a reaffirmation of my everyday work. As Director of the National Center for Student Parent Programs, I work on a national level with college and universities across the U.S. to help develop, expand and support their student parent support programs. There is a lot more administrative work than I ever imagined I would be doing, but I’m doing work that is meaningful and making a direct impact: creating more meaningful opportunities for low-income and underprivileged students, which is not coincidentally also the mission of the Beth Hess scholarship.

GEORGIANN DAVIS, 2009 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Winner

The monetary component of the Scholarship kick started data collection for my dissertation research—an analysis of how intersex is defined, experienced, and contested in contemporary U.S. society. But, more importantly, I felt validated as a developing sociologist when I received the award. Although I had mentors throughout my educational training that believed in me and assisted me along the way, I, a seventh grade dropout, never believed in myself. The Beth B. Hess Scholarship helped change those negative thoughts. I know it sounds trite, but I’m not sure where I’d be today without the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship. I hope the award is around for years to come. My dissertation work has since evolved into a number of publications in various outlets ranging from *Ms. Magazine* to the *American Journal of Bioethics*. I also recently published my first book based on my dissertation research: *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis* (2015, NYU Press).

I’ve had incredible mentorship throughout my career, including at SWS, and my hope is to show my sincere appreciation for all of the life changing mentorship I received over the years by being the best possible mentor I can be for all of my students. In addition to being on the tenure track, I’m also UNLV’s very first live-in Professor in Residence, an honor that involves living in the residence halls with students and interacting with them on a more personal level.
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 SWS. The organization will provide the Editor with a stipend of $500 per issue or $2000/year for 4 issues, and up to $1000 for SWS travel. Any host University provides supplemental travel costs for the editor to attend summer and winter meetings beyond what is provided by SWS, and the relevant Chair or Dean would be expected to sign an MOU with SWS. Expected 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 1, 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.

For more information on the SWS Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship (including past recipients): http://www.socwomen.org/the-2010-beth-b-hess-memorial-scholarship-2/
SWS SOCIAL ACTION AWARD WINNERS – MAY 2016

**All-Gender Restrooms in Humboldt County, California**

**Meredith Williams**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, in collaboration with HSU students May Fournier, Lupe Madrid, Corina Martinez, Liza Olmedo and Tiffany Proa Humboldt State University

This project aims to create awareness about, and accessibility for, transgender and gender non-conforming folks for using the restroom in an isolated, rural community.

Left to right: Corina Martinez, May Fournier, Tiffany Proa, Liza Olmedo, Lupe Madrid, Meredith Williams

**Sociologists for Immigrants’ Justice**

**Anna Smedley-López** - Assistant Professor in Residence of Sociology - **UNLV**

In collaboration with UNLV’s Service Learning Initiative for Community Engagement in Sociology (SLICES), UNLV Social Sciences Libraries, and Immigrants’ Justice Initiative (community partner), this social action involves a teach-in about the politics of U.S. asylum and a workshop for asylum seekers.

On behalf of the SWS, the Social Action Committee has launched a new funding opportunity promoting U.S.-based social actions that advance the mission of SWS. The next deadline is September 1, 2016. Please go to the webpage for information on award criteria and submission process: [http://www.socwomen.org/social-actions-initiative-awards/](http://www.socwomen.org/social-actions-initiative-awards/).
In Memoriam:

Dr. Amy Denissen, Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University Northridge (CSUN)

1972—2016

Amy Denissen touched all who knew her. Her premature passing—on May 1, 2016, after a six-year battle with ovarian cancer—is a personal loss for all those who knew and loved her (and it was hard to know her without loving her) and a loss for the discipline.

Amy received her PhD from UCLA Sociology in 2006, after which she rose through ranks as a full-time faculty member at California State University Northridge (CSUN). She published her work in peer-reviewed journals, including Gender & Society (with Abigail Saguy), and co-edited the fifth edition of the Oxford textbook, Gender Through the Prism of Difference (with Maxine Baca Zinn, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Michael A. Messner).

Her dissertation—and related journal articles—examined how women in the male-dominated building trades interpret and respond to discrimination, homophobia, and sexual harassment. Amy believed that to understand problems such as discrimination and segregation in work settings, it is important to examine the micropolitics whereby personal and social troubles are defined, mobilized, and resisted as inequalities. Her work contributed to our understanding of how informal practices can both reproduce and challenge workplace inequalities.

Amy loved sociology. During the off weeks in between chemotherapy and radiation treatments when she was able to write, Amy said that it made her happy to be able to focus her mind on her research, that she was so happy to have her work.

Amy also lived a vibrant life outside of work. She loved to travel and to dance. She was a swing dancer with a particular love for balboa, an intimate, high-energy variant of swing. She captured the spirit of the dance—graceful, athletic, and joyous—even in the years after her diagnosis, placing second in a national championship in 2015. She was beloved by the Los Angeles and the global swing dance community, who remembers her for how she embraced life in the face of her diagnosis. She shone through her illness, brought happiness to others, and humbled us with her bravery and strength.

A memorial fund has been created for Amy's family at https://www.youcaring.com/amy-denissen-s-family-566467
SWS-Tallahassee Chapter (submitted by Dr. Anne Barrett):

In the fall semester, our chapter enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Miranda Waggoner, Assistant Professor of Sociology at FSU, on her research on the politics of gender and reproduction. We also went to a performance of Urban Bush Women held at FSU. For the past 30 years, the group has sought to “bring the untold and under-told histories and stories of disenfranchised people to light through dance... from a woman-centered perspective and as members of the African Diaspora community in order to create a more equitable balance of power in the dance world and beyond” (Urbanbushwomen.org). At our last meeting of the semester, we watched the documentary Reflections Unheard: Black Women in Civil Rights, directed by Nevline Nnaji.

We launched the spring semester with a discussion of Katha Pollitt’s book Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights. For our last meeting of the year, we had our annual Open Mic Night, an event where members share their favorite feminist songs, artwork, poems, and other cultural products. Some of the favorites included the poem “HIR” by Alysia Harris and Aysha El Shamayleh, the children’s book The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch, and original poetry by members.

SWS-South updates: Notable Accomplishments in Atlanta (submitted by Carrie Smith & Denise Bissler):

SWS-South is still going strong this year under the wonderful leadership of outgoing President, Emily Fairchild. This year, we gathered in Atlanta during the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society from April 13th-16th.

The silent action was a smashing success! The room was packed with extremely generous SWS-S members new and old. We raised $1,108 in monetary donations for Lost-N-Found Youth—an organization that helps homeless LGBTQ youth in Atlanta (see http://lnfy.org/ for more information). Thank you to the Vision Committee for coordinating the effort and especially to Penny Harvey, who handled much of the correspondence and planning. The Membership Committee supplied delicious treats from a local female baker: Milicia Jeremic. Thank you to all of you who donated items, money, and time!

SWS-S sponsored six sessions and co-sponsored four sessions with The SSS Committees on: Sociological Practice; Gender and Sexuality: and Sociology in Community and Small Colleges. Topics ranged from feminist leadership, disability and sexuality, formal/informal mentoring, to a roundtable on sexual assault. Thanks to all our organizers, presiders, presenters, and discussants for their leading us in sociological and feminist dialogue!

The winner of the 2016 Early Gender Career Scholar Award was J. Edward Sumerau, an assistant professor at the University of Tampa. Dr. Taylor presented the award with these words about Dr. Sumerau. “Dr. Sumerau received a PhD from Florida State University in 2012 and over a short career already has an impressive vitae. Dr. Sumerau’s research examines the intersections of gender, sexuality, health, and religion and publications include 26 peer-reviewed journal articles, six chapters in edited volumes, an introduction to a sociology wikibook and a forthcoming book about emotional challenges in doing research.
that is very personal to the researcher.” Congratulations!

SWS-S truly benefits from such an accomplished network of members who dedicate their time and expertise so selflessly. Thank you to our **outgoing officers** whose outstanding contributions are too vast to list.

President: Emily Fairchild (New College of Florida)
Treasurer/Membership Chair: Lanier Basenberg (Georgia State University)
Vision Committee Chair: Denise Bissler (Randolph-Macon College)
Newsletter Editors: Regina Baker (University of Pennsylvania)
SWS National Liaison: Haley Gentile (Florida State University)

Our **continuing officers** are:

Vice President: Stephanie Gonzalez Guittar (Valdosta University)
Awards Committee Chair: Tiffany Taylor (Kent State University)
Secretary: Kylie Parrotta (Delaware State University)
Southern Hand Coordinator: Shannon Carter (University of Southern Florida)
Webmistress: Perry Threlfall (George Mason University)

Finally, we are pleased to announce our **newly elected officers** for 2016-2017:

President: Denise Bissler (Randolph-Macon College)
Treasurer/Membership Chair: Carrie Lee Smith (Millersville University)
Newsletter Co-Editors: Cheri Chambers (North Carolina State University) and Brianna Turgeon (Kent State University)
Vision Committee Chair: Mandi Barringer (University of Central Florida)
SWS National Liaison: Penny Harvey (Georgia State University)-random selection

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

Summer 2016 meetings are in Seattle! Stay tuned for more information.
SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY
(785) 864-9405 www.socwomen.org swshelp@ku.edu

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(if this is a Gift Membership, please complete this form with Recipient’s information)

Name: ____________________________________________
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Phone: ____________________________________________
Occupation or Academic Rank: ________________________

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How Long Have You Been a Member?
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☐ 1-2 years
☐ 3-5 years
☐ 6-10 years
☐ 10+ years

Gift Membership Dues:
☐ $20 = Gift (Student Recipient)
☐ $45 = Gift (Professional Recipient)

Fixed Dues:
☐ $20 = Student
☐ $20 = Retired

Regular Dues:
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☐ $45 = Income $25,000 - $39,999
☐ $60 = Income $40,000 - $54,999
☐ $75 = Income $55,000 - $69,999
☐ $90 = Income $70,000 - $84,999
☐ $105 = Income $85,000 - $99,999
☐ $120 = Income $100,000 - $119,999
☐ $135 = Income $120,000 +

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Would you like to make a contribution?
(enter amount)
☐ $____ SWS Operations
☐ $____ Natalie Allon Fund for discrimination support
☐ $____ Rosenblum Award Fund
☐ $____ Beth B. Hess Scholarship
☐ $____ Distinguished Feminist Lectureship
☐ $____ Mentoring Award
☐ $____ Undergraduate Social Action Award
☐ $____ Chow-Green Dissertation Scholarship
☐ $____ SWS-MFP ASA Minority Fellowship Program

Please complete information on back:
Please tell us about yourself!
(optional)

Racial/Ethnic Identification
(please select all that apply)
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Self-identification: ________________________

Gender Identification
- Female
- Male
- Self-identification: ________________________

Which of the following are most important to you?
(please select all that apply)
- Fighting discrimination against feminists in the academy
- Helping make feminist change in society more broadly
- Fostering real conversations about race
- Helping feminist sociologists have successful careers
- Recognizing outstanding scholars with awards
- Supporting the publication of feminist scholarship
- Networking, supporting, and mentoring feminists of color
- Supporting global feminist scholarship and gender justice
- Building a strong and diverse pool of candidates for elected positions within SWS
- Helping increase our numbers and the inclusion of our members

How would you like to receive your SWS publications?

- Gender & Society
- Network News

Hard Copy  Digital
SWS at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) – Part II

Compiled by Kristy Kelly, Drexel University and Columbia University

The 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), on the theme of “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development” took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City March 14-24, 2016. The International Committee had 20 members in attendance as official SWS delegates. We asked them to share their reflections and advice with SWS. The International Committee looks forward to hearing more from SWS members who engage the UN for research, teaching and/or advocacy. We welcome contributions to the committee, and to our work as an ECOSOC NGO.

Hara Bastas, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York

This was my fourth year attending CSW and as usual was not disappointed! Here are my highlights:

Official UN meeting: One of the four Ministerial Roundtables on the priority theme of “Fostering gender-responsive data design, collection and analysis, and building the knowledge base” with statements made by 15 UN nation-members. Key ideas that can be applied to our own feminist research: 1) the understanding that research with a gender analysis provides a greater context for gender equity; 2) present findings in a user-friendly way that can be understood by non-experts (government included); and 3) coordinate across institutions – universities, research foundations, the UN – to scale up the data for mixed research method collection and combine limited resources.

NGO parallel event: Besides ours! The event hosted by the Swedish Feminist Initiative on “Feminism – from Lobbism to Parliamentarism” where political leaders from Iceland, Norway and Sweden discussed how there is “too much patriarchy to handle by one woman”! To maintain being a feminist across one’s political career (which can be applied to one’s academic career!) - 1) keep a sense of humor and have your “amour always on”; 2) remain connected to the community to be yourself; and 3) agree to disagree on how to do things, but not on what needs to change to build group solidarity between political parties.

Creative Event: Climbing PoeTree (http://www.climbingpoetree.com/). Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman “are dual-voice spoken word poetry, hip hop, and multimedia theatre artists that dissolves apathy with hope, exposes injustice, and helps heal our inner trauma so that we may begin to cope with the issues facing our
communities”. Already used the fantastic video of “When the Last Tree Stands Alone” to discuss environmental justice in my class!

Susan Lee, Boston University College of General Studies

As I have found every March, CSW was exciting, energizing, and exhilarating! Perhaps the most amusing moment was hearing about Operation Big Sisters in Iceland, a campaign to disrupt the sex trade. In Iceland, the organizer told us, women don’t just sit around and fight; "we get off the sofa and do something!" The group got the Icelandic legislature to pass tough measures against prostitution. But the police chief wouldn’t enforce the new law. He said that prostitution had always been around and he had no money to prosecute it. So the women placed ads as prostitutes in local papers with a phone number. When they were contacted, they told the caller, "Your big sister is watching you!" That really spooked Icelandic men who (it seems) have a great deal of respect for their older sisters! The women gave the caller’s phone number to the police chief and sometimes sent the caller to the police chief’s home address "since he didn't have any money!" The campaign has spread through Iceland and has destabilized the sex trade. It’s a small place and many women are involved. Potential callers are afraid of getting a relative on the line!

The other related amusing moment was when a former sex trafficker spoke at an anti-trafficking panel organized by Media Impact. He looked really terrified of the packed room of fully empowered feminist women and could barely speak! But with encouragement from the Media Impact moderator, he told us some of his story. He had been recruited into the trade as a 14-year-old runaway at a railroad station, a very similar scenario to trafficked girls. He was in the trade for 35 years, trafficking women and girls internationally. He said that he didn’t use drugs to control the trafficked women - brainwashing was more effective. He convinced them that he was their boyfriend and took them around to clubs. The pimps and other prostitutes would befriend the women and they got intrigued with the lifestyle (I think this was a sanitized version!) He got out of trafficking when he had a sudden religious conversion while on vacation. The same panel featured a media group that produces radio "soap operas for social change." They develop a story line in cooperation with local media and social agencies in forty countries that deals with trafficking and other problems. Women just need a radio to listen to the entertaining series that educates as well.

The U.S. Mission held a briefing early in the CSW that Hara and I attended. It was advertised for a short while at Consultation Day, the Sunday training just before the start of the CSW. Ambassador Sarah Mendelsohn, the U.S. ambassador to ECOSOC, led the briefing. We brought up some of the points from our Written Statement and spoke after with Laurie Phipps, the gender advisor at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Later, I spoke with other U.S. women at the CSW who had not heard about the briefing and wanted to be part of organizing a U.S. Caucus. There is a lot of frustration among U.S. women that the U.S. delegation to the CSW is hard to reach and that makes effective advocacy very difficult. If there were an organized U.S. Caucus, the U.S. Mission might pay more attention. I collected names of some interested women and talked about ways we could stay in touch and recruit more likeminded women.

CSW reminds me of how many problems there are and how much needs to be done. But I also encounter the most amazing women and some men who are doing incredible social change work.

Kentse Radebe, Mississippi State University

Attending the UN CSW 60 conference as a SWS representative was a great privilege. Coming from an academic background, attending was a valuable experience seeing how the UN 2030 themes, especially those directly affecting women, were being interpreted by various stakeholders at the global level.
This was the first time that I attended the UN CSW60 conference. I attended a number of round table sessions hosted by various countries. Most of these sessions focused on advancing women’s rights, economic and labor participation. Attending these sessions was a worthwhile experience because the make-up of the panels consisted of government officials, private sector stakeholders and is some cases social activists. The conversations that developed from that diverse mix of perspectives highlighted the gaps and opportunities that still need to be accomplished in order to realize the important objectives set forth in the 2030 agenda.

The most open sessions that I had the privilege of attending were the parallel events which where hosted by numerous NGO organizations. The sessions that I attended focused on the role of technology, increasing access to financial services and institutions in Africa, and even though many of these sessions were enlightening, it would have been beneficial to have more representative and inclusive panels. This is in particular reference to the consumers that many of the mobile app and technology solutions are meant to be directed towards. Hearing from those voices, which are often spoken for at platforms such as the CSW60 conference, would have been refreshing and insightful.

I would definitely encourage SWS members who have the opportunity to attend this conference to do so. Scholarly research, coming from a feminist lens, in spaces such as these is crucial. This is particularly relevant for academics conducting research that focuses on the global South. Overall, attending the conference opened my eyes to the diverse set of voices that are working, directly and indirectly, towards advancing the rights of women globally.

Heather McKee Hurwitz, Barnard College

CSW60 was an opportunity for education and activism. NGO’s and feminist activists called attention to under-studied and emerging social problems. For example, Canadian aboriginal women exposed “starlight tours,” a term for the kidnapping of women, harming them, and then dumping them outside in the cold beyond the city limits at night. Across the globe, Taiwanese NGO’s revealed problems with non-consensual pornography, explaining it as revenge porn or even cyber rape. This is a problem of violence against women that continues trans-nationally every time someone downloads non-consensual porn. Also, CSW60 was an opportunity to learn about and participate in new global feminist activism such as the campaign for a feminist woman to be elected secretary general of the U.N. [http://www.womansg.org/](http://www.womansg.org/) and the “world of young feminists” panel that featured organizations funded by the FRIDA the Young Feminist Fund [http://youngfeministfund.org/](http://youngfeministfund.org/) and AWID’s global women’s rights organization [http://www.awid.org](http://www.awid.org). By seeing and participating in global feminist movements at CSW60, I feel renewed in my desire to
Since this was my first year at the meeting, I was a bit ‘star struck’ and spent much of my time on UN grounds. Attending mostly UN side events provided me with an idea of how the CSW ‘formally’ works and how different institutions work within it. (CSW NGO’s handbook was also incredibly informative for understanding the different roles and institutions of CSW.) Before attending, I was impressed by the access that the UN provides NGOs, but during the meeting I was surprised and disappointed by the obvious hierarchy and exclusion, with many of the high-level panels (with business leaders) being ‘closed meetings’ and the NGO parallel panels being located off-site.

One side panel that I attended was titled “Monitoring the implementation of SDGs from a gender perspective: tools for accountability.” As a sociologists and a representative of SWS at CSW, I thought it would be interesting to hear how the UN and its partners would approach this topic. The panel presenters included representatives from UN Woman, the United Nations Statistics Division, national statistical offices, regional organizations, and a philanthropic organization. While most emphasized the importance of data to monitor the implementation of SDGs, I was disappointed that the conversation was limited to statistical data. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UN Statistics Division, was the only one who mentioned that qualitative data was also needed, but the other presenters did not pick this topic up again. Throughout the meeting, informal and formal remarks where made about needing gender specific data and increasing capacity for data collection. I believe that this is an area where SWS could be incredibly helpful. SWS, its networks, and members possess a range of feminist knowledges that could useful for researching, monitoring and evaluating the SDGs within a feminist framework. At the first SWS lunch during the meeting, there was some discussion about this, and I hope that this discussion continues into a viable involvement between the SWS and the different groups that make up the CSW. I’m not sure what this would look like, but I imagine that many of the NGOs would be interested in partnerships with researchers for evaluation projects.

This was my first year attending CSW, and so much of my time was spent figuring out how to get around the meeting, not necessarily spatially (though that was a challenge), but rather, how to make use of the meeting, my role in it as a student/researcher/SWS representative, the different constituencies, and the general culture of the meeting. Attending the International Committee lunch at the very start of the week was a welcomed introduction to it. Reflecting on what I got out of the CSW, I am finishing up my dissertation and it was incredibly useful to be in a space that has such potential for an intersection of research and praxis. Attending meetings closely related to my dissertation topic helped me conceptualize how the feminist theories that inform my research are present and applicable in practice. I look forward to the opportunity of attending future CSW, this time armed with a better conceptual map of how things work (and where the bathrooms are located!).

Kristy Kelly, Drexel University and Columbia University

This was my fifth year attending SWS, but my first bringing students (graduate and undergraduate), and following the UN through their participation. We spent a day attending the main UN events where country delegates presented pre-prepared statements and “debated” the finer points of the agreed conclusions. Then we spent one day attending parallel events organized by UN offices, country missions, global civil society organizations and other “big players” engaging the UN as a space to advocate, teach and share their latest programs, policy strategies, and research. The third day we spent at NGO organized side events outside the UN.
The students were much more inspired by the debates and conversations outside the UN, and found the passion and calls for action that made up the side event programs more inline with their own experiences and critiques of engaging global organizations. They found the networking activities outside the UN building to me more “real” and many of the people they met were engaged in grassroots activism around the world.

As part of our attendance, the students developed a brief questionnaire to administer as they met people “in the field of attending CSW.” In all, they interviewed 48 individuals, and our preliminary analysis reveals the following:

**What type of organization are you affiliated with?** Most of the interviewees (53%) were from non-governmental organizations. Only 5% came from academia and 2% from the corporate/private sector. The largest group of attendees (16%) after NGOs, were people affiliated with “other” type organizations including religious organizations, political parties, parliaments, foundations or private-public partnerships. We neither met nor had a chance to interview many people working for the UN or for government missions. They were not present in the hallways for the most part and were not engaging attendees in conversation. We found this a “missed opportunity” for those attendees to learn from the majority of us attending to advocate or share our expertise and experiences.

**Why did you come to CSW this year?** 23% of respondents stated they attended CSW to learn, 18% to network and disseminate information, 17% to advocate, and 11% to observe. These results are very interesting to us in that we think it highlights the dynamic nature of CSW. Most participants attend to learn, publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy, but a significant percentage use the opportunity to carry out participant observation, which is also learning. Like us, they were curious as to how the UN operates, where/when/how gender becomes salient to UN policies, and which policies and programs. Respondents who said they were attending for “other reasons” indicated that they were attending to provide support to a particular presenter or to lobby a particular wording to the final conclusions. Even though it seems most participants view CSW as a learning experience, it is also an important platform for advocacy, networking and to disseminate information.

**What formal or informal training in the area of Gender Equality do you have?** 15% of respondents reported they had an academic degree in a gender-related field. Another 29% of respondents indicated that they received formal training in gender equality through workshops, certificates, organizational and regional training programs, or through online courses, but these did not add up to a degree. Another 14% of respondents indicated they had ‘other’ expertise not directly related to gender, but had professional portfolios that included addressing areas such as gender stereotyping, young women’s leadership, human rights, women’s political empowerment, or economic. Another 15% said their training came through everyday work on gender issues, through colleagues and mentors, or through self-study. All indicated they would like more opportunities to learn from experts, but they also would like spaces to share what they know, and to participate in informal learning communities for people in in growing gender knowledge in their fields.

While our data collection and analysis was not as rigorous as we would have liked, we believe the findings illuminate the role that CSW plays for feminist advocates and activists as a learning space, and potential learning community, for gender equality.

**Christina Bobel, University of Massachusetts Boston**

I will admit to feeling very daunted by the enormity of the CSW. I could not wrap my brain around the struc-
nature of the events and the relationships between them. I wonder if SWS can provide a bit more direction to newbies like me, especially for those who can’t attend the pre CSW training (Consultation Day). Once the CSW started, I got the hang of it, but there was a pretty significant learning curve and I would have preferred to *hit the ground running* a bit more. I did appreciate the emails with info, including some of the scholarship on the CSW and the many conversations I had with folks who were well acquainted with the CSW. But it was a lot of info—coming in at different times, and often quite close to the event itself. Maybe I am suggesting something more streamlined?

Of course, the exposure to so many individuals and organizations, across every tier of the policy and activist worlds, was a heady experience. I was fascinated by the country reports, the sessions organized by UN agencies, member governments and NGOs and the more grassrootsy sessions. Seeing social change agendas and interventions expressed in these different forums was incredibly illuminating. It is quite the sandbox for a social movements scholar!

We (SWS representatives) talked ---over one of our meals-- of the importance to more intentionally and effectively leverage our expertise in feminist research methods—to support the many efforts advocacy groups are organizing. We see a lot of poorly designed studies as well as a poor utilization of the existing research. And we can help! So, how can SWS position itself better to be available? How can we make ourselves known to those who could benefit from our knowledge?

Our [own SWS] session — which had some really good info--was very poorly attended. I am too naïve to CSW to be able to diagnose why, but I wonder if the poor turnout is symptomatic of academic UNDER utilization in development work more generally?

Namita Manohar

This year, I was attending the CSW at the United Nations for the first time. I was at once overwhelmed by the sheer scope of the two-week long program and breathtakingly excited to be part of the conference where gender in all its breadth, dimensions and intersectional forms, was the sole topic of conversation and debate. Given that this was my first time attending, I centered my participation in CSW60 on getting a feel of the variety of events. I therefore attended ministerial sessions on the gendered pay gap and on the use of technology in facilitating gender advocacy; and NGO events on the sexualizing of girls in the media. For the most part, I took the role of an observer: listening to conversations and debates and taking notes, thinking of how best to bring what I was listening to into my classrooms. The NGO related events in particular appealed to me; they embodied strategic actions on a variety of gendered issues (violence, media, wages, religion etc.) by local activists, organizers, and academics – the concrete efforts toward attaining the 2020 goals. While the theoretical elements of the topics under discussion were not necessarily new to me, it was revealing to witness both the commonality of gendered issues across multiple national contexts and the sheer diversity and ingenuity in local responses to those very same issues, and the potential interconnections between those responses. I also used my time at CSW60 to giddily explore the General Assembly Building, spending time in the visitor’s gallery of the General Assembly Hall, and taking in an exhibit of Africans in India. I also just wandered around the building, making mental ethnographic notes of the goings-on and enjoying the plethora of languages, peoples and attires, where for once, because of my preference to wear ethnic attire in the US, I did not stand out as different in a professional space. I am also appreciative of the efforts made to create community among the SWS delegates who attended, through lunches, dinners and email briefings. To me, the microcosm of the CSW60 perfectly illustrated the importance of understanding gender transnationally; of recognizing how local manifestations of gender are connected to global ones and of the interconnectivity of our efforts to create a more equitable society.
Members Bookshelf


Child’s Play presents a nuanced examination of the question “Is sport good for kids?”, considering not only the physical impacts of youth athletics, but its psychological and social ramifications as well. The eleven original scholarly essays in this collection provide a probing look into how sports—in community athletic leagues, in schools, and even on television—play a major role in how young people view themselves, shape their identities, and imagine their place in society. Rather than focusing exclusively on self-proclaimed jocks, the book considers how the culture of sports affects a wide variety of children and young people, including those who opt out of athletics. Not only does Child’s Play examine disparities across lines of race, class, and gender, it also offers detailed examinations of how various minority populations, from transgender youth to Muslim immigrant girls, have participated in youth sports. Taken together, these essays offer a wide range of approaches to understanding the sociology of youth sports, including data-driven analyses that examine national trends, as well as ethnographic research that gives a voice to individual kids. Child’s Play presents a comprehensive and compelling analysis of how the culture of sports is integral to the development of young people—and with them, the future of our society.


This analysis of social research methodology from a feminist perspective teaches researchers how standard social science methods can be more effectively adapted towards critical ends, doing so in a style so clear and engaging that many have found the first edition valuable in their classrooms. Sprague identifies the social biases in both dominant and feminist social science practices and points to the common source: a failure to carefully think through the implications of epistemology for how to implement a method. Arguing that only Feminist Standpoint Epistemology gives researchers a way to move forward in producing credible knowledge that takes into account how social relations shape knowing, Sprague develops its implications for both quantitative and qualitative methodology. In the process she widens the scope of the challenge to include not just how we do research but also how we ask questions, report our findings, and evaluate scholarly work. This second edition incorporates the latest critical scholarship, enhanced discussion of qualitative methodology, new material on global issues, sex/sexuality/gender, how social media can shape research, and more. Feminist Methodology for Critical Researchers is valuable to scholars across social science disciplines.

James Joseph Dean’s book *Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture* (NYU Press 2014) has a second printing forthcoming for the fall 2016 semester. FYI for instructors: PowerPoint slides for each chapter are available at the following URL: http://nyupress.org/books/9780814764596/

Since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, the politics of sexual identity in America have drastically transformed. It’s almost old news that recent generations of Americans have grown up in a culture more accepting of out lesbians and gay men, seen the proliferation of LGBTQ media representation, and witnessed the attainment of a range of legal rights for same-sex couples. But the changes wrought by a so-called “post-closeted culture” have not just affected the queer community—heterosexuals are also in the midst of a sea change in how their sexuality plays out in everyday life. Based on 60 in-depth interviews with a diverse group of straight men and women, *Straights* explores how straight Americans make sense of their sexual and gendered selves in this new landscape. Dean provides a historical understanding of heterosexuality and how it was first established, then moves on to examine the changing nature of masculinity and femininity and, most importantly, the emergence of a new kind of heterosexuality—notably, for men, the metrosexual, and for women, the emergence of a more fluid sexuality.

Announcements, Celebrations, Accomplishments, etc!

The Third edition of *Privilege: A Reader*, edited by Michael Kimmel and Abby Ferber, has just been published by Westview Press. Exam copies may be requested. This is the only book for classroom use that provides an intersectional examination of privilege.

Volume 34 of *Hey Jane!* is now available. This column, written by Molly Jacobs and Stephanie Nawyn, provides information on how to deal with a difficult chair. Check it out https://www.socwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/Vol-34-Dealing-with-a-Difficult-Chair.pdf

Each year one chapter or article in each Emerald book series or journal is selected for an award. We are delighted to announce that SWS member Jennifer B. Rogers-Brown’s chapter, “More than a war story: A feminist analysis of doing dangerous fieldwork,” which appears in *At the Center: Feminism, Social Science and Knowledge* is this year’s winner for our Advances in Gender Research series. Jennifer’s chapter and those of the other winners will be available online at no charge for a year. We encourage you to read and share using these links:


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Remember that SWS committee reports are posted on the SWS website. Go there to read more information about the work being done by all these important groups!

http://www.socwomen.org/