Dear SWS'ers,

On Feb. 18 – 22, please join us at the Washington Marriott Georgetown for the Winter Meeting!

The meeting will feature all the honored SWS traditions – events to welcome new members and first-time attendees; featured plenaries, sessions, workshops, and roundtables; the banquet and silent auction; and lots of opportunities for socializing and doing committee work. We’ll also have some new features – such as a "Meet the Authors" reception featuring important recent publications by our members.

As always, there are many ways to participate – in mentoring opportunities (as a mentor or mentee), at a hosted dinner, in the important work of our many committees, to name just a few.

During our time as presidents-elect, we have come to appreciate the remarkable breadth of activities in which SWS and its members are engaged – including dedicated efforts to improve the status of women nationally and globally, defend academic freedom, mentor the next generation of feminist sociologists, recognize our members through important awards, not to mention publish a leading, influential journal. SWS'ers are also doing important work in their departments, on their campuses, in and beyond their communities, all in addition to our scholarly contributions.

As you can see, there is much work to be done, and we need all hands on deck to accomplish SWS's many goals. So we hope to see you in Washington to keep the momentum going.

Kathleen and Jerry
From the Executive Office:

There are some questions that seem to keep coming to us in the Executive Office. In case you too are wondering, here are some answers.

**Q:** **How do I get on the listserv?**

Join or renew your membership. Then email swshelp@ku.edu using the email address you would like to use for the listserv and copy swsao@ku.edu. You will be added within one business day!

**Q:** I’m having trouble posting to the Listserv and I never used to.

The most common reasons are:

You forgot to renew your membership. Moving the office to KU, switching Listserv services, and getting a new website constructed and in play took a lot of our electronic attention last year. It was not until July that we started purging the listserv of members who had not renewed and some folks missed our email warning them this would happen. We’ll let you know sooner from now on.

You are trying to access the Listserv from an email address that is different from the one you entered when you paid your membership dues for the year. If you want to change the email address you use to communicate with SWS, let swshelp@ku.edu know.

**Q:** Would you post this job or conference announcement to the SWS Listserv?

We do not post for non-members. The listserv is one of many benefits of membership in SWS. Please join us! Or you can ask a member to post it for you. Also, why not place an ad in Network News? (Rates posted on socwomen.org)

**Q:** How do I get off the Listserv?

Using the email address you used to subscribe to the Listserv, compose a new message TO: listproc@ku.edu.
FROM: the email address through which you are subscribed to the Listserv
SUBJECT: [leave blank]
Text of Message: unsub sws-l [make sure it is in Plain Text]

**Q:** I am missing copies of Gender & Society.

If you have not received your copies of G&S for the year in which you have been a member, email swsao@ku.edu. Please remember though that we can send each member only one copy of each issue.
Q: I don’t know who to ask about something. Should I email all three of you?

No. In most cases you should start with swshelp@ku.edu. If your question is urgent, please copy swsao@ku.edu. You will receive a response within one business day.

On the other hand, write swsao@ku.edu if you have

• Problems with getting previously requested reimbursements, hardcopies of Gender & Society, or Network News

• New content to update the SWS website

And please write me at swseo@ku.edu if you

• are an officer or committee chair and have questions about policies, contracts or want office support for your work

• have tried one of the other email addresses and it hasn’t worked for you

Please just write to one of us without cc-ing the others. If the initial recipient can’t handle your question, she will promptly forward it to the one who can.

Remember that the 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/

The International Committee has submitted a statement to the UN for its 59th Commission on the Status of Women meeting next March (attached). Our statement addresses the theme of the session - in 2015, the 20th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women and its outcome document, the Beijing Platform for Action. We use the statement as the basis for our conversations with UN delegates. It will go on the UN website as an official document for CSW 59. Please visit the SWS website to read the statement closely. http://www.socwomen.org/csw-59-statement/
Congratulations to our newly elected leaders for 2015!

**Council**

- President-elect: Wanda Rushing, wrushing@memphis.edu
- Vice-president: Adia Harvey Wingfield, aharvey@gsu.edu
- Treasurer Elect: Mangala Subramaniam, mangala@purdue.edu
- Student Representative: Allison McGrath, Allison.r.mcgrath@vanderbilt.edu

**Committee Chairs**

- Academic Justice Co-Chair: Orit Avishai, avishai@fordham.edu
- Career Development Chair: Christin Munsch, Christin.munsch@furman.edu
- Sister to Sister Co-Chair: Chandra Waring, waringc@uww.edu
- Social Action Chair: Sylvanna Falcon, smfalcon@ucsc.edu

**Committee Members**

- Awards: Jossephine Beoku-Betts, beolubet@fau.edu
- Career Development: Stephanie Nawyn, nawyn@msu.edu
- Membership: Kimberly Hoang, Kimberly.hoang@bc.edu
  
  Miho Iwata, miwata@towson.edu

- Nominations: Melanie Heath, mheath@mcmaster.ca
  
  Julia McQuillan, mncquillan2@unl.edu

- Publications: Dana Britton, dbritton@work.rutgers.edu
  
  Manisha Desai, manisha.desai@uconn.edu
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Occupation/Rank: ____________________________

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

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<th>New</th>
<th>Renewal</th>
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**GIFT MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENT DATA**

Name: ____________________________

Email Address: ____________________________

## CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS (enter amount)

- $___ SWS operations
- $___ Natalie Allon fund for discrimination support
- $___ Rosenblum award fund
- $___ Beth B. Hess Scholarship
- $___ Feminist Activism Award
- $___ Distinguished Feminist Lectureship
- $___ Mentoring Award
- $___ Undergraduate Social Action Award
- $___ Chow-Green Dissertation Scholarship
- $___ SWS-MFP ASA Minority Fellowship Program

## PUBLICATIONS PREFERENCES

- Gender & Society
- Network News

Hardware copy: □

Digital copy: □

## PAYMENT

- Dues: $_________
- Contributions: $_________
- Total: $_________

**Visa, MasterCard, and Discover only**

Name on Card: ____________________________

Card Number: ____________________________

Billing Address: ____________________________

City/State/ZIP: ____________________________

Expiration Date: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________

Fax or mail, DO NOT EMAIL. 785-864-5280

**CHECKS MUST BE IN USD ONLY**

Make checks payable and mail to:

Sociologists for Women in Society,  1415 Jayhawk Blvd. Rm. 716, Lawrence, KS 66045

**SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY**

2015 Membership Form, Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2015

1415 Jayhawk Blvd. Rm. 716; Lawrence, KS 66045

(785) 864-9405; www.socwomen.org; swsao@ku.edu

**Racial/Ethnic Identification**

□ American Indian or Alaska Native

□ Asian

□ Black or African American

□ Hispanic or Latino

□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

□ White

□ Self-Identification: ____________________________

**Gender Identification (enter below)**

__________________________________________________________________________

**SWS INTERESTS**

Which do you find most interesting?

□ Publishing feminist scholarship

□ Fighting discrimination against feminists in the academy.

□ Supporting the careers of feminist sociologists.

□ Helping make feminist change.

□ Building membership.

□ Giving scholarships and awards to outstanding feminists.

□ Fostering real discussions about race and networking, supporting, and mentoring feminists.

□ Supporting global feminist scholarship and gender justice.

□ Building a strong and diverse pool of candidates for elected positions within SWS.

□ Addressing student concerns within SWS (students only).

**ACADEMIC INTERESTS**

Which of the following match yours?

□ Application and Practice

□ Comparative and Historical Approaches

□ Family, Life Course, and Society

□ Gender and Sexuality

□ Inequalities and Stratification

□ Medicine and Health

□ Place and Environment

□ Politics and Social Change

□ Population and Ecology

□ Race and Ethnicity

□ Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance

□ Social Psychology and Interaction

□ Sociology of Culture

□ Theory, Knowledge, Science

□ Work, Economy and Organizations

□ Qualitative Approaches

**CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS**

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- $___ Mentoring Award
- $___ Undergraduate Social Action Award
- $___ Chow-Green Dissertation Scholarship
- $___ SWS-MFP ASA Minority Fellowship Program

**REFERENCES**

- Gender & Society
- Network News
Hello Wonderful SWSers,

Our winter meeting is soon approaching and it’s time to think about the silent auction. Putting our feminism into practice, each year the money from the silent auction is donated to local organizations that advance feminist goals.

In the past, we have had very successful auctions, and this year, we are hoping to continue this tradition. To make a donation to the silent auction, please bring your item directly to the winter meeting where we will collect the items at the registration desk.

If you are unsure of what to bring to the silent auction, here is a list of some ideas:

- Jams and preserves
- Jewelry
- Pottery
- Coffee and tea
- Scarves and fabrics
- Chocolate and Candies
- Local crafts
- Vintage or current books (signed editions)
- Art (yours or another person’s)

Consider spotlighting an artisan or product from your area. Try to bring information about the artisan to shed light on the item’s production or history!

These products do not necessarily have to be new, but can be donated from something you own.

With winter holidays coming, consider letting people know that you will be making a donation to a silent auction and that if they would like, your gift from them (or to them) could be a silent auction item or donation of some sort.

Thank you for your contributions,

Katelin Albert and Ophra Leyser-Whalen

SWS 2015 winter meeting silent auction co-chair
SWS AWARDS

Make sure to apply and nominate your colleagues today!

Detailed information for all awards, including background, application information, eligibility, and previous winners is available at http://www.socwomen.org/awards-programs-2/.

Awards, Individual Award Chairs, and Sub-committee chairs:

**STUDENT AWARDS (Due April 1)**

**Barbara Rosenblum Cancer Dissertation Scholarship**

This scholarship is designed to encourage doctoral research on women’s experience of breast cancer and other reproductive cancers, as well as the prevention of these cancers. The scholarship also supports efforts to make sociological research on these topics available to the public.

Contact: Chair, Gayle Sulik (gayle.sulik@breastcancerconsortium.net)  
Deadline: April 1, 2015

**Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a dissertation writing Ph.D. student who has studied for at least one full academic year at a two-year college in the U.S., before transferring to complete a BA.

Contact: Chair, Myra Marx Ferree (mferree@ssc.wisc.edu)  
Web: http://socwomen.org/the-2010-beth-b-hess-memorial-scholarship-2/  
Deadline: April 1, 2015

**Cheryl Allyn Miller Award**

This award recognizes a sociology graduate student, or a recent doctorate, whose research or activism constitutes an outstanding contribution to the field of women and work.

Contact: Co-Chairs, Amy Leisenring (amy.leisenring@sjsu.edu) and Catherine Solomon (Catherine.Solomon@quinnipiac.edu)  
Web: http://socwomen.org/cheryl-allyn-miller-award/  
Deadline: April 1, 2015

**Chow Green Dissertation Scholarship**

This scholarship offers support to women scholars who are from underrepresented groups and are studying concerns that women of color face domestically and/or internationally.
FACULTY AWARDS (Due March 1)

Feminist Activism Award

This annual award recognizes an SWS member who has made notable contributions to improving the lives of women in society, especially through activism.

Contact: Chair, Melanie Heath (mheath@mcmaster.ca)
Web: http://socwomen.org/feminist-activism-award-2/
Deadline: March 1, 2015

Feminist Lecturer Award

Founded in 1985, this lectureship was created to recognize those whose scholarship employs a feminist perspective. The goal is to make these scholars more available to campuses where such a voice is unusual and/or unwelcome.

Contact: Chair, Carrie Lee Smith (carrieleesmith2@gmail.com)
Web: http://socwomen.org/feminist-lecturer-award-2/
Deadline: March 1, 2015

Mentoring Award

This award honors an SWS member who is an outstanding feminist mentor.

Contact: Co-Chairs, Laura Kramer (lramerphd@gmail.com) and Wendy Simonds (wsimonds@gsu.edu)
Web: http://socwomen.org/mentoring-award/
Deadline: March 1, 2015

CAMPUS VISITS (Due March 1)

Feminist Activism Awardee Campus Visit

During the 2015-2016 academic year, 2014 SWS Feminist Activism Winner, Josephine Beoku-Betts, will visit two campuses. The Distinguished Feminist Activist visits campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or are characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. Winners for the last two years included University of Michigan, Flint, Southern Utah University, University of Maine, and the University of Delaware.

Contact: Chair, Melanie Heath (mheath@mcmaster.ca)
Web: http://socwomen.org/campus-visits-from-awardees/
Deadline: March 1, 2015
Feminist Lecturer Award

During the 2015-2016 academic year, 2014 SWS Feminist Lecturer Manisha Desai will visit two campuses. These campus visits are intended to celebrate and enhance feminist scholarship and social activism on college campuses.

The Distinguished Feminist Lecturer visits campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or are characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. Winners for the last 2 years included Texas Tech University, University of the Pacific, and Texas A & M University.

Contact: Chair, Carrie Lee Smith (carrieleesmith2@gmail.com)
Deadline: March 1, 2015

Call for Papers: Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender

Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender: This paper award will be given in odd-numbered years to the best current paper written by a graduate student in the field of the sociology of gender. The purpose of this award is to encourage graduate student scholarship focused on gender and to facilitate the publication process for the student. SWS-South will appoint a mentor who will be available to assist the student in preparing the paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Eligibility: The paper may be co-authored, but only by another graduate student. Faculty-graduate student papers are not eligible. Papers that have previously appeared in publication are not eligible. Nominees must be affiliated with an institution in the South.

Nomination packets should include the following:
- A copy of the paper to be considered for the award,
- A current CV of the nominee,
- A letter of nomination.

The award winner will be recognized at the SWS-South business meeting with a check for $300.00, a plaque and a one-year membership to SWS-South. An article about the winner's work will appear in the association's newsletter and the recipient will be invited to present their work in a special SWS-South session at the following annual meeting.

Send nominations by January 15, 2015 to:
Claudia Youakim, SWS-S Awards Committee Chair
Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
University of Florida
3219 Turlington Hall
P.O. Box 117330
Gainesville, FL 32611.
Who is Trafficked?

Anyone can be trafficked: men, women, and children, citizens and non-citizens. Historically, poor women and children make-up the majority of trafficked persons as traffickers typically exploit gender inequity, family violence, and a lack of educational and economic opportunities.

Who Trafficks?

Some common faces of traffickers include: pimps, local and international criminal syndicates and rings.

Statistics

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 2.4 million people throughout the world who are lured into forced labour. The International Organization on Migration (IOM) and The 2014 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) consistently estimate the number of people trafficked over international borders to be 800,000.

The ILO estimates that up to 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

During FY 2013, The Department of Justice (DOJ) convicted a total of 174 traffickers in cases involving forced labor, sex trafficking of adults, and sex trafficking of children, compared to 138 such convictions obtained in FY 2012. Of these, 113 were predominantly sex trafficking and 25 were predominantly labor trafficking, although several involved both.

Confounding factors

People are trafficked for a range of reasons including for purposes of sweatshop labour, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude.
Demand drives the human trafficking industry. Trafficking in human beings allows for high profits to be generated at low risk. Globalization is also a factor that has allowed the trafficking industry to thrive.

Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise and ranks 2nd after drug trafficking.

The Law

**US Policy**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was written into law in 2000 as a means to prevent human trafficking, protect victims and help them rebuild their lives in the U.S., and prosecute traffickers. The federal law includes: an educational and public awareness component as well as assistance for some qualified victims of severe forms of trafficking. That assistance includes housing, education, and health care. The law also enables some victims of trafficking to become temporary residents of the US by applying for a T Visa under certain circumstances.

TVPA was re-authorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008; on March 7, 2013, President Obama signed the bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included the TVPA as an amendment.

**UN Convention and Protocols**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2000 the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol or The UN Trafficking Protocol.

The Palermo Protocol established the first global legally binding instrument with an internationally agreed-upon definition on trafficking in persons and intent to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights. The Palermo Protocol recognizes trafficking as the abuse of power over a person in a position of vulnerability. It also states that consent (of the trafficked person) is never a defense.


**The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report**

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is produced by the U.S. Department of State. The US government uses it to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. The report assesses foreign government efforts to comply with “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking”. For more info go to: [http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/)

Human trafficking impacts every country in the world. The majority of trafficking is national or regional though, long-distance human trafficking occurs. As per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Europe is the destination for victims from the widest range of destinations, while victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations. The Americas are exist as both the origin and destination of victims of human trafficking.
A Trafficking Victim May Be Someone Who:

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it of
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature of his/her work
- Lacks knowledge of their whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- Is in poor physical and emotional health

(Polaris Project, 2013)

US Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

You can reach the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in more than 200 languages. All calls are confidential and answered live by highly trained Call Specialists.

In 2013, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline received reports of 3,609 sex trafficking cases inside the United States.

Reports


Reading

To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves by K. Bales & Z. Trodd (Cornell Press, 2008)

A Crime so Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Day Slavery by Benjamin Skinner (Free Press, 2009)


Resources

American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity) http://www.solidaritycenter.org/content.asp?pl=405&sl=405&contentid=624

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
http://www.gaatw.org/

Polaris Project
http://www.polarisproject.org/

Protection Project of the Johns’ Hopkins University
http://www.protectionproject.org/

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
http://www.catwinternational.org/

Freedom Network
http://freedomnetworkusa.org/
Gender and Political Representation

By Jennifer Rosen

The political advancement of women has implications beyond the formal significance of justice and equality. Research has shown that women are more likely than their male counterparts to steer political debates towards issues that affect women -- such as gender related violence, educational enhancements, and women’s economic independence. Additionally, democracy is enhanced when legislators represent a diversity of viewpoints and experiences. Finally, women’s political visibility also has a symbolic effect, increasing women’s status, and thus reducing gender inequalities more broadly throughout society. The faces of national politicians generally reflect the types of people that society feels are justified to make consequential decisions.

Achieving gender balance in national governments could
- Ensure that women’s interests are articulated and advocated for.
- Improve the quality of leadership and governance by bringing representative diversity
- Ensure resources are allocated for issues/policies that effect women, since public officials are often forced to make politicized decisions in deciding how to allocate scarce funds
- Provide female role models in positions of authority, which can legitimate women’s roles outside of the home

Women’s Political Representation

In most countries, women have secured the right to vote, organize political campaigns, participate in party structures, and ultimately be elected to political office. Actual representation in political organizations, however, remains an arena where women are widely underrepresented and gender inequalities are surprisingly apparent. The global representation of women in national governments has improved slightly in recent years due to a variety of political, cultural, and socioeconomic changes.

Uneven Progress

While the situation for female legislators has improved over the years, there are substantial differences across countries, and progress has moved much faster in some places than others. Many countries have achieved little progress. From 1992 to 2014, the percent of women in parliament in:
- Brazil went from 7.4% to 8.6%
- India went from 6.9% to 11.4%
- Russia went from 8.7% to 13.6%
- The United States went from 11% to a slightly more impressive 18.3%.

By contrast, countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Argentina have seen women’s parliamentary representation nearly triple over the past two decades, to well over 30%. In fact, in 2008 Rwanda became the first country to achieve a female majority national legislature, and women now hold 63.8% of the national legislative seats.

There are some patterns in this uneven progress. Twenty years ago, countries with the highest concentrations of women in parliament were all Scandinavian or Western European. Today:
- 12 of the top 20 spots are represented by less developed countries

<table>
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<th>Percent of parliamentary seats held by women (global)</th>
<th>In 1999</th>
<th>In 2014</th>
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<td>13.1%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
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<th>Number of countries with &gt;30% female representation in party positions.</th>
<th>In 1999</th>
<th>In 2014</th>
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<td>8</td>
<td>38</td>
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Twenty-four of those thirty-eight countries with female representation over 30% are characterized by the World Bank as developing and least developed countries. This seems to be in contrast to what we know about the connection between women’s status and economic development, which would have us expect that women are more likely to win political office in developed countries.

**Percent of Women in Lower or Single Houses of Parliament by Region, 1995 and 2014**

Major Factors Effecting Women’s Presence in National Political Organizations

There is a rich tradition of social science research analyzing political, socioeconomic, and cultural factors to factors to explain the substantial cross-national variations in women’s representation. The explanatory factors generally fall into one of three categories: political, socioeconomic, and ideological/cultural variables.

**The Political Structure**

Women’s ability to actually get elected is structured by the nature of the political system and institutional differences across political systems shape the level of demand for female candidates. The structure of politi-
cal parties, government regimes, and electoral systems play a large role in shaping the demand for female candidates. If party leaders believe that their party will win more seats by nominating women -- that there is a demand for female candidates -- then they are more likely to do so. On the other hand, if they think that nominating women will hurt their party, they are more likely to run an all-male slate of candidates. Research generally shows that left-leaning parties are more committed to sending women to parliament than their conservative counterparts. In Scandinavia, it was Left parties that began promoting women’s representation, leading women’s enhanced representation to where it stands today.

A proportional representation (PR) electoral system
PR electoral systems have been highlighted by most scholars as a fundamental factor predicting cross-national variations in women’s parliamentary representation. In these systems, votes are cast for political parties or a party’s list of candidates, and the seats won is proportionate to the percentage of votes received (e.g., if a party receives 30% of the votes they fill 30% of parliamentary seats). In contrast to majoritarian systems where parties put forward a single candidate and therefore have an incentive to appeal to the lowest-common denominator of voter preferences, parties in PR systems field multiple candidates and benefit by appealing to a diverse cross-section of voters. According to Paxton (1997), a PR system may buffer women by making them less risky candidates in comparison to a majoritarian system where female candidates stand in direct competition with men.

Some researchers argue that democratic institutions, development, and industrialization are all associated with higher levels of women in politics. However, more recently, the introduction of gender quotas have enabled women in non-democratic countries with low levels of development and industrialization to make serious political gains. Gender quotas act as affirmative action policies intended to help women overcome obstacles to their election such as less political experience, cultural stereotypes, and/or incumbency. Some countries, such as Rwanda, Tanzania, Ecuador, and Nicaragua mandate a minimum percentage of candidates that must be women and/or a minimum number of legislative seats that must go to women. This has enabled women to bypass what used to be obstacle to winning a political party’s nomination or being elected to office.

The Social Structure
Women’s position in society is closely related to whether there is a pool of qualified female candidates available to stand for election. The family, education system, labor force, and other social institutions can be structured in a way that either empowers women or keeps them from gaining the skills and experience needed to run for office.

Political elites often have higher education levels and connections to professional labor sectors. Whether or not women have access to economic and social capital influences whether they will have the skills and experiences required of political officials.

Ideological/Cultural Structure
Culture and ideology affect both whether there are a sufficient number of qualified female candidates and whether or not voters will support a female candidate. What people think about women -- their capabilities, rationality, and appropriate “place” in society -- matters for their ability to get elected to national legislatures. Cultural beliefs can influence women’s access to education, professional experience, and both financial and social capital -- all of which affect the supply of women in a pool of potential candidates. If societal norms persuasively associate women with the home and family, a woman entering the political sphere can be viewed as a threat to the country’s moral fabric.
In many countries, national gender quotas have produced gains in a single election cycle that women’s rights advocates in Scandinavia toiled for nearly half a century to achieve. Additionally, some researchers argue that in contexts of conservative cultures that hold more traditional gender role ideologies, those women that represent “ideal womanhood” may be more likely to be seen as acceptable political symbols. Therefore, where gender roles tend to idealize women as wives and mothers, those more traditional women may be considered better candidates for political office, rendering social structure variables less important.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Organizations**
National Democratic Institute [https://www.ndi.org/womens-political-participation](https://www.ndi.org/womens-political-participation)
Inter-Parliamentary Union [http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm](http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm)
Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance [http://www.idea.int/](http://www.idea.int/)
UN Women [http://www.unwomen.org/](http://www.unwomen.org/)

**Books and Articles**
Local & Regional Chapters in Action!

SWS-South will hold its annual coffee-for-a-cause and silent auction during the 2015 Annual Meeting in conjunction with SSS in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year’s chosen organization is the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies (IWES). They provide mental health screenings and individual and group counseling for teens and young women who experienced Hurricane Katrina as children and are now experiencing disaster-induced psychological trauma. Besides donating proceeds from the silent auction, SWS-South will be collecting unopened personal hygiene products to provide the young women they serve. Please contact Vision Committee Chair, Sancha Medwinter (sld28@soc.duke.edu) for information. On the same day as the silent auction, there will also be a panel discussion among local disaster scholars and organizations, including IWES, involved with various aspects of the social consequences of Hurricane Katrina. This panel is organized by Vision Committee member, Amie Hess, (hessamie@meredith.edu).

SWS-Tallahassee Chapter invited Emily Fairchild, Associate Professor at New College and President of SWS-South, to speak in September at our first meeting of the year. Emily led an engaging, informative discussion about her experiences teaching at a liberal arts college. She also was the speaker at FSU Department of Sociology’s fall colloquium, where she discussed her research on Division I women athletes' gender presentation strategies during competition. For our next meeting, we visited in November a new exhibit at the Museum of Florida History, “Civil Rights in the Sunshine State,” followed by a trip to a local pizzeria to discuss the exhibit and the chapter on civil rights in Gail Collins’ (2009) book, *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present.*

Chapters in this volume of the *Advances in Gender Research* series explore the following themes: “Doing Family While Having a Career,” “The Esteem of Peers: Networks, Promotion to Full Professor and Awards,” and, “Women: From Bias to Leadership.” They cover gender transformation globally including in Australia, Austria, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa, and Sweden. Many from the United States feature studies funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE grants program and focus on gender equity in the STEM disciplines.

Contributors to the volume include Cynthia D. Anderson, Diane C. Bates, Catherine White Berheide, Elizabeth Borland, Lisa Dilks, Mychel Estevez, Patricia Wonch Hill, Melissa Latimer, Christine Mattley, Julia McQuillan, James Nolan, Marjukka Ollilainen, Catherine Richards Solomon, Judith Secker, Susan Walzer, and Kathrin Zippel. A 16 page summary report of the volume is available. To access the report, table of contents, and abstracts and to order the volume or individual chapters, go to [http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/books/series.htm?id=1529-2126](http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/books/series.htm?id=1529-2126)

**Barbara Gurr** provides the first book-length analysis of Native American women’s reproductive healthcare, offers a sustained consideration of the movement for reproductive justice in the U.S., and situates this consideration squarely in the lives and communities of Native women. Using interviews, archival research, and descriptive policy analysis, the book examines reproductive healthcare experiences throughout Indian Country but focuses on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, shedding much-needed light on Native American women’s efforts to access prenatal care, contraception, abortion services, and care after sexual assault. *Reproductive Justice* goes beyond local stories to look more broadly at how race, gender, sex, sexuality, class, and citizenship inform the ways in which the government understands reproductive healthcare and organizes the delivery of this healthcare to marginalized populations.

It reveals why the basic experience of reproductive healthcare for most Americans is so different – and so much better – than it is for Native American women in general, and women in reservation communities particularly. Importantly, Gurr outlines the strengths that these communities can bring to the creation of their own reproductive justice, and considers the role of the Indian Health Service, a federal agency in the Department of Health and Human Services, in fostering these strengths as it moves forward in partnership with Native women. Finally, Gurr’s transparent presence throughout the work, reflecting both feminist and indigenous methodologies, allows the reader to engage critically not only with the subject matter, but also with the complexities of feminist research.
Members Bookshelf

Disrupting the Culture of Silence: Confronting Gender Inequality and Making Change in Higher Education. Edited by Kris De Welde and Andi Stepnick (and with contributions from many SWSers!), Stylus Publications (2014)

This book is a “tool kit” for advancing greater gender equality and equity in higher education. It presents the latest research on issues of concern to women academics, and to anyone interested in a more equitable academy. It documents the challenging, sometimes hostile experiences of women academics through feminist analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, including narratives from women academics of different races and ethnicities across disciplines, ranks, and university types. The contributors’ research draws upon the experiences of women academics including those with under-examined identities such as lesbian, feminist, married or unmarried, and contingent faculty. And, it offers new perspectives on persistent issues such as family policies, pay and promotion inequalities, and disproportionate service burdens. The editors provide case studies of women academics who have encountered antagonistic workplaces, and offer action steps, best practices, and more than 100 online resources for individuals navigating similar situations. Beyond women in academe, this book is for their allies and for administrators interested in changing the climates, cultures, and policies that allow gender inequality to exist on their campuses, and to researchers/scholars investigating these phenomena. It aims to disrupt complacency amongst those who claim that things are “better” or “good enough” and to provide readers with strategies and resources to counter barriers created by culture, climate, or institutional structures. See: https://sty.presswarehouse.com/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=400257

Announcements, Celebrations, etc!


Autumn R. Green, Endicott College, was recently awarded a $495,000 grant through the Center for Best Practices to Support Single Parent Students in Higher Education program of the US Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education Program. Dr. Green also recently served as a keynote speaker at the Aspen Institute’s Ascend ThinkXChange and as an invited panelist on "Women and the Economy in Boston" with the

Maria Johnson began a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware.

West Virginia University (www.wvu.edu) the state’s flagship Land Grant university, invites applications and nominations for the position of **Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences**.

The Dean is the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and reports directly to the Provost of West Virginia University. The Dean is responsible for the leadership and management of all programs within the college. The Eberly College (http://eberly.wvu.edu/) is the largest college at West Virginia University and provides 55-60% percent of all undergraduate instruction. Enrollment includes 6350 undergraduate majors and 1350 graduate students. The college has 415 full-time faculty and 98 classified staff in 23 academic departments, programs, and centers in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Annual research expenditures total approximately $15.2 million, with 129 active Principal Investigators. A well-established development plan has led to a $55 million endowment that supports 27 distinguished professorships, 5 chairs, and numerous faculty development programs and student scholarships within the college. The college has multiple key relationships with other colleges within WVU.

Founded in Morgantown in 1867, West Virginia University is a public research university (high research activity as defined by the Carnegie Foundation) and conducts over $175 million worth of sponsored research funding annually. As the primary land-grant institution in West Virginia, teaching, research and engagement with the State through innovation and technology are at the forefront of its mission.

The University community is committed to being student-centered and has made the quality of the student experience a priority. A tradition of academic excellence is evident by the number of Goldwater, Rhodes, and Truman scholarships awarded to its graduates. Approximately 29,466 students are enrolled on the Morgantown campus in one of 190 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. Morgantown has been ranked as the “No. 1 Small City in America” by BizJournals.com. Business Insider named Morgantown the ninth best college town in America. The University is within easy traveling distance of Washington, D.C., to the east, Pittsburgh, Pa., to the north, and Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, to the northwest. Other recent rankings: Kiplinger.com included Morgantown in their 10 great places to live list; one of “Best Sports Cities” by Sporting News; 5th “Best Small Metro” by Forbes; 12th overall “Hottest Small City” by Inc.; one of “50 Smartest Places to Live” by Kiplinger’s; and the second-ranking “Best College Town for Jobs” by Forbes. WVU has divisional campuses in Charleston, Keyser, Martinsburg, and Montgomery.
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# Current Officers of SWS

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*All the above are the members of Executive Council*

A list of current committee chairs is available on the www.socwomen.org website.
Want to help us get feminist sociological scholarship into public discourse? Please enter information about your areas of expertise in our database of members willing to talk with the media. Go to:


Let’s help to change the conversation out there!