

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, POLITICS, AND COMMUNITIES  
 SPRING NEWSLETTER

March, 2007

Notes From the Chair

Happy end of winter. Yes, I am thinking positively. I realize some of our members in the north may still face a month or two of snow and ice but I am sending warm wishes for a speedy spring. I want to encourage each of you to shake out of that cloak of lethargy and prepare for an exciting meeting in New York. I hope each of you are experiencing positive changes in this new year. Unfortunately, that has not been the case for sexual politics in the United States. Here are some recent headlines that lead me to believe we have a lot of work ahead of us regarding the production and dissemination of knowledge in the sociological field of sexuality.

The chilly state of Michigan just became colder toward non-heterosexual state employees deeming all domestic partner benefits illegal. This is one more strike against Michigan businesses who already struggle to recruit and retain professional talent. In fact, this may become one more reason Michigan continues to be listed as one of the top "business losing" states in the nation. Perhaps they could learn a few things from the state of Washington who appears to be prepared to pass a bill that would allow domestic partners to inherit when there is no will, to give consent for health care if a partner is not competent, to make funeral arrangements and /or authorize organ and tissue donation. Domestic partnerships and marriage are hot topics in our field and many states are wrestling with related issues.

"The Higher Power of Lucky," by Susan Patron, winner of this years Newbery Medal, represents another hot topic. Across the nation (yes, our nation) libraries, schools and book stores are refusing to carry the book because it makes use of the term "scrotum" while describing precisely where a boy's dog received a snake bite. The controversy appears to be over the proper use of scientific and anatomically correct verbiage in children's literature. One wonders if using a term such as "nutbag," "ballsack," "thingy," or "down there," might be considered less problematic for those who's professional responsibilities include the intellectual development of our children. On the same note, at the John Jay High School open mic night, three students were sanctioned for saying the word "vagina" while performing excerpts of "The Vagina Monologues." Author Eve Ensler is now personally supporting the girls by offering to visit the school district and discuss the matter with them. Perhaps she will consider changing the name of her show to "The pee pee monologues" (yes, I know they are not the same things, that's kind of the point).

All humor aside, as a nation we continue to face political agendas that are wrought with confusion. On the one hand people want to keep each other safe, yet resist educating each other on sexual safety for fear that it will encourage promiscuity. According to Marty Klein's new book, that is like saying seat belts in cars will encourage reckless driving.

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## Notes from the Chair

Our nation appears to confuse morality with knowledge. Worst yet our nation seeks to protect everyone rather than hold citizens accountable for their informed choices.

Since information is what social scientists produce I believe we have a responsibility to continue to be productive in sexuality research, even in the face of resistance. That resistance comes in many forms, administrative obstacles or threats, reduced funding opportunities and our own lethargy. I hope you will join me in the fight against personal lethargy, since that is one obstacle we can actually control. I am looking forward to hearing about the progressive and exciting research we are producing in spite of a lack of funding or administrative restrictions. Yes, you guessed it, this is the call to attend the SSSP annual meeting in New York. Our division is very active at every annual meeting, and 2007 will be no different. Register now and join me in the fight against lethargy.

*as a nation we continue to face political agendas that are wrought with confusion.*



**Society for the Study of Social Problems**  
 Research Matters:  
 Creating Knowledge, Policy and Justice  
 New York: Roosevelt Hotel Aug. 10-12

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### Experiences of Sexual Minorities Questionnaire

As you may be aware, there is a dearth of research actually documenting the experiences of sexual minorities and how this influences their health in a Canadian context. This is unfortunate given the current social, legal, and political climate in Canada and other countries abroad. Fortunately, Melanie Morrison, along with her research assistant, Rebecca Quaale are currently engaged in a study exploring sexual minorities' exposure to prejudice and discrimination and how this can affect health and well-being.

Since this initiative is new, their survey, at present, pertains to gay men and lesbian women. They will be developing additional surveys that pertain to transgender, intersex, bisexual, and queer identifying men and women. It is their sincerest intention to be inclusive; however, at this time, they have reliable and valid measures for those who identify as gay and lesbian.

They hope that they can count on your support! They invite ANY individual who identifies as gay or lesbian to participate in the study. The link to their questionnaire can be found at:

[www.socialjusticeresearch.com](http://www.socialjusticeresearch.com)

For questions, contact: Melanie A. Morrison, PhD & Co-Chair of the Canadian Psychological Association, Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues (SOGII), Department of Psychology, 9 Campus Drive, Arts Building, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sk. S7N 5A 5 Phone: (306) 966-2564; Email: [melanie.morrison@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.morrison@usask.ca)

Rebecca Quaale, BA (Hons.), Research Assistant, Phone (lab)(306) 966-1773; email: [req596@mail.usask.ca](mailto:req596@mail.usask.ca)

Society for the Study of Social Problems  
Research Matters:  
Creating Knowledge, Policy and Justice

New York: Roosevelt Hotel Aug. 10-12

Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities Division (SBPC)  
2007 Slate of Sessions

THEMATIC SESSIONS

JOINT SESSIONS

1) *Sexual Politics and the State*

Organizer:

Lisa Romanienko–Wroclaw  
University (Poland)

[lroman@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lroman@ix.netcom.com)

2) *Sexuality on the Edge*

Organizer: Kathleen Asbury  
Community college of Philadel-  
phia Rutgers University

[asburykathy@comcast.net](mailto:asburykathy@comcast.net)

3) *Teaching Sexuality Workshop*

Organizer: Dana Atwood Har-  
vey University of Wisconsin Col-  
leges, Sheboygan

[datwoodh@uwc.edu](mailto:datwoodh@uwc.edu)

4) *Camouflaging Sexual Behavior  
& Families*

SBPC & Family Division  
Organizer: Cheryl Boudreau  
Grand Valley State University

[boudreac@gvsu.edu](mailto:boudreac@gvsu.edu)

5) *Transgender Embodiment &  
Identity*

SBPC & Health, Health Policy and  
Health Services

Organizer: Elroi Waszkiewicz  
Georgia State University

[elroiw@gmail.com](mailto:elroiw@gmail.com)

6) *Inter-sexions: Race, Class and  
Sexuality*

SBPC, Race and Ethnic Minorities &  
Poverty, Class and Inequality

Organizer: Juanita Diaz Cotto  
Binghamton University, SUNY

[companeras1994@yahoo.com](mailto:companeras1994@yahoo.com)

7) *HIV & AIDS Research: Policy  
& Politics*

SBPC & Health, Health Policy  
and Health Services

Organizer: Lloyd Klein  
Grambling State University

[creditcardman21@yahoo.com](mailto:creditcardman21@yahoo.com)

8) *Sexual Expression at Any Age*

SBPC & Youth, Aging and the  
Life Course

Organizer: Sandra Schroer  
Muskingum College

[sschroer@Muskingum.edu](mailto:sschroer@Muskingum.edu)

Look for the preliminary titles of  
papers in the next newsletter!

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

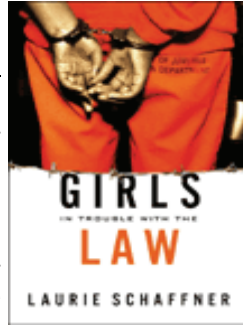
#### **Girls in Trouble with the Law** By, Laurie Schaffner

Rutgers University Press, 2006

In Girls in Trouble with the Law, sociologist Laurie Schaffner takes us inside juvenile detention centers and explores the worlds of the young women incarcerated within. Across the nation, the overwhelming majority of the young women are from ethnic or racial minority groups, and most have experienced physical harm and sexual assaults. For girls, the meaning of these and other important factors remain undertheorized and below the radar of mainstream sociological scholarship. When "gender" is considered as an analytic category, Schaffner shows how gender is often seen through an outmoded lens.

Offering a critical assessment of what she describes as a gender-insensitive juvenile justice system, Schaffner makes a compelling argument that current policies do not go far enough to empower disadvantaged girls so that they can overcome the social limitations and gender, sexual, and racial/ethnic discrimination that continue to plague young women growing up in contemporary United States.

*Laurie Schaffner is an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago.*



### BOOK REVIEWS

#### Praise for *Girls in Trouble with the Law*

"Girls in Trouble with the Law offers readers a brilliant window for reviewing the gender, race, and class politics of juvenile justice. Readers will be filled with outrage, and yet fueled by Schaffner's passionate sense of possibility and vision for "what must be."

-Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Monzini, Paola. 2005. *Sex Traffic: Prostitution, Crime and Exploitation*. London: Zed Books.

Reviewed by, Scharie Tavcer  
Mount Royal College, Canada

"...This reader very much enjoyed the section on the causes of the problem and how government systems and laws often facilitate trafficking. This is a refreshing perspective and one which is much needed in order to fully understanding trafficking..."

"...In terms of strategies to combat trafficking and exploitation, it would be beneficial to strengthen our consideration of addressing cultural issues, patriarchal thinking and poverty in countries of origin, which are noted causal factors. This book supports our exploration of these necessities." \*See the whole review in *Global Crime* 8(1):100-101. February 2007!

### ARTICLES

Hidalgo, Danielle, Kristen Barber, and Erica Hunter. 2006. "The Dyadic Imaginary: Troubling the Perception of Love as Dyadic." *Journal of Bisexuality*.

\*Winner of the 2006 Graduate Student Paper of Distinction Award, Mid-South Sociological Association

Van Dyke, Nella and Ronda Cress. 2006. "Political Opportunities and Collective Identity in Ohio's Gay and Lesbian Movement, 1970-2000." *Sociological Perspectives* 49:503-536.

#### *Abstract*

Gender dynamics have historically shaped the gay and lesbian rights movement, with gay men and lesbians working together more during some time periods than others. In this paper, we explore how changes in the socio-political context influence the gendered collective identity and gender composition of the gay and lesbian rights movement over time. We utilize data on the gay and lesbian rights movement in Columbus, Ohio from 1970 to 2000 and interviews with 24 movement participants. We find that shifts in the socio-political context, including the activity of movement opponents, change the salience of gender and other identities for movement participants, thereby leading to changes in the movement's collective identity. We contribute to the literatures on gender, sexuality and social movements by demonstrating that counter-movements can mobilize stigma in a way that heightens identity salience and alters collective identities.

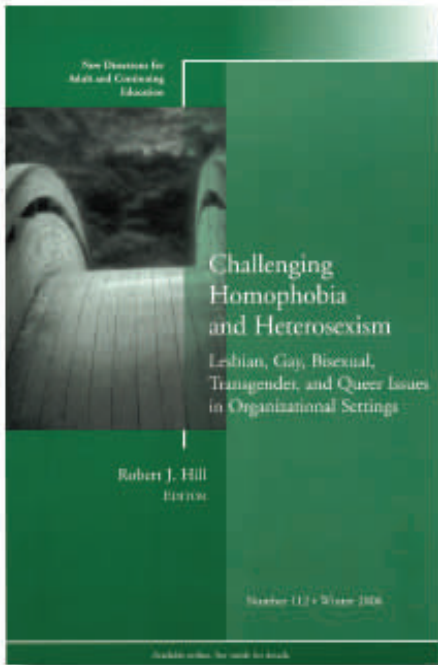


# RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education #112*

### Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism

#### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues in Organizational Settings



This volume is designed for professionals interested in building safe and inclusive work and learning environments for adults related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. It explores sexual identity development in the workplace through the lens of transformational learning theory and opens new ways to think about career development. Readers will gain knowledge, skills, tools, and resources to:

- Identify sexual minority needs
- Cultivate networks and ally groups in work settings for those in the sexual minority
- Dismantle the lavender ceiling that prevents sexual minority mobility in organizations
- Interrogate heterosexual privilege and fight homophobia
- Design and implement nonharrassment and antidiscrimination policies
- Achieve domestic partner benefits
- Build best practices into organizational strategies

**ABOUT THE ISSUE EDITOR:** ROBERT J. HILL is associate professor of adult education in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy at the University of Georgia, Athens.

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6. Difficult Dilemmas: The Meaning of Dynamics of Being Out in the Classroom
7. Using Policy to Drive Organizational Change
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9. Queer Challenges in Organizational Settings: Complexity, Paradox, and Contradiction

~December, 2006

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\*[www.josseybass.com/go/ndace](http://www.josseybass.com/go/ndace)

# FUTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS

## *Whose Right to Life?*

### *The Global Imperative for International Interdisciplinary Sexual Social Problems Scholarship*

*By Lisiunia (Lisa) A. Romanieko*

Recently a 14 year old girl known only as 'Anna' from Gdansk, Poland rejected the sexual advances of a young suitor. In retribution for her act of self-determination, Anna was tormented by the boy and four of his friends, who over-powered, disrobed, and humiliated her in a degradation ritual consisting of a simulated mock rape. The entire act of degradation took place over the course of twenty minutes in front of a class of witnesses, and was recorded on the boys' cell phones for internet blog dissemination. Anna's girl friends attempted to stop the mortifying spectacle, but they were beaten back. Though an actual rape did not have to take place, the intention of debilitating sexual terrorism was nonetheless brutally effective. Rather than return to school, Anna committed suicide in her parents' home that evening. In a pathological gesture of her own obedience to patriarchal domination, her mother publicly absolved the boys of all culpability in an interview published the following day. Anna's inability to discuss the incident with police, parents, teachers, or school psychologists, as well as her mother's flagrant, submissive disregard for her own daughter's life; are together indicative of the levels of emerging male privilege under the new market economy, the total elimination of women's reproductive and other human rights in both public and private

*My vision is an international, interdisciplinary, cross-cultural comparison of the role of coercive institutions in the perpetuation of sexual repression and other forms of violence against the human body.*

spheres, and profound sexual repression brought on by coercive institutions represented by church and state. Though no analysts interviewed by the media linked the two simultaneous events, it is important to note that on the very same day of Anna's suicide, legislation was introduced on the floor of the Polish parliament by the Minister of Education's ultra-conservative party, the League of Polish Families. Funded by affluent religious fundamentalists in the west, and despite the fact that Poland had already criminalized abortion nearly ten years ago, proposed constitutional changes would univer-

sally criminalize abortion in the case of rape, incest, or a clinical threat to the woman's life or the fetus's development. This was broadcast on the evening news the very day that Anna took her own life. By failing to fulfill her societal function as an apparatus of sexual subservience and docility thrust upon her at such an early age, and after enduring a vicious normative degradation ritual that was intended to publicly dismantle her and her female peers' efforts at defiant self-determination; the gesture to end her own life tragically fulfills the Durkheimian criteria for a twisted, postmodern, Kafkaesque, altruistic suicide. Problems surrounding male privilege, female subservience, violent sexual terrorism, and coercive institutions are of course not limited to Poland. These events are indicative of the regressive socioeconomic, cultural, and political conditions that are having devastating effects on family, sexual, and other human rights around the world.

It is in the spirit of resistance and in memory of Anna that I would like to offer a response to Chairperson Sandra Schroer's profound question regarding the ultimate sex research project for the future. My vision is an international, interdisciplinary, cross-cultural comparison of the role of coercive institutions in the perpetuation of sexual repression and other forms of violence against the human body. To that end, I respectfully invite both new and old members to join us in New York for my eerily prophetic panel entitled, "Sexual Politics and the State".



Roman Giertych, Minister of Education and leader of the League of Polish Families



Giertych Opposition Protest

# TEACHING SEXUALITY

## THIS ISSUE: INTRODUCING COURSES AND RESOURCES

### **GRADUATE COURSE: THE SEX INDUSTRY**

*Ron Weitzer, George Washington University*

#### *COURSE DESCRIPTION*

*This course is an in-depth examination of social, economic, and political dimensions of the sex industry. Types of "sex work" covered include prostitution, pornography, stripping, and commercial phone sex. Topics to be examined include: the structure of the sex industry (insofar as it is organized); how sex work reflects larger gender relations in society; how people become involved in sex work; how they manage the stigma attached to this work; differences between female and male sex work; victimization of workers; policy issues, including law enforcement, criminalization, legalization, decriminalization; organized campaigns by sex workers to change laws and public opinion; and the impact of new technologies (such as the Internet, video/DVD) on commercial sex. These issues will be studied primarily in the American context, but some of the readings are based on Britain, Holland, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. Alternative theoretical approaches will be considered, but the course is primarily organized around empirical research on the topic.*

*Because the course deals with a very controversial topic and most people hold strong opinions about sex work, I would like to ask everyone in the semi-*

*One of the few such courses in the nation!*

*nar to try to be open to opposing arguments and research findings that may chal-*

*lenge preconceptions, and also to demonstrate utmost respect toward other seminar members during class discussions. As you will see from some of my own writings, I have been trying to reorient the field away from rigid "pro" and "anti" positions toward sex work and have critiqued the ideological and politicized writings of some other academics. Instead, I advocate "evidence-based" theories, conclusions, and public policies.*

*Ron Weitzer, Professor  
Sociology Department  
George Washington University  
Washington, DC 20052*

*[http://www.gwu.edu/~soc/r\\_weitzer.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~soc/r_weitzer.html)*

### **NEW RESOURCE FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH IN THE SEX TRADE!**

*[www.rethinkresources.net](http://www.rethinkresources.net)*

*Check this out as a teaching resource, send students to the site and ask them to compose a one-page response sheet.*

*Another interesting resource:*

*[www.beyondmarriage.org](http://www.beyondmarriage.org).*

*We have great debates and discussions over both of these sites.*

*Submitted by Laurie Schaffner*



## MEET SOME CONTRIBUTORS

### *Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo*

Danielle received her Masters degree in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is completing dissertation research on spatio-temporal relations of gender and sexuality in the context of Bangkok, Thailand. Her areas of interest include gender, sexuality, the sociology of the body, immigration, Asian and Asian American studies, the sociology of development, and Southeast Asia with a particular emphasis in Thailand. She is co-editor, with Carl L. Bankston III, of *Immigration in U.S. History: An Encyclopedia survey of U.S. Immigration* and has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and book chapters.



### *Kristen Barber*

Kristen Barber is a Doctoral Student in the department of Sociology at the University of Southern California. There she is beginning dissertation research focusing on performances of masculinity and sexuality by men in a traditionally feminine context, the hair salon. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, embodiment, popular culture, and qualitative methods. She is published in the *Handbook of the New Sexuality Studies*. Prior to continuing her graduate studies at the University of Southern California, Barber earned her Masters degree in Sociology from Tulane University.

### *Erica Hunter*

Erica Hunter is a graduate student in Women's Studies and Sociology at the University at Albany. Her research interests focus on the intersection of gender and sexualities in families, marriage as a social institution, heterosexuality, fatherhood, and couple relationships. She is currently working on her dissertation, which examines how heterosexual couples use engagement and marital rituals as a way to symbolically construct their couple status.

### *BOB HILL*

Bob Hill is an Associate Professor in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy, Program of Adult Education at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. He holds a Doctorate in Education from the Pennsylvania State University (1997). Areas of research and interest include, contemporary LGBTQ Issues and Queer Theory, having recently published research-based articles on social inclusion of transsexuals, and of sex workers; HIV/AIDS education; activism as the practice of adult and continuing education; and LGBTQ issues in organizational settings. He works extensively for gender justice and sexual orientation rights with UNESCO, and drafted and coordinated support for the first policy statement to include sexual minority rights in an International Council for Adult Education declaration. He also drafted and coordinated support for the first gay and lesbian antidiscrimination policy statement to appear in a UNESCO document on lifelong learning (published as point 3, p. 19 in the UNESCO report, "Recommitting to Adult Education and Learning," 2003, See <http://www.unesco.org/education/uie/pdf/recommitting.pdf>). Dr. Hill is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *Convergence: An International Journal for Adult Education*. This journal explores lifelong education in international and comparative contexts to promote human development that enables people to participate more fully in determining their economic, social, political and cultural lives. His edited sourcebook, *Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism: LGBTQ Issues in Organizational Settings* was published in December 2006. In April 2007 he will become the recipient of the UGA, College of Education Outstanding Teaching Award. He lives in Atlanta with his artist companion, Jim and their dog, Andy.





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*I would like to send a warm and hearty thanks to all of the contributors of this spring issue. Again, I am delighted by the quality of the submissions. Let us continue to keep abreast of each others work, gain insightful teaching tips, learn about the professional opportunities that this division and our network has to offer, and really just get to know each other. I look forward to your contributions for the summer issue! Please send along biographies and pictures with your current publications, insights and ideas.*

*Thanks again,*

*Dana*



## *Points of Interest*

### **Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS)**

CARAS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support and promotion of excellence in the study of alternative sexualities, and the dissemination of research results to the alternative sexuality communities, the public, and the research community. They have interesting information, research advice, and seek to disseminate applicable research findings.

You can email them at [info@caras.ws](mailto:info@caras.ws) and find them on the web at <https://www.caras.ws/index.php/>

### **Interdisciplinary Alliance for the Study of Polyamory (IASP or PolyResearchers)**

IASP facilitates research into polyamory by helping members share resources such as funding opportunities, publications, bibliographies, referrals, conference information, and research advice. Patterned after early academic organizations that supported researchers who studied same sex relationships, IASP is the first group devoted to serving academicians investigating polyamory. We currently have 67 members.

You can contact Elisabeth Sheff at [soceasx@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:soceasx@langate.gsu.edu) for more information.



*Society for the Study of Social Problems*

