



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



2013 Newsletter

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NU Sociology

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

A Newsletter from the Department of Sociology

Chair's statement —

This is my last year as chair of Northwestern Sociology. It has truly been an honor, as I feel like I have been charged with helping to steward something precious and uncommon, which is the great collective vision that drives our department. The theme for this part year's American Sociological Association annual meeting was "Real Utopia," and, without trivializing the various compelling examples of idealistic yet successful social projects worldwide that the conference highlighted, I will admit that part of me kept thinking: *if you want to see the academic version of a real utopia, come visit our department.*

Northwestern sociology means something, even though our different faculty do very different work (indeed, we have the most breadth of interdisciplinary among our faculty of any department at Northwestern.) We have a strong shared tradition of intellectual independence, scholarly seriousness, critical interdisciplinary engagement, resolute collegiality, caring about our students and one another, and we are dedicated to the mission of the university to provoke in one another better, broader, deeper, and unending learning. We have the values within this department



Continue Chair's statement on page 3

Investiture Event

On October 10, 2012 a ceremony was held by the Dean of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Sarah Mangelsdorf, to celebrate recently endowed fellowships. This was the third year the College has celebrated the installation of chair-holders.



James Mahoney
 Gordon Fulcher Professor of
 Decision-Making and
 Professor of Political Science
 and Sociology

Larry Hedges
 Board of Trustees Professor in
 Statistics and Social Policy

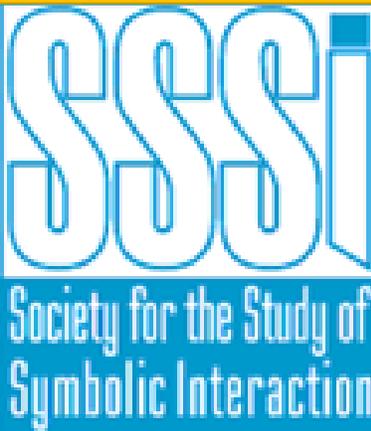
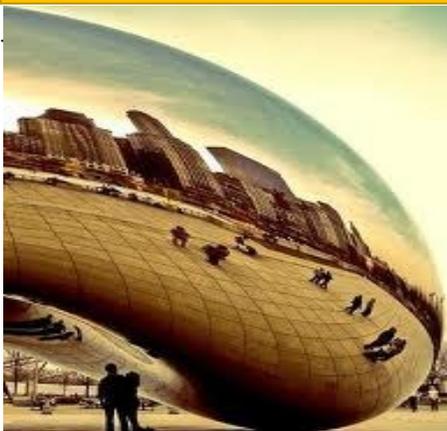
William Leonard
 Abraham Harris Professor of
 Anthropology

Often the most important critical junctures in one's life work is by opening up opportunities and possibilities for the future that otherwise would be closed. These critical junctures do not determine a specific outcome but they increase the range of possible outcomes.

One such juncture in my own life occurred when I was in high school in Duluth, MN. My senior year, I received a Whiteside Family Scholarship, which provided money for me to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (the Main U). This outcome would not have been possible without the scholarship money. In turn, by virtue of having gone to Main U, other doors opened up for me, including access to top graduate programs.

There were other critical junctures like this in my life. The ones that I remember the most are those when people believed in me or went out of their way to help. One of the nice things about being a professor is that I can try to give back a little by increasing the range of possibilities for others.

James Mahoney, Professor of Political Science and Sociology



Sponsored by:

WEINBERG COLLEGE

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Organized by Gary Fine and

On the 75th anniversary of Herbert Blumer's naming of Symbolic Interaction in 1937, this Symposium pursues exploring both the theoretical and methodological streams that have marked Symbolic Interactionism over the years, looking to the future as much as to the past.

Arlene Kaplan Daniels Fund

The department is developing an Arlene Kaplan Daniels Fund that will provide a Northwestern University graduate student with funds for research work on gender. To make a gift online go to <https://nualumni.org/donate> and simply include "Arlene Kaplan Daniels Fund" in the "My Designation" field indicating the amount of your gift.

Alumni Gifts: If you wish to make a contribution to the Department of Sociology, please write a check payable to Northwestern University, note on the check's subject line that the contribution is for Sociology and mail to: Stephanie Banta, Northwestern University, Office of Development, 2020 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208-4307 or online at <https://nualumni.org/donate>.

Awards, Prizes, Fellowships . . .

Cassidy Puckett was awarded a Graduate Research Grant for her research titled "Digital Adaptability: A Study of the Social Determinants of Adolescents' Propensity to Learn New Technologies."

Jeff Kosbie was awarded a 2012 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the NSF Law and Social Science Program and honorable mention for the Martin Levine Dissertation Fellowship from the Sexualities Section of ASA. His dissertation is titled, "Contested Identities: Legal Translation and Social Movement Organizations."

Armando Lara-Millan Honorable Mention for the 2012 SSSP Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division Graduate Student Paper Award; and SION Arthur Stinchcombe award in Organization Studies. "Public Hospital Overcrowding in the Era of Mass Incarceration."

Lisa-Jo van den Scott was awarded the 2012 Society for the Study of Social Problems Environment and Technology Section's Brent K. Marshall Student Paper Award for her paper "Mundane Technology: A Case Study of the

Introduction of Permanent Walls to the Inuit of Arviat, Nunavut, Canada."

Lisa-Jo van den Scott was also awarded a two-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship. Lisa-Jo researches the Inuit experience of the intersection of technology and sedentism in Canada's central Arctic region (2012).

Diana Rodriguez-Franco has won the 2012 Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the Comparative Historical Sociology section of ASA.

John N. Robinson III was awarded a three-year Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship.

Robert Vargas has received a Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research fellowship at Harvard University. After his post doc at Harvard, he took a position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Wisconsin University.

Cristian Ziliberg, PhD Candidate, received a four-year fellowship from the Open Society Foundations Doctoral Fellows Program.

Chair's statement continue...

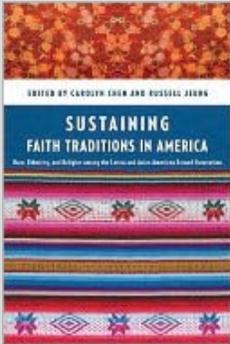
and the resources in this university that allow us to work together and achieve both our excellence and our distinctiveness. I cannot thank my colleagues enough for their confidence in entrusting me to be their chair and for their energies in making my work so much easier. We are a department of leaders. We have seven former chairs in our department (Aldon Morris, Robert Nelson, Carol Heimer, Ann Shola Orloff, Bruce Carruthers, Mary Pattillo, John Hagan). In addition, we have the current or very recent former directors of Legal Studies (Laura Beth Nielsen), African-American Studies (Celeste Watkins-Hayes), Asian-American Studies (Carolyn Chen), Urban Studies (Albert Hunter), Gender Studies (Ann Shola Orloff), Science in Human Culture (Steven Epstein), and the American Bar Foundation (Robert Nelson), not to mention a former interim Dean of WCAS (Aldon Morris) and the current Associate Chair of Political Science (James Mahoney). Professors like to complain about faculty meetings, but ours are a model of civility and collective deliberation, so much so that--dare I say it?--I look forward to them.

We are also a department of intellectual leaders. While I have been chair, WCAS has revived its tradition of holding special ceremonies to honor the investiture of faculty who have received endowed professorships. By my informal tally of announcements, we have had more people honored in these ceremonies in the past three years than any other department: **Charles Camic, Wendy Griswold, Mary Pattillo, Steven Epstein, Aldon Morris, Bruce Carruthers, and James Mahoney**. The individual awards won by faculty are too numerous to mention, although I might note that John Hagan was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Gary Fine recently won the Cooley-Mead award for lifetime achievement among social psychologists in sociology.

We have a number of exciting initiatives for our students. As chair, I have presided over tripling the amount of dedicated space for graduate students. We have also developed a framework for dual degree programs with other universities and have our first such agreement (and first student!), with SciencePo in Paris. For undergraduates, there are a host of broad university initiatives underway, including significant strengthening to student advising and augmenting experience learning opportunities. In our own department, we are developing a system of concentrations to give students more of an opportunity to develop and highlight particular strengths within our major. Together, we are continuing to do the work that makes us one of the most respected sociology departments in the world, and a place committed to excellence in teaching and mentoring students.

Jeremy Freese, Chair and Professor of Sociology

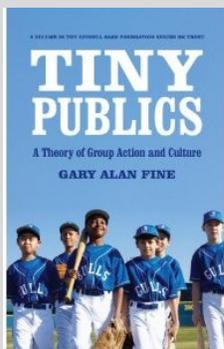
Sociology Library



Carolyn Chen

Sustaining Faith Traditions in America

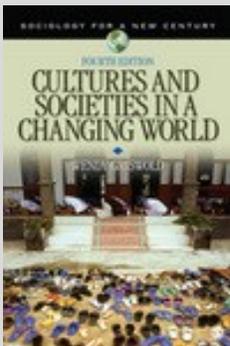
New York University Press, 2012



Gary Alan Fine

Tiny Publics

Russell Sage Foundation, 2012



Wendy Griswold

Cultures and Societies in a Changing World

**Fourth Edition
Pine Forge, 2012**



Monica Prasad

The Land of Too Much

Harvard University Press, 2012

Sociology Notable Undergraduates

Sherilyn DeStefano is a sr. sociology major pursuing a career in medicine. She won a Fall 2012 Northwestern Undergraduate Research Grant for her senior thesis *The Effect of the Premedical Experience on Empathy Levels Among Students*. She will compare empathy levels of students at the beginning of the premedical curriculum with those of students who have completed their premedical coursework to determine if changes occur during the premedical years. She will also interview both current and former premed seniors in order to better understand the impact of the premedical culture and the mechanism by which any changes in empathy occur.

Little previous research exists on empathy levels among premedical students; however, recent studies suggest that empathy levels among medical students decline over the course of medical school. This is of concern since physician empathy has been found to predict levels of patient satisfaction and health outcomes. It is Sherilyn's hope that studying empathy levels at the very beginning of the medical education process may help establish recommendations to develop and maintain high empathy levels in future medical professionals.

Rebecca M. Orr is a Northwestern University Alumna currently teaching at Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Singapore. She won a Princeton in Asia Fellowship her senior year to teach *Understanding the Media and Speech Communication* at NP's film and media school. Her favorite part of her new job has been teaching her rambunctious students in her Halloween costume for a lecture on media effects and American culture. In addition to teaching, Rebecca also has led overseas leadership camps for first year students to Malaysia, and has also taken an active role in her school's staff wellness committee. As she is helping to mold the future storytellers and media practitioners of Singaporean society, Rebecca hopes to learn more about Singaporean films and television shows during her time in Asia.

Alok Nadig received an honorable mention for the sociology department's 2012 Best Thesis Award for his project entitled *From "Gender-Inversion" to "Object Choice": Reconciling Stratified Identities to Form a Coherent Political Gay Consciousness in India*. His project analyzed the effects of a 2009 court ruling that

Continue Nadig on page 6

Where are they now?

The Department of Sociology's First Annual Winch Award was given out in September 1992 to Sharon Groch for outstanding second year paper; Mitchell Stevens for outstanding published paper; David Boden and Brett Stockdill for outstanding teaching assistant; and Rebecca Wallin and Adam Weinberg for outstanding lecturer.

Sharon Groch—retired to United Kingdom with her husband.

Mitchell Stevens—Associate Professor of Sociology at Stanford University in the School of Education.

David Boden—Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Lake Forest College, IL

Brett Stockdill—Associate Professor of Sociology, Women's Studies, and Latino & Latin American Studies at Northeastern Illinois University

Rebecca Wallin—Executive Director at Wallin Foundation and Wallin Education Partners, Minnesota, MN.

Adam Weinberg—2013 President of Denison University; 2009—present: President and CEO of World Learning ; 2009-06 Provost/Executive V.P. of World Learning; 2005-02 Dean of Colgate University

Sciences Po Exchange: Institut d 'Etudes Politiques de Paris

This Northwestern exchange program offers direct enrollment at Sciences Po (IPD), one of the premier public affairs schools in Europe. Comparable to the Kennedy School at Harvard or the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, Sciences Po excels in the fields of international relations, political science, economics, history and sociology.

The program offers a broad range of classes in the social sciences, emphasizing comparative studies in an international context. Areas of focus include; contemporary history, economics and business, international relations, law, European studies, political science, and sociology.

IPD programs are designed so that financial concerns do not restrict opportunities for international study. Fellowship opportunities exist for Northwestern students to participate in IPD programs and to conduct their own independent research projects.

Sociology graduate students in the Sociology Science Po Exchange:

Pierre Pénet is the first Sociology PhD candidate (ABD) who received a Sciences Po Exchange. His research work, is about investigating the broad question of evaluation and commensuration in three different market settings. A paper that he will soon will be published is about the study of the influence of the “Turner Prize” on the market career of several British artists (joint project with Kangsan Lee). Additionally he is working on a project dealing with film reviews in the French film industry. In Pierre's dissertation (exp. 2014) he looks at how sovereign credit ratings permeate financial markets.

Juliette Galonnier is the second PhD candidate in Sociology at Sciences Po (Paris) and Northwestern University. She studies ethnic and religious minorities and the way they relate to the city in different national contexts. She is particularly interested in how upper-class members of these minorities engage in identity-making and boundary work. She has recently published a study on the Indian Muslim minority (“Aligarh: Sir Syed Nagar and Shah Jamal. Contrasted Tales of a Muslim City”, in Laurent Gayer and Christophe Jaffrelot (ed.), *Muslims of Indian Cities: Trajectories of Marginalization*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2012).

Alok Nadig continued from page 4

decriminalized homosexuality in India for the first time in the country's history. Alok's qualitative analysis utilized both interviews with prominent Indian LGBT activists as well as archival research with legal documents. Over winter break, Alok traveled to India to conduct interviews in Delhi and Bangalore.

Alok's research revealed significant developments that the Indian LGBT rights movement has undergone since decriminalization. While HIV/AIDS relief efforts are now easier to implement, the LGBT community in India is struggling to articulate coherent demands to the government to move beyond mere decriminalization. Decriminalization offered a "negative right"; that is, the right to be left alone by the government and to not be harassed by police

officers for merely engaging in same-sex sexual intimacy. The next steps in the movement, by contrast, will require articulating "positive rights," or active recognition from government to obtain certain benefits. This latter endeavor requires a degree of organization and clarity of priority that the current Indian LGBT rights movement is still struggling to achieve.

After graduating from Northwestern, Alok moved to Washington, DC, where he currently works as a political intern at the Human Rights Campaign. In January, he will begin an internship at Senator Frank Lautenberg's office on Capitol Hill. Alok's ultimate goal is to work on international human rights issues within public policy. He is currently applying to law schools.

Gwendolen M. Carter and Kofi Annan Fellowship

Every other year the Program of African Studies awards Gwendolen M. Carter and Kofi Annan Fellowships to an outstanding African student admitted to Northwestern's Graduate School for disciplinary studies of Africa leading to the PhD.

Kofi Takyi Asante, a 2010 Annan scholar. African Seminar (AfriSem) brings together an interdisciplinary group of students to present and receive feedback on on-going research. The seminar provides the kind of interdisciplinary community which the Department of Sociology is so well noted. Kofi assisted Professor Wendy Griswold in coordinating the AfriSem since the 2011/2012 academic year. An additional benefit of this seminar is that regular members can apply for the Panofsky travel grant from the Program of African Studies (PAS) for research in Africa.

* * *

My areas of interest include economic sociology and cultural sociology. This spring, I completed a study of Ghanaian migrant entrepreneurship in Chicago. I am interested in the different ways in which Ghanaian migrants use their various social ties within and without the migrant community to start and run their businesses. I made an argument in my paper that the specific resources that migrant entrepreneurs have at their disposal shape the type

of entrepreneurial strategies that they adopt. The range of options open to them is broad, and did not preclude exiting from the community in order to curb excessive social demands on their businesses.

In 2012 summer, with support from the Panofsky travel grant award from PAS, and the summer research travel grant from the Buffett Center, I traveled to Ghana to do pre-dissertation data gathering for my dissertation research on indigenous merchants during the colonial period in Ghana (then the Gold Coast). This study will examine how indigenous merchants diverse recruited their ties to the colonial administration and the traditional society to shape the emergence of the structures of the state, like commercial arbitration courts and various marketing boards.

At the start of the 2012 fall quarter, together with a few other Ghanaian graduate students at Northwestern University, we organised a conference to mark twenty years of Ghanaian electoral democracy. With funding from PAS and the Department of Sociology, the conference themed, **'Stability amidst Chaos? Reflections on Two Decades of Ghanaian Democracy,'** brought together scholars from different disciplines to ponder over the achievements, the problems as well as the prospects of Ghana's 4th Republic, and to speculate about the December 7th general elections.

Kofi Takyi Asante



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ALUMNI NEWS

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Name: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Student: ___ Name of University: _____

Major: _____ Area of Study: _____

Employer: _____ Job Title: _____

Job Description _____

Why did you major in Sociology ?

Change of Address?

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ ZIP _____

Email Address: _____



Thank you to our Alumni for their continual support
The following are a few of our Alumni who have contributed to the department.

Ms. Taylor Schedeen Barrett
Mr. Mitchell A. Bekritsky
Dr. Diana Luskin Biordi
Mr. William G. Bittler
Ms. Rebecca Bailey Bristol
Mr. Jason M. Bucciarelli
Mr. Roit S. Chandurkar
Mr. Richard A. Chrisman
Dr. Barbara J. Denison
Dr. Rohan Tissa Desilva
Dr. Paula J. Dubeck
Mrs. Floraine S. Dumez
Dr. Anthony G. Dworkin
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