

SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee
Volume 3 Fall 2009

Department of Social and Cultural Sciences
A Multidisciplinary Department

From the Chair

It's been awhile since the department issued a newsletter. Four years to be exact. In the interim much has changed. Several of the faculty with whom alumni might be familiar have moved on to other positions and places in the country.



Molly Doane (ANTH) is an assistant professor at University of Illinois-Circle Campus. Erica Owens (SOC) is on the faculty at the University of West Virginia. Melissa Schrift (SOC/ANTH) is Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee. Janice Staral (SOWJ) directs Concordia University's Social Work program, and Amy Stichman (CRLS) teaches criminology at the University of North Dakota-Fargo. All of them are thriving.

As you might guess, we have hired new faculty to replace those who left, though each in her own way was irreplaceable! The following faculty have joined our department: Darren Wheelock (CRLS) & Louise Cainkar (SOWJ) are now in their fourth year in the department. Ray Hinojosa (SOC) & Dawne Moon (SOC) are in their third year. Heather Hlavka (CRLS), Sameena Mulla (ANTH), & Olga Semukhina (CRLS) are in their second year, and Alexandra Crampton (SOWJ), and Marcia Williams (SOC) are in their first. In this and future issues, we will introduce these new faculty members in the column titled **New Faculty Focus**.

Roberta L. Coles, Department Chair

SOCS welcomes Mitchem Fellow Robert Turner



The Department is delighted to welcome Robert Turner, Marquette University Mitchem Fellow.

Mr. Turner is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the City University of New York working on his dissertation, "Not for Long: The Examination of Life in the NFL." Turner played professional football for four years in the late 1980s in the United States Football League, Canadian Football League and the National Football League.

Mr. Turner will be making a public presentation on his research January 27th. If you're around, please join us for that at 4 p.m. in Raynor Library. He will also teach a course in the Spring semester on "Race, Sport and Hip Hop," which explores the intersections of sport and popular culture and promises to be a hit with the students.

Marquette University Mitchem Fellowships provide one year of support for doctoral candidates from other U.S. universities. Fellows are in residence at Marquette for the academic year and devote their primary energies to completing their dissertations. Fellows come from racial and cultural groups historically underrepresented in the U.S. Professoriate.

New Faculty Focus



Dr. Louise Cainkar,
Assistant Professor of
Social Welfare and Justice

This is a wonderful academic year for me, as I relish the completion of a research project that

consumed some seven years of my life, whether I was conducting ethnographic interviews and oral histories, doing field work, coding and analyzing data, writing journal articles, speaking in public, or, finally, completing a book on the study's major findings. The study was of the Arab American and Muslim American experience after the 9/11 attacks. I investigated their experiences with hate crimes, government targeting, American media exposure, and how these events affected their sense of citizenship and belonging. Funded by a generous grant from the Russell Sage Foundation, a historic, New York-based, social issue research funder and scholarly publisher, this study contributes to the sparse literature regarding how Arab Americans and Muslim Americans fared during the post-9/11 attacks period.

It is my hope that someday the American "9/11 narrative" is inclusive of the attacks and their deadly impacts, the feelings of fear and vulnerability they produced among Americans, as well as the ways in which the collective targeting of Arab and Muslim Americans by government and public alike brought out some of our worst as a society. I often wonder how many times humanity has to learn that holding groups of people responsible for the acts of a few is wrong and yet how vulnerable we are to doing just that, even in an advanced liberal democracy. It seems to me that we keep learning these lessons over and over: in the 20th century with the Holocaust, Japanese internment after WWII, various genocides across the globe, and all types of attacks on people because of their racial, ethnic, and religious affiliations or sexual orientation. And so we must keep studying and writing about these experiences.

Nevertheless, the book that I wrote based on this research-- *Homeland Insecurity*--is not just doom and gloom. Indeed, what made me a social scientist in the first place, and what keeps me loving this choice, is the wonder of humanity -- how resilient most people are despite their experiences. I saw this resilience shine through during my study when Arab and Muslim interviewees spoke about their increased civic activism after 9/11 and their optimism for the future of their communities in American society. I saw it when I documented the range of American civil society institutions that rose up to defend Arab and Muslim American rights. The paradox of 9/11 is the dialectic that was put into motion: acts of extreme hatred and discrimination from some sectors of our society brought about acts of solidarity and inclusion from others.

I am continuing to delve into data produced from this study while I begin thinking about new projects. This semester I launched a Milwaukee immigrant oral history project in my class "Immigrants and their Communities." My vision for this project is to create a publicly accessible, web-based archive of immigrant oral histories using a university/community research partnership model. The idea for this project emerged when I found that my students could not do the kind of research I wanted for their final class projects because the raw materials they needed simply did not exist. So I thought, "Why not create them?!" Working collaboratively with Milwaukee immigrant communities and partnering with the Nativity Jesuit School on the south side of Milwaukee, we are building the capacity of both my students and members of the communities we study by providing both groups with training in oral history methods. So far the project is off to a great start, as this semester we began conducting oral histories of a small number of Latino families who have students at Nativity.

I have begun thinking about a comparative study of Arab Americans who live in the U.S. and those who chose or were forced to return to their countries of origin after the events of 9/11. What challenges me here are ideas about political, civic, economic, social, and cultural

rights (universal human rights), and how variations in access to these rights under different models of government and society affect one's sense of quality of life. For example, how does one's voting rights, sense of community, social respect, access to quality food, and availability of jobs contribute to one's own sense of human dignity? These are fundamental questions underlying social justice that emerge in all of the Social Welfare and Justice courses I teach at Marquette.



**Darren Wheelock , Assistant Professor of
Criminology & Law
Studies**



In my fourth year as an assistant professor in the Social and Cultural Sciences department, my attention is focused on examining the

barriers and challenges people face when attempting to reenter their lives after a felony conviction or prison stint. This interest in reentry stems from my graduate work at the University of Minnesota, where I examined the role of collateral consequences, stemming from laws that restrict individuals with a felon conviction from engaging in certain behaviors and privileges that non-felons enjoy, as barriers to successful reentry and reintegration.

This line of exploration led me to ponder the role of the state (in this case, state and federal laws) in disrupting rather than facilitating the reentry process for recently released prisoners. Research suggests that the first six months are the most precarious for released prisoners, and during this period violating conditions of parole and returning to prison are particularly high. Securing housing and gainful employment are important for facilitating stability in the lives of released prisoners, yet state and federal laws prohibit individuals with a felon conviction from holding numerous occupations. Thus, my work

now specifically examines the link between employment, inequality and successful reentry.

Nationwide, in 2007, the population of individuals under correctional supervision exceeded 7.3 million people and over 700,000 were released from prison. In the summer of 2007 alone, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections released 900 individuals into Milwaukee. So now more than ever families and communities must absorb individuals who exit the criminal justice system and cope with the many difficulties associated with the process of reentry.

Hence, two dimensions define my new work. The first identifies the barriers to employment for individuals released from prison who now reside in the Milwaukee area. In collaboration with Dr. Heather Hlavka (also an assistant professor in the Department), this stage of the research project will interview released prisoners currently residing in the Milwaukee area. The purpose is to gather data on the specific challenges these individuals face when attempting to secure jobs and determine whether these experiences differ by gender, race, and offense type.

The second dimension of this research project examines the state level effects of felon-based employment restrictions on occupational outcomes. States have varying levels of employment restrictions, ranging from highly restrictive to less restrictive. I plan to examine whether different levels of restrictive employment exclusion policies lead to different levels of racial inequality across occupations. Otherwise stated, I hypothesize that more restrictive states will have fewer African Americans in those occupations.

This research fits well with my overall research and teaching interests in criminology. So far most of my research has focused on the impact of criminal punishment on racial inequality or on the role of race in shaping criminal justice policy and punitive attitudes. At Marquette I developed a new course, titled "Race, crime and punishment," that examines racial disparities in rates of criminal offending and racial discrimination in the criminal justice system.

Alumni in the Spotlight



Chris Hallberg, a 2009 graduate in sociology and Spanish for the Professions, received a Fulbright scholarship to study in El Salvador. Hallberg, from Wauwatosa, Wis., will spend the year studying rural youth in northern El Salvador. He plans to give cameras to a dozen young people to document their environments and to combine their visual sociocultural pictures with interviews. He hopes to use that information to create recommendations for development organizations working in the region.

The project emerged from Hallberg's experience working for a Salvadoran development nongovernmental organization as a community organizer during the summer of 2008. During that experience he heard from community leaders who feel development programs often belittle participants and who worry about the cultural erosion among youth and the growing number of individuals migrating to the United States.

Before leaving for El Salvador, Hallberg took time to market his invention, the "smart mug (SMUG)," a mug that contains radio-identification frequency tags so it can be used like a debit/gift card.

Hallberg hopes to enter medical school upon his return and eventually practice in both the United States and South America.

Alumni News Bytes

2009

Jen Ahern (Anth '09) is studying Counseling Psychology at the University of Iowa.

Angela Dean (Anth'09) just started her first year at the University of Wisconsin's Law School, where she is active in the Indigenous Law Students Association due to her interest in Indian Law.

Gretchen Geertz (Soci/Theo '09) joined Jesuit Volunteer Corps and will serve two years in Tanzania.

Heather Walder (Anth '09) is completing her PhD in anthropology at UW-Madison and doing research in India and Pakistan.

2008

Courtnee Jordan Cox (Soci '08) is completing her master's in Strategic Communication at Villanova University while working in the Educational Opportunity Program at Rowan University in New Jersey.

Tiro Daenuwy (Anth '08) is program director for Modernisator, a Indonesian non-governmental organization founded by young future leaders to help Indonesians adapt to the new realities, challenges and opportunities in the 21st Century through international conferences, scholarships and television programs.

Dan Koska (Anth '08) finished his masters at the University of Chicago this past June, writing a thesis on urban social problems and their possible effects on sustainable planning and development. He is currently working as a public relations intern at Cramer-Krasselt in Milwaukee.

2007

Jaime Bodden (Anth/Women's Studies '07) is currently serving the second of two years in Senegal through the Peace Corps as a rural health educator focusing on malaria prevention, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and women's leadership development.

Tara Cepon (Anth '07) is working on her doctorate in biological anthropology at the University of Oregon, researching autoimmune disorders among the Yakut in Siberia.

Sylvester Cutler (Soci '07) is in graduate school at UW-Milwaukee and working as Director of the Youth Leadership Program at the Nehemiah Project in Milwaukee.

Jamil Lott (Soci '07) is program coordinator at 180 Degrees, a non-profit working with youth on probation in Minneapolis.

Ben White (Anth '07) will graduate in December with a master's in public health and a certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Colorado State University- Fort Collins, CO. His studies have focused on global health and health disparities.

2006

Dennis Griffin (Soci '06) recently received his MA in education through Alverno College's Urban Fellows Program and is teaching 8th grade math at a Milwaukee school.

2005

Melissa Herguth (Sowj '05) recently completed her masters in Urban Studies at UW-Milwaukee and is currently the Development Director for the Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity.

2004

Quinton Cotton (Sowj '04) is Associate Planner at the Planning Council for Health and Human Services in Milwaukee, and he teaches occasional courses in the Social Work program at Concordia University.

Kenna Bolton Holz (Soci/Psyc '04) married after graduation, and she recently finished her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She is now a Postdoctoral Psychosocial Rehabilitation Fellow at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee.

Joyana Jacoby (Soci '04) is working as a Social Justice Assistant for the Archdiocese in Chicago.

Phensy Vongphadhy (Soci/Sowj '04) recently received her MA in education through Alverno College's Urban Fellows Program and is teaching 8th grade at Messmer Preparatory Catholic School.

2003

Marilyn Jones (Soci '03) is working on her PhD in Contemporary Latin American literature at the

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also continues to teach summer and weekend courses for Marquette.

Brad Klein (Soci '03) is a graduate student in Religious and Theological Studies, University of Denver, Iliff School of Theology.

Ajmel Quereshi (Soci '03) is now an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union in Maryland.

2002

Gabriela Dieguez (Soci/Sowj '02) works as a social worker with the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee.

Jane Howard Niermann (Soci '02) is now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, counseling patients with chemical dependency and mental illness in Chicago.

2000

Nikki Purvis (Soci '00) is now working as a Contract Compliance Officer at the City of Milwaukee in the Department of Administration Emerging Business Enterprise Program. Nikki is the proud mother of Darren and Shane and enjoys being an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

1997

Pascual Rodriguez (Soci '97) is principal of Bruce Guadalupe School in Milwaukee. He won Marquette's Young Alumnus Award in 2006.

1987

Alexander Peete (Soci '87) is the Director of Student Social Services at Marquette University and teaches sociology and social welfare and justice courses in the Dept. Alex recently married Rachel Karls.

Current Student News

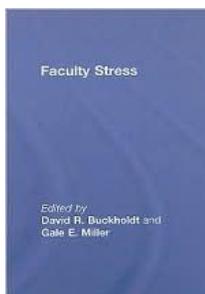
This fall current CRLS students Porcia King and Katrina Moy were awarded \$1000 scholarships from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. This scholarship was originally started with a donation from the Francis D. and Jane Keogh Kelly family.

Two CRLS students—Jennifer Cossyleon and Chris Powell-- conducted research through the University's McNair Scholars program during the summer of 2009. The McNair Scholars Program prepares first-generation students for graduate school by having them collaborate with faculty on research during the summer months. During the academic year, students attend monthly seminars, meet visiting scholars, and participate in student and professional conferences.

Jennifer continues to work with Dr. Heather Hlavka on "The Collateral Consequences for Female Felony Offenders in the United States." She will be presenting her research at the Annual McNair National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Jennifer was also featured in *Marquette Magazine* as one of "Five Women to Watch" for their excellence in academics, research and leadership.

Chris worked with Dr. Richard Zevitz on research on mortality among jail inmates in Milwaukee County. They presented their research at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association in September 2009 and will do so again at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in Spring 2010.

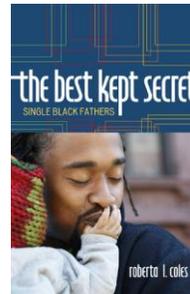
Parade of Publications



David R. Buckholdt and Gale E. Miller (editors). *Faculty Stress*. Routledge. 2009. College and university faculty often experience a greater amount of stress than professionals in many other occupations. *Faculty Stress* takes a comprehensive look at

the causes and consequences of faculty stress, exploring the wide range of factors associated with work-related stress, the sources and perceptions of stress in differing academic environments, and the importance of gender

factors in understanding and dealing with work stress in academia. Respected authorities discuss quantitative and qualitative research, case studies, and provide helpful policy recommendations.



Roberta L. Coles. 2009. *Best Kept Secret: Black Single Fathers*. Rowman & Littlefield. *The Best Kept Secret* studies the often-overlooked group of single, African American custodial fathers. While the media focuses on the increase of single mothers and the decline

in marriage in the black community, Coles paints a nuanced picture of single black dads. Based on qualitative research, the author looks at the parenting experience of these fathers, who may have become single parents through nonmarital births, divorce, widowhood and adoption. The fathers, ranging in age from 20 to 76, discuss their motivations for taking custody of their children, what roles they enact as parents, what they hope for their children, how they socialize their children in a diverse society, how parenting daughters differs from sons, and what parenting has done for them personally. Coles then recommends policy changes to improve the situations for children and single parents, particularly often-unseen fathers. Filled with dynamic interviews and intriguing case studies, *The Best Kept Secret* shows that single black custodial fathers do exist and looks at the ways raising children has shaped their lives.



Alexandra Crampton. 2009. *Global Aging: Emerging Challenges*. Pardee paper no. 6. Boston: Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future. This paper argues that aging policy frameworks were devised during a demographic

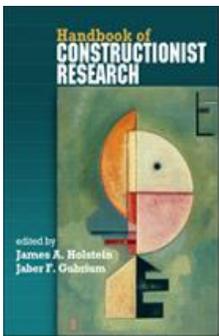
and economic context in which population aging seemed confined to wealthy nations. These countries could afford retirement policies that supported older workers, decreased

unemployment among younger workers, and decreased family pressure to provide old age care. This calculation was based in part on failure to anticipate three demographic trends: continual decline in fertility below replacement rate, continual gains in longevity, and the rise of population aging in poor and “under-developed” countries. These three trends now fuel a sense of crisis. In the global North, there is fear that increasing numbers of older adults will deplete state pension and health care systems. In the global South, the fear is that population aging, coupled with family breakdown,” requires state intervention.



Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein (editors) *Couples, Kids, and Family Life* Oxford. 2005. *Couples, Kids and Family Life* examines various family dynamics in an engaging and insightful way, approaching the realm of family from “the inside out.” Offering a

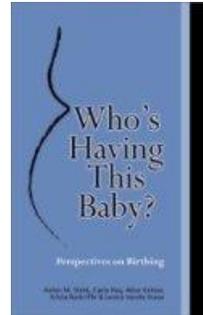
distinctive view of what the social worlds of family life might look like from the standpoint of “insiders,” it examines family perspectives and scenarios through the eyes of partners, parents, children, and significant others. Featuring a series of specially commissioned chapters by leading scholars in the field, the book uses real-life examples to present a distinctive look at the social worlds of domestic life.



James A. Holstein and Jaber F. Gubrium (editors). *Handbook of Constructionist Research*. Guilford Press, 2007. This cutting-edge handbook brings together an array of scholars to review the foundations of constructionist research, how it is put into practice in

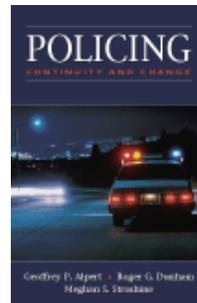
multiple disciplines, and where it may be headed in the future. The volume critically examines the analytic frameworks, strategies of inquiry, and

methodological choices that together form the mosaic of contemporary constructionism, making it an authoritative reference for anyone interested in conducting research in a constructionist vein.



Alice B. Kehoe, co-author. *Who's Having This Baby: Perspectives on Birthing*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2002. In *Who's Having This Baby?* five authors use multidisciplinary approaches to examine birthing narratives. A

rhetorician investigates power relations among all people involved in the birthing process. A historian exposes the history of how women's bodies have been viewed and scripted according to the logic of an assembly line. A literary scholar explores the cultural losses caused by women's silence on what it means to give birth. Dr. Kehoe discusses the colonization practiced on Native American women's bodies when their birthing practices are divorced from their culture. Finally, a midwife discusses how incorporating women as partners rather than patients in the birthing process leads to significantly better outcomes for women during the birth experience.



Meghan Strohshine, co-author with Geoffrey P. Alpert & Roger G. Dunham. *Policing: Continuity and Change*. Waveland Press, 2006.

This concise text offers readers a solid overview of police work today. *Policing: Continuity and Change*

combines theory, research, policy, and practical experience in a very readable presentation of the current context of policing. Readers can track the evolution of policing from its origins in London through possibilities for the future, as the police respond to demands for accountability and learn to utilize technology to their advantage.

Discussions about recruitment, socialization, and organization delineate who the police are and what they do. The text emphasizes the proactive

skills officers need to solve problems and to interact with community members. In addition to describing the functions of the police, the book explores challenges facing police officers, including corruption, stress, use of force, and police pursuits.

Faculty Development News

Drs. Louise Cainkar, Heather Hlavka, and Sameena Mulla have been selected to participate in the Center for Teaching and Learning's Faculty Seminar in Catholic Identity in the Spring of 2010. The seminar facilitates faculty understanding and appreciation of the history and tradition of Catholic higher education in this country and consideration of the many ways they can contribute to and strengthen the University's mission as they teach, conduct research, advise students, and participate in their communities.

Ms. Deb Crane, MSW, was nominated two consecutive years for the College of Arts & Sciences Excellence in Advising Award.

Dr. Ray Hinojosa received the "Faculty Excellence Award," for his dedication to his students in and outside the classroom.

Anthropologist **Dr. Alice Kehoe**, who retired from the department in 1999 was promoted to emeritus faculty in 2006. As you can see above in the Parade of Books section, she has remained an active scholar.

In Memory

Rev. Dr. Richard D. Knudten, professor of sociology, criminology and law studies at Marquette, passed away on May 12, 2007. Dr. Knudten had joined the Marquette faculty in 1971 and retired in 2001 to Goodyear, Arizona. Dr. Knudten was the author of several books, including *Crime in a Complex Society*, *The Sociology of Religion: An Anthology*, and *Organized Crime*.

Spring 2010 Speaker

In honor of The Centennial Celebration of Women, the department's annual McGee Speaker will be Sara Buel, Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Texas. Ms. Buel has spent more than 30 years working with battered women, abused children, and juveniles within the legal system. She founded the Domestic Violence Clinic and is co-founder of the University of Texas Voices Against Violence program that has developed a system of comprehensive, coordinated services for victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. She will be speaking at 5 p.m. Feb. 19th in Raynor Library.

Let's Hear From You

The Department welcomes news from alumni and friends. Let us know what you have been up to, personally and professionally. Send announcements or milestones to roberta.coles@mu.edu. You can also contact us on our website: www.marquette.edu/socs

