

SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee
Volume 3 Spring 2010

Department of Social and Cultural Sciences
A Multidisciplinary Department



From the Chair

The Social and Cultural Sciences department has had a great year.

Enrollments for 2009-10 were up from the previous year. We were able to offer new courses this year in all of our majors, courses such as Mortuary Analysis; Drug Crime & Policy; The Criminal Justice Profession; The Child Across Cultures; Negotiation & Conflict Mediation; Race, Sport & Hip Hop; and Urban Ethnography. In addition, several of our students and faculty were nominated for awards (see page 5).

Our only disappointment was that sociologist Dr. Ray Hinojosa and his wife Melanie Sberna, also a sociologist, left for warmer pastures in Gainesville, Florida. Ray will be conducting research on health issues of military personnel, at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Melanie, who conducted research at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will be doing similar work in Gainesville. We wish them well.

In this issue, we continue to introduce two of our newer faculty members in the column titled **New Faculty Focus**, highlight two of our current students (pp. 3 & 4), and offer news about alumni of our four majors. We hope you enjoy the update. If you have any news you'd like to share with us, please feel free to contact us.

Roberta L. Coles, Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair

New Faculty Focus



Dr. Dawne Moon,
Assistant Professor of
Sociology

What does it mean to be "us?" How do people define the

boundaries between us and them? Throughout my career, I have explored processes through which people define themselves and their social group. My earlier research, including my book, *God, Sex and Politics*, used qualitative methods to examine what debates about homosexuality in the United Methodist Church could tell us about how members defined what it meant to be human, to be Christian, to belong. Recently, I have begun to explore similar questions about belonging and group boundaries in a different context.

I began with ethnographic discussions about anti-Semitism with American Jews—many of whom independently brought up issues relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict—These revealed several different ways people envision the "we," their group and its boundaries. These discussions have led me to explore the ways Jews and Arabs in the United States are working together to try to foster peace. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most heated and intractable conflicts of the past century, and both Jewish and Arab populations in the United States are connected to this conflict. Sixty-one years after the founding of the State of Israel, and in spite of repeated efforts to mediate a settlement, the conflict seems to show little hope of

resolution. However, in spite of many messages to the contrary, Jews and Palestinians have not always been divided by religious or political conflict.

Other sociologists have argued that lasting socio-political change requires change at the level of personal and collective identity. To facilitate transformation at this level, many organizations exist to promote what is known as *reconciliation* or *dialogue* between Jews and Palestinians, both in the Middle East and in other regions and countries, including the United States.

This project seeks to understand the personal and community transformations that such dialogue efforts make possible, as well as how these efforts might be limited. *Dialogue* was first conceptualized by Martin Buber, a sociologist who is better known today for his theological writings. When he defined dialogue, Buber distinguished between the kind of interaction he called *experiencing* (in which the self-concept and ego remain intact), and *relating* (in which the self-concept is transformed by virtue of direct connection to another). The dialogue movements that have emerged in my studies to date have been premised on Buber's concept of relating and posit that when we come to *relate* to those we have previously viewed as "other," our selves are transformed and become "human" to us in a way she or he wasn't before.

I will soon begin interviewing Palestinians and other Arab-Americans who have participated in dialogue with Jews about the Middle East conflict. Some experts on reconciliation or dialogue have suggested that true peace is only possible when people consider the broader political context that has led to social hierarchies as well as conflict. But often, people do not want to participate in groups that seem too "political," which is something I found in my earlier research on debates about homosexuality as well. How do people deal with the tensions that emerge between these two different approaches? What comes out of discussions that are framed in this way? Who gets to have their way? Who finds dialogue helpful, and who experiences it as a futile effort? These are the kinds of questions my research explores.



**Heather Hlavka,
Assistant Professor of
Criminology & Law
Studies**

Much of my first year as assistant professor was spent getting my bearings. Excited to

connect with colleagues and students in the Department, I was invested in teaching new courses, such as Research Methods, Juvenile Delinquency & Justice, and Sex Offenses & Offenders. I also engaged with a new community of scholars. During my second year in the Department, I continue to extend my graduate research that explores how children and youth describe their experiences of sexual victimization in their own words. How do children make sense of sexual victimization? How does meaning vary by individuals? How are ways of knowing and speaking about abuse culturally sanctioned?

Using 100 videotaped forensic interviews of children's disclosures, I suggest that children's meaning of abuse is created through social interaction as they engage, interpret and negotiate the cultural and discursive resources available to them. This research is social problems work; an investigation of how--once the categories of sexual abuse and child victim become widely available resources--terms and understandings of particular categories are applied (or not applied) to interpret particular situations. I continue to delve into this data and expand preliminary analyses. My aim is to show how children take up particular discourses of stratification (e.g., gender, race, age) that act to reproduce power relationships and sustain social hierarchies.

My interests in crime, violence, and identity extend to the structural and individual labeling processes for individuals leaving the criminal justice system. I am concerned with the role of collateral consequences experienced by many women and men after a felony conviction. This line of research examines the effects of law on personal (e.g., employment, treatment, family support) and collective identities (e.g., stratification, inequality, and community social control). In collaboration with Dr. Darren

Anthropology Student Alyssa Harling in the Spotlight



My interests in Anthropology began before college. I have been a long-time subscriber to *Archaeology* magazine, and the principal of my high school – Carmel Catholic in Mundelein, IL – was an avocational Biblical Archaeologist. We shared our interests frequently over my four years at Carmel. So I was looking for a way to enhance my Anthropology interests during my undergraduate years, and I found it at Marquette. As an anthropology major I have had the opportunity to lead the anthropology club, volunteer at the Milwaukee Public Museum, and study the topics that interest me, especially archaeological work and cultural interactions in Asia.

I am also a competitive Irish Dancer with the Cashel-Dennehy School of Irish Dance. I have been dancing at Cashel for almost ten years, and teaching there for almost six. I have competed in regional, national, and world competitions.

In the future I plan to travel extensively. I would like to work in either a classroom or museum setting. I LOVE to teach, but I'm currently interning at the Milwaukee Public Museum in the Geology Department, and I'm enjoying it very much. I guess we'll just have to see where it goes.

Whelock (another Assistant Professor in the Department) and Project Return (Milwaukee reentry program), this study explores how individuals negotiate the many barriers to successful reentry and reintegration. We will interview women and men recently released from prison living in the Milwaukee area. Simultaneously, we are working to promote researcher-practitioner collaborations on issues that affect communities and build strong partnerships between Marquette faculty, students and local agencies. My hope is that we can better understand the everyday experience of law and better assist individuals attempting to secure employment, support their families, and build successful lives.

How are individual interpretations linked with collective experiences of crime and violence? What roles do cultural narratives, ideological influences, and subjective meanings play in a culture of crime control? These important questions about social justice situate my research and teaching interests. How social and cultural rights are accessed (or not) and how this varies by individual experiences of violence and trauma is of primary concern. I hope to energize students in the classroom with this approach to crime and justice. Teaching is central to engaged scholarship, and I encourage students to become connected to their education through their social locations, deepening their appreciation of individual responsibility for collective action in the social world.



Attention SOWJ Alumni!!

Alumni of the Social Welfare and Justice major have initiated a webpage on LinkedIn, the social networking site for professionals. The hope is that those who join will have access to job announcements, events regarding the major, and opportunities give or receive mentoring with one another or current students.

Jennifer Cossyleon in the Spotlight



As a young immigrant from Mexico, I pondered the ways in which past experiences and actions affect an individual's life course. Pursuing my undergraduate majors in Social and Cultural Sciences has exposed me to this and other sociological inquiries. My research interests focus on the sociology of the family and intersect with social stratification, inequality and public policy.

As a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, I participated in two summer research internships at Marquette University. Each consisted of eight weeks of research under faculty mentorship. My most recent research project, titled "Collateral Consequences for Female Felony Offenders in the United States," notes rising female incarceration rates and the familial implications resulting from felony convictions. I have had the privilege of presenting my findings at several conferences for undergraduate research. I will soon begin observing and conducting guided interviews of ex-felony offenders in Milwaukee, alongside Drs. Wheelock and Hlavka.

As a graduate student, I intend to focus on the effects of mass incarceration on female felony offenders and their families. My goal is to change public policies that are discriminative by means of academic research. I hope to help bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice.

Recently, I was chosen as one of Marquette University's "Five Women to Watch," and was nominated for the "2010 Outstanding Senior Award." As a first generation college student and Latina woman, it is my ultimate goal to influence public policy in a way that is inclusive to all. I know social change occurs slowly and requires collaborative effort, but I am ready and willing to face the challenges tomorrow may bring.

Alumni News Bytes

2008

Jerica Arents (SOWJ) is working for Voices for Creative Nonviolence, activist Kathy Kelly's organization, and trying to establish a Catholic Workers site on the north side of Chicago.

Andy Berkhout (SOWJ) is working on his MSW at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

Molly Hamilton (SOWJ) will complete her MSW degree at Washington University in St. Louis in May. She is also working as an intern with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

2007

Greg Entwhistle (SOWJ) is beginning his third year as Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Mundelein, Illinois.

Rebecca Lorentzen (SOWJ) served as a girls' education and empowerment volunteer in Mauritania through the Peace Corps. She is now in Madison, WI, preparing to complete an MSW.

2006

Patti McAllister (SOCI/SOWJ) works as a Paralegal in the Health Law Department at Walgreen Co. in Deerfield IL.

2005

Randall Erving (SOCI) taught for 4 years with Teach for America at Los Angeles elementary and middle schools. In 2007 he received his Master's in Education from Loyola Marymount University and is currently a Resident Director at Chapman University in Orange, CA.

2004

Corina Gencuski (CRLS) works as a paralegal in products liability at the law firm of Crivello Carlson S.C. in downtown Milwaukee.

Wendy Ptak (SOWJ/CRLS) lives in Seattle, WA, and works at a low-income housing agency that

serves the homeless. She is also currently going to the University of Washington to get her Masters in Social Work.

2003

Jewel Camacho (SOC1) works as a Boutique manager and buyer at the Duty Free Shoppers, a luxury travel retailer, in Guam.

Charles Fogelman (SOC1) served two years in the Peace Corps in Liberia after graduation, then completed his MA in African History and currently is working at American Express. He will be returning to graduate school in the Fall to work on a doctoral degree in geography.

2001

Nicole (Wolensky) Civettini (SOC1) is a Visiting Professor of Sociology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where she teaches social inequality and social problems. She and her husband have two daughters.

Kara Schurman (CRLS) recently received her M S in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee. She has been working as a Domestic Violence Victim Liaison in the Sensitive Crimes Division of the Milwaukee Police Department for 7 years.

1986

Jimmy McGee (SOC1) completed an MA in Applied Anthropology, worked with the Pilgrimage for Reconciliation and now is in banking.

1975

Michael Escamilla (SOC1) has been an Executive Director of senior living communities since 1987. He currently oversees Kirby Pines Estates, a 50-acre Continuing Care Retirement Community with approximately 700 residents, and he is also Executive Director of the Retirement Companies of America.

Reeves Smith (SOC1) received his degree in Library Science and has worked the past 24 years as an Elementary School Library Media Specialist

with the Madison Metropolitan School District.

1972

Alyce Decker (SOC1) completed two Masters degrees, one in Corporate and Political Communication Urban and another in Regional Planning since graduation. She now works as a consultant urban planner with The Mellgren Planning Group, Urbanomics, Inc., and Fleet & Associates/Architects and Planners in Florida.

1961

Frances Brown (SOC1) worked as a social worker or director for 38 years in the health care field in New York. He now chairs the Task Force on Social Work in Hospitals for the National Association of Social Workers, NYC Chapter, and is on the Executive Committee of the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care, Metropolitan New York Chapter.

Faculty Development News

Ms. Deborah Crane, MSW, Dr. Heather Hlavka, Dr. James Holstein, and Dr. Sameena Mulla were nominated for the 2010 College of Arts & Sciences Excellence in Advising Award.

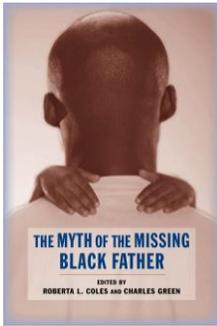
Dr. Mary Ann Farkas was nominated for the AMUW Nora Finnegan Werra Faculty Achievement Award. This award recognizes a woman faculty member who has excelled in her research, teaching and service to Marquette and to the community.

Dr. Gale Miller was nominated for the Haggerty Research Award, which honors a scholar's body of research over his or her career. Dr. Miller has earned an international reputation for his research on solution-focused therapy.

Milestones

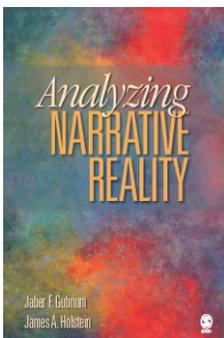
Drs. James Holstein and Norman Sullivan celebrated their 25th year at Marquette. **Ms. Deborah Crane** celebrated 10 years.

Parade of Publications



Roberta L. Coles and Charles Green, eds. 2009. *The Myth of the Missing Black Father*. Columbia University Press. This volume captures the meaning and practice of black fatherhood in its many manifestations, exploring two-parent families,

cohabitation, single custodial fathering, stepfathering, noncustodial visitation, and parenting by extended family members and friends. Contributors examine ways that black men perceive and decipher their parenting responsibilities, paying careful attention to psychosocial, economic, and political factors that affect the ability to parent. Chapters compare the diversity of African American fatherhood with negative portrayals in politics, academia, and literature and, through qualitative analysis and original profiles, illustrate the struggle and intent of many black fathers to be responsible caregivers. This collection also includes several interviews with daughters of absent fathers and concludes with the effects of certain policy decisions on responsible parenting.



James A. Holstein and James F. Gubrium, eds. 2009. Sage. This book offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing the construction and use of stories in society. Both the texts and everyday contexts of the storying process are considered, with

accompanying guidelines for analysis and illustrations from empirical material. Methodological procedures feature interviewing, ethnographic fieldwork, and conversational and textual analysis. The conclusion raises the issue of narrative adequacy, addressing the questions of what is a good story and who is a good storyteller.

Speakers & Events

- In collaboration with criminologists in Finland, Dr. Rick Jones has organized an **international conference** on re-entry issues for former convicts. The conference will be held in Finland in June.
www.globalreentry2010.org
- Law professor Sarah Buel addressed a packed house Feb. 26, as she told of overcoming her own battered & homeless experience to become a prosecutor and advocate for abused women and children. Ms. Buel was the department's annual **McGee Lecture**.
- Faculty from CUNY, University of PA and UW-M comprised a panel and led a rousing discussion on **Race in Milwaukee & the Hip Hop Generation**. March 3rd
- **SOWJ Alumna Melissa Herguth**, Development Director at Habitat for Humanity, will lead a group of MU Students to Chile to build affordable houses in the wake of the recent earthquake. If you'd like to help fund the costs of this trip, you can do so at:
<http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/participant/participant.aspx?pid=93157444>

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 news or milestones to roberta.coles@mu.edu. You can also contact us on our website: www.marquette.edu/socs

