

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2004-05:
CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE ABD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CA, DAVIS**

All faculty listed are from UC Davis unless otherwise noted

BAHR, PETER (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *The Rough and Rocky Road of Remediation: Racial Inequalities in Postsecondary Remedial Mathematics*

Committee Chair: Diane Felmlee, Sociology

Committee Members: Xiaoling Shu, Sociology
Linda Serra Hagedorn (University of Southern California)

Abstract:

Postsecondary mathematics remediation holds a significant and increasingly high profile position in American higher learning. The goal of postsecondary remediation is to raise the basic skills of students up to the minimum level necessary for success in college-level coursework, and to further educational advancement, and functional participation in a democratic society. It is a "remedy" intended to restore opportunity for those who would otherwise be relegated to meager wages, poor working conditions, and low socioeconomic status. Thus, for the nearly one-quarter of first-time college freshmen nationwide who enroll in remedial math coursework, remediation represents a critical and decisive step towards academic success, status attainment, and economic stability.

In this dissertation, I examine racial disparities in successful mathematics remediation in two-year postsecondary institutions, using longitudinal data for all of the semester-based, public two-year postsecondary institutions in California. My analysis involves four phases. First, I quantify the racial gap in successful mathematics remediation. Second, I seek to explain this gap with reference to a set of mediating factors, using nested hierarchical logistic regression models. Third, I examine racial differences in rates of progress through the remedial mathematics sequence, using nested hierarchical event history models. Finally, I explore the underlying race-specific causes of observed racial differences in rates of remedial progress, using a series of hierarchical pooled-term logistic and multinomial logistic regression models.

BURKE, PAUL

Dissertation Title: *Dealing from the Bottom of the Deck: Playing the Race Card in California's Gubernatorial Elections*

Committee Chair: Jack Goldstone, Sociology

Committee Members: Carl Jorgensen, Sociology
Belinda Robnett, Sociology, University of California, Irvine

Abstract:

This dissertation examines the historical significance of race and racism in California politics by analyzing three significant cases: 1) the origins of the modern state of California and the first gubernatorial election in 1850; 2) the racial politics of Reconstruction and the 1867 gubernatorial election; 3) the racial politics of immigration and the gubernatorial election of 1994.

BURR, THOMAS (PhD 2005)

Dissertation Title: *The Cycle of Commerce: Producers and Consumers in the French and U.S. Bicycle Markets, 1875-1910*

Committee Chair: Jack Goldstone, Sociology

Committee Members: Nicole Biggart, Graduate School of Management and Sociology

Fred Block, Sociology

Cathy Kudlick, History

Abstract:

In this dissertation I trace the social influences on both the production (supply) side and on the consumption (demand) side of two national markets for bicycles, and how these social influences affected the interactions between producers and consumers over time. I trace how the markets formed in the U.S. and in France after 1875, how they were very similar to 1900, and how they diverged from 1900 to 1910. Along the way, gender, social class, types of use (leisure and utility), organizational forms (national and local clubs), other products, and infrastructure affected consumers and consumption. Product design, the manufacturing process, institutional forms, marketing and advertising, retail practices, and prices affected producers and production. I suggest a research program to study markets as a series of interactions between producers and consumers over time, and offer some initial hypotheses about this process drawn from my empirical research.

CASTELLANO, URSULA (PhD 2005)

Dissertation Title: *Partners in Crime: Nonprofits and the Social Production of Justice*

Committee Chair: Ryken Grattet, Sociology

Committee Members: Nicole Biggart, Graduate School of Management and Sociology

Vicki Smith, Sociology

Abstract:

How does a government bureaucracy institutionalize flexibility? In recent years, one of the central institutional changes has been the increasing involvement of nonprofits in the operation of government. This issue represents an important change in the principles and actions that govern the delivery of public service. This dissertation examines the organizational consequences for a criminal justice system that incorporated four nonprofit pretrial release programs into the judicial decision making structure in response to the bail reform movement and jail overcrowding. Specifically, using Goffman's frame analysis, I examine the competing definitions of a "good risk" between pretrial release workers and judicial officials in determining which defendants should be released from jail.

In addition, I consider the nature of organizational links between the criminal justice system and non-profit organizations that provide legal and extra-legal assistance to defendants. Organizational theory offers two useful concepts that describe how non-profits relate to their government sponsor: tight coupling and loose coupling. Tight and loose coupling have differential impacts on how defendants are constructed as good risks. I argue that these relational forms are shaped by political and historical indicators, the nonprofits' internal orientation, social legitimacy of the defendant population, network ties and evaluation criteria.

COLLINS, JULIE

Dissertation Title: *Through Networks and Hierarchies: Constructing Binational Organizational Fields on the US-Mexico Border*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, Chicana/Chicano Studies

Abstract:

During the 1990s US and Mexican organizations dedicated to improving the health of border people and the border region coalesced into two binational organizational fields, border health and border environment. Using fieldnotes from border-wide meetings, interviews with professionals, and two organizational databases I am comparatively analyzing the fields. I am studying interorganizational networks and hierarchies within the two fields in order to understand how these structures shape field development. I will discover how and why organizations promote binational interorganizational networks and how their members negotiate the tensions that stem from the hierarchies within these relationships. My dissertation will reveal how a field's network and hierarchical structures shape the quality of interorganizational relationships, ultimately influencing how professionals and organizations perceive and address transnational social problems.

FLOTA, MICHAEL (PhD 2003)

Dissertation Title: *Constructing Collapse: The Rise and Fall of Financial Liberalization in Sweden and South Korea*

Committee Chair: Fred Block, Sociology

Committee Members: Nicole Biggart, Graduate School of Management and Sociology
Sean O'Riain, Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Abstract:

This dissertation compares the experience of financial liberalization and currency crisis in Sweden and South Korea. Despite the starkly dissimilar political, economic and cultural aspects of these two nations, observers have noted the striking similarities in the financial crises these two nations have gone through during the 1990s. In this study I find that the processes of financial liberalization that led to these crises are also quite similar. I argue that despite the significant differences in culture and traditions, similar structures of economic authority and concentration led to parallel connections to the global economy resulting in similar paths to financial liberalization and nearly identical financial crises.

Unlike previous studies which have tried to find the single causal variable responsible for liberalization, this study stresses the process-oriented nature of liberalization in both nations. Yet in both nations, the process of liberalization ultimately fails as policy makers try first a gradual approach and then a "shock therapy" approach to financial liberalization that ends in pronounced economic crisis. The end result is a lack of a "domino effect" of liberalization into other areas of each economy as both proponents and opponents of liberalization predicted. Instead I find a general retrenchment of financial liberalization itself in these two states. Although the financial crises played significant roles in this retrenchment, institutional ties to the traditional economic model in both states represent a more fundamental cause.

FLYNN, HEATHER

Dissertation Title: *Pre-adolescent to Early Adult Friendship: A Longitudinal Analysis of Developmental and Structural Characteristics*

Committee Chair: Diane Felmlee, Sociology
Committee Members: Bill McCarthy, Sociology
Rand Conger, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

My dissertation research examines the mechanisms by which close friendships develop and coalesce from preadolescence through early adulthood. This research is important given the significance of friendships for fundamental social development and for implications later in life. The present research will accomplish the following: (1) follow developmental and structural characteristics of friendship groups over time, (2) examine the factors that influence the quality of friendships, (3) test the applicability of equity theory and network theory for friendship, and (4) evaluate gender and age similarities and differences in friendship characteristics and quality.

This research fills a gap in the friendship literature by applying a life course perspective to longitudinal data. A life course perspective is a valuable perspective for understanding friendship processes because it combines both developmental and social structural perspectives. In addition, the longitudinal nature of the data in my dissertation research is a strength that will help to overcome the limitations of earlier, cross-sectional, studies of friendship.

I use the Iowa Youth and Families Project (IYFP) longitudinal dataset that began in 1989 with 451 families from eight counties living in north central Iowa. The study continues today with a 90% retention rate and includes statistical data as well as videotaped qualitative data. I utilize the following statistical methods: regression analysis, structural equation modeling, and event history analysis. Further, I will incorporate the qualitative data that includes interaction tasks between family members, siblings, friends, and romantic partners. This research will have implications for the study of friendship across life-stage transitions as well as for theories of friendship.

FREEDMAN, LORI

Dissertation Title: *New Abortion Providers: Increasing the Access of Advance Practice Clinicians in California*

Committee Chair: Carol Joffe, Sociology
Committee Members: TBA

Abstract:

My dissertation aims to study the experiences of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives (collectively called advance practice clinicians or APCs) in reference to new California legislation (SB1301) allowing APCs to provide medication to women seeking abortion early in the first trimester of pregnancy. Given the decreasing number of physicians willing and able to provide abortion in California, the potential addition of thousands of APCs to the abortion provider base could substantially improve access to abortion. Allowing APCs to provide medication abortion may also serve to decentralize both the power of abortion doctors and the risk of anti-abortion violence to the providers.

ISLER, JONATHAN (PhD 2005)

Dissertation Title: *Contingent Careers: Web Workers in the New Economy*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Tom Beamish, Sociology

Fred Block, Sociology

Miriam Wells, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

Career development patterns of web designers differ from established careers in white-collar industries in that contracts are project-based relationships, relying less on internal labor markets. Emerging patterns reflect evolving computer-based technologies that allow for flexible work arrangements, such as telecommuting. Due to these shifts, existing models of career development and career trajectories must be reconsidered. These careers offer opportunities for greater autonomy, access to various employment types, and acquisition of transferable skills. With autonomy comes individuated responsibility over advancement, employment security, sensitivity to global *and* local economic shifts, and long hours devoted to retraining. Web design careers offer more opportunities than conventional careers, but carry more risks- they are thus “bumpier”, more contingent, accidental, and serendipitous than their traditional counterparts.

This study examines how the career trajectories of web designers progress- how workers navigate through their careers over time. It is based on approximately 50 in-depth interviews and many hours of observation in three labor market organizations for web designers. Three career phases are examined: occupational entry, career paths within web design, and exit from the field. Varying career courses are reflected in social networking, access to financial capital, age, and patterns of education and skill acquisition. Workers craft narratives to make sense of their career development and prospects. These narratives evince workers’ perceptions of security, flexibility, and success. While workers make sense of their careers (trajectories influence narratives), they also make career moves based on expectations from their own sense of work-based identity (narratives influence trajectories). The reciprocal relationship between narratives and trajectories is manifest in the very websites that designers produce, within portfolios, and in the construction of personal resumes.

MARTIN, MONICA (PhD 2005)

Dissertation Title: *African American Youth and Delinquency: Economic Hardship, Neighborhoods and Racial Discrimination*

Committee Chair: Bill McCarthy, Sociology

Committee Members: Xiaoling Shu, Sociology

Rand Conger, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

Sampson and Wilson (1995) suggest that discrimination leads to the concentration of economic hardship in urban, African American neighborhoods, and that the characteristics of these neighborhoods are conducive to crime. However, the effects of other aspects of discrimination, particularly the actual personal experience of discrimination, have received little attention. As well, little research explores how economic hardship or community characteristics affect the discrimination African American youth experience, and how this in turn influences their involvement in crime. I argue that economic hardship’s

effect on delinquency is mediated by community characteristics and community processes, that in turn directly affect delinquency, as well as by personal experiences of delinquency that also directly affect delinquency. Community characteristics and processes are also conceptualized as affecting experiences of discrimination. I will use data from the Family and Community Health Study, a sample of African American youth and their families living in rural and suburban areas of Georgia and Iowa, to test the model using regression analyses. My prospectus begins with a brief overview of the literature bearing on the relationships in the proposed model and the rationale behind the model. I then provide a description of the model, the data and the methods to be used to test the model. I also outline the proposed dissertation and include a scheduled timeline for completion of the dissertation.

MEYERS, JOAN

Dissertation Title: *Workplace Democracy and Worker Identity in Worker-Owned Cooperatives*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

Ming-cheng Lo, Sociology

Miriam Wells, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

My dissertation research centers on two large (100+) democratic workplaces that initially utilized informal, face-to-face control and became successful, financially stable companies with highly formalized organizational structures. However, while one organization developed managerial control through the hierarchical and wage-stratified division of labor, the other instituted worker control through dense, decentralized participatory and representative democratic practices. I argue that neither was the inevitable outcome of member demographics or market forces, and that greater attention must be paid to the actual enactment of workplace democracy. The project will demonstrate what effects each organization's structure has on the (re)production of social inequalities within the similarly diverse memberships—an issue crucial not only to start-up labor-managed firms assessing benefits and losses of different organizational structures, but also to scholars seeking to understand how agency is mediated in democratic polities.

Given the wider distribution of power and resources to a multicultural membership through collectivist democracy than that of the hierarchical organization, this study challenges recent findings of feminist organizational scholars who suggest collectivist organizations reproduce elite empowerment and class and racial stratification. Rather than treating specific organizational forms as absolute arbiters of member interests, I propose that the construction of worker identity might operate as an intermediary between the goals of power and resource distribution within the organization, and the actual outcomes.

As transnational capital moves jobs overseas, sustainable jobs with livable wages are priorities for working-class and marginalized communities. Worker-owned and labor-managed businesses are a possible means to this end, but research is needed to understand how this can be broadly achieved. My dissertation explores how questions of how class, race, gender and sexuality emerge as workplace issues (or not) as a way in which workers are able to make claims within the workplace. Drawing on records, individual and group interviews, surveys, and participant observation at the organizations over a three-year period, this multi-method study will elaborate the effects of different trajectories of industrial democracy in multicultural societies.

MURACO, ANNA (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *Friendship Matters: A Study of Close Intersectional Friendships*

Committee Co-Chairs: Diane Felmlee, Lyn Lofland, Sociology

Committee Members: Laura Grindstaff, Sociology
Stephen Russell, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

This research provides an in-depth examination of close friendship bonds between gay men and straight women, and between lesbians and straight men, dyads I term “intersectional friendships.” Using qualitative data from interviews with 53 individuals, the study analyzes the norms and expectations of these dyads. Bridging the social psychological study of social relationships with feminist and queer theories of sex, gender, sexuality, and family, this research critically analyzes the lived experiences of those engaged in intersectional friendships.

Ultimately, the data suggest that intersectional friendships constitute a relational form that can be used to expand definitions of contemporary social relationships. In constructing significant and dynamic bonds across sex and sexual orientation categories, these dyads comprise a unique category of friendship, where distinct identities shape the overall tone of the relationship.

Additionally, this research explicates how intersectional friendships inform conventional ways of understanding, not only categories and experiences of gender and sexual orientation, but also larger structural components elements. Intersectional friendships provide people with significant connections that serve as family, allow gender norms to be resisted, and sometimes spark political action. In so doing, these bonds transgress social norms about gender and sexuality, while sometimes also reinforcing conventional understandings of behavior and identity.

NEUWIRTH, ESTEE (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *Staffing Agencies, Human Resource Practices and Unions in the New Employment Relationship*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Sean O’Riain, Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Chris Benner, Pennsylvania State University

Abstract:

Corporations are dramatically restructuring as the boundaries between internal and external organizational functions are becoming blurred. The increased use of outsourcing arrangements and contingent labor are giving rise to new types of inter-firm partnerships. Drawing on comparative ethnographic data from two different staffing services, a private agency and a non-profit, union-affiliated staffing organization, I demonstrate how contemporary staffing agencies connect more intimately to firms, changing the traditional employment relationship.

I argue that staffing agencies actively shape labor market dynamics, rather than simply react to impersonal market forces. Staffing agencies studied played a critical role inside their client firms, becoming institutionalized actors taking on a range of functions that were once reserved for HR departments and unions. Many corporate managers are now turning to staffing agencies to recruit and manage a temporary and sometimes permanent workforce. At the same time, a broad range of workers are now using staffing agencies to navigate the complex terrain of the labor market.

Adapting to these changes in the employment relationship, Working Partnerships Staffing Service (WPSS), the union-affiliated organization studied, ventured far beyond familiar territory, operating within the marketplace as a competitor to private-sector staffing agencies. I found that while this organization sought to create an alternative worker-centered staffing service, they continually ran the risk of reproducing normative models of staffing, as the sociological literature on isomorphism would predict. And yet, WPSS innovatively mobilized across the different fields of organized labor, staffing, and workforce development to forge a new model for staffing.

The contemporary labor market landscape is rapidly changing as an increasing number of workers – temporary, temp-to-perm, contract, and self-employed – join the payroll of staffing agencies. Transformations in the Silicon Valley provide a vivid backdrop for this sociological analysis of the changing relationship between employers, workers, and unions. The findings presented advance our knowledge of the blurring of boundaries between staffing agencies and their client firms and signal the need for newly designed public policies to address changing employment structures.

OYAMA, SHIZUKO

Dissertation Title: *Temp Women in Japan: Gender and Nationalism at Work in the Discourse of Globalization*

Committee Chair: Nicole Biggart, Sociology & Graduate School of Management

Committee Members: Diane Wolf, Sociology

Masako Ishii-Kuntz, University of California, Riverside

Abstract:

This dissertation examines the growth of the temporary help industry since the worst Post-war recession in Japan. Although temporary jobs in other industrialized countries also tend to be taken by women, the temporary help industry in Japan is more feminized than most of them. Besides, this phenomenon in Japan seems to be deeply shaped by the discourse of globalization, which has been used by different actors – such as the Japanese government, employers’ associations, the temporary help industry, and managers of corporations – to deregulate and flexibilize the “rigid” Japanese labor policies and practices. In such a juncture of Japanese labor history, Marxian-oriented theories which tended to see Japan as one of the most exploitative countries, as well as some institutional and cultural theories which tended to see Japan as relatively benevolent, need to be revised significantly. In addition, it is necessary to introduce a gender lens to the analysis of Japanese employment, which has been largely absent in those theories.

In this study, I ask how gender and the discourse of globalization have interacted to give birth to a new type of work and prospering industry such as the temporary help industry in Japan. By doing this, I intend to give a special emphasis to tying together different levels of analysis (such as temporary workers themselves, their workplaces, and larger forces such as policy changes) to show the complexity of the dynamics involved here.

RUDY, PRESTON (PhD 2003)

Dissertation Title: *Labor, Globalization and Political Fields: A Comparison of the Justice for Janitors in Three California Cities*

Committee Chair: John Walton, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Sean O'Riain, Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
David Brody, Emeritus, History, UCD

Abstract:

By means of a comparison of the Justice for Janitors union organizing in Los Angeles, San Jose, and Sacramento, I explain the unfolding campaigns as a result of the interaction of globalization and the structure of political fields. Political fields are social structures in which economic processes are embedded and are the configuration of political players and the culture around which these they contend. The distinct political fields in each city-region in combination with the uneven processes of globalization produced different patterns of union organizing. While globalization is assumed to be detrimental to collective action, I show that in Los Angeles and in San Jose globalization processes disrupted the political fields and facilitated labor organizing. By contrast, in Sacramento, the persistence of a parochial political field increased the difficulties for gaining union contracts. The significance of this research is to show how political fields are important to social movements, and to show how globalization as a destabilizing and uneven process of social change debilitates ruling coalitions as much as it debilitates the labor movement. The research is based on participant observation, interviews and archival research.

SCHILLER, J. ZACH (PhD 2005)

Dissertation Title: *The Media is the Movement: Community Radio and the Social Construction of Alternative Public Spheres*

Committee Chair: Fred Block, Sociology

Committee Members: Jack Goldstone, Sociology
Laura Grindstaff, Sociology
(Outside member TBA)

Abstract:

Media scholars and activists agree that commercial ownership and deregulation in the media industry has restricted opportunities for local access to media outlets. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 hit radio especially hard, resulting in radio being “deterritorialized” – the practice of centralized program production and distribution has supplanted the local production of radio programming. As a result, possibilities for local station staff, let alone members of the listening community, to influence programming decisions made by their stations have been drastically reduced or completely eliminated. My dissertation examines how the recent resurgence of grassroots community radio – in response to centralization trends – represents a “re-embedding” of radio into local communities.

With notable exceptions, scholars in the emergent field of radio studies consider noncommercial or grassroots radio as inherent antidotes to the recent rise in conglomerate control over the mass media. However, sociologists have long noted the organizational challenges in realizing sustained commitments

to organizational goals within “collectivist organizations.” This raises questions about whether democratically organized community stations can provide sustainable media alternatives. Furthermore, questions remain concerning the ability of social resources, like community radio, to facilitate vibrant communications *between* diverse segments of a community, rather than reinforcing the social, economic, and cultural boundaries of particular segments *within* a given community.

My first case is the home station of a 65 member national bilingual community radio network, providing a unique example of a station that has remained committed to community-service goals despite its growth. Additionally, I include three of California’s fourteen emergent Low Power FM (LPFM) stations, recently created by the FCC to make room for micro-broadcasters on the radio dial. The creation of this new license marks a unique opportunity to observe how diverse communities define potentially unique “use-values” for radio, and the LPFM cases are chosen to represent the existing variety. Employing the methods of key-informant interviews and participant observation, I will compare continuities and changes in each station’s community-oriented programming. By empirically observing how such programming is conceived and produced in each context, this research seeks to understand the cultural, economic, and organizational challenges faced by groups attempting to create alternative public spheres. I am particularly interested in learning how each station “mobilizes resourcefulness” in order to cope with persistent fiscal pressures without succumbing to “mission displacement.”

SKURATOWICZ, EVA (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *Sorting Women and Men Into Jobs: The Mechanisms of Sex Segregation in an American Bank*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Carole Joffe, Sociology
Larry Hunter, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Abstract:

I derive a multi-step process of occupational sex segregation from a case study of restructuring in a large American bank. Through interviews with employees and direct observation of work in four geographic regions, I identify the mechanisms that underlie the process of segregation: managers built gendered assumptions into the new jobs; employees responded to these cues and to the characteristics of the jobs; management made job assignments that were consistent with both their assumptions and employees' choices; employees developed strategies that affirmed, challenged or disregarded how the jobs were gendered; and long term hiring practices and employee turnover rates further segregated the jobs. I find support for gendered organizations theory and resegregation theory as explanations for the overall processes that lead to sex segregation.

STACEY, CLARE (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *Home Health Care Workers and the Predicament of Long Term Care*

Committee Chair: Carole Joffe, Sociology

Committee Members: Ming-cheng Lo, Sociology
Vicki Smith, Sociology
Debora Paterniti, UCD Medical Center and Sociology

Abstract:

Scholars and medical professionals alike are quick to agree that care for the chronically ill, elderly and disabled in a time of medical rationing is one of the defining social problems of the twenty first century. But how is this care organized? And who in our society assumes the burden of care? Sociologists and historians have long argued that care of the sick is relegated to women in both the private and public spheres. As such, the social organization of care is seen as an outgrowth of the emotional and occupational sexual division of labor.

While there is little doubt that palliative care remains the domain of women, little is known about how such care intersects with the organization of other social inequalities and social processes. This research seeks to understand how care for the ill, elderly and disabled is organized in the U.S., beyond common interpretations of care as the informal work of women. I suggest that care is increasingly the shared labor of family members, paraprofessionals and professionals—like public health nurses, social workers and home health aides—who work in informal care settings. It follows that to understand the contemporary landscape of caregiving, researchers must look beyond sites of institutional care, such as hospitals, and look carefully at how the tasks and work associated with care are organized at the levels of home and community.

The primary objectives of this project are first, to revisit how care is socially organized given the current climate of medical rationing and cost containment and second, to examine how the boundaries between professional, paraprofessional and non-professional knowledge shape the organization of care in a changing medical landscape. To meet these objectives, I am conducting a qualitative study (participant observation and in-depth interviews) of a county-run organization that provides in-home care to the elderly and disabled. My goal is to describe the different orientations toward care of in-home workers and to understand how these orientations vary by professional status, class, race and gender.

My contributions will be the following: (1) To offer better understanding of how care is a socially variable phenomenon intimately linked to the changing nature of contemporary medicine and the shifting professional jurisdictions associated with care; and (2) to add to an on-going discussion about the stress associated with the labor of care and the related crisis in the recruitment and retention of well-trained nurses and health aides.

SWEAT, JEFF (PhD 2004)

Dissertation Title: *Crossing Boundaries: Identity and Activism in Gay-Straight Alliances*

Committee Chair: Lyn Lofland, Sociology

Committee Members: Diane Felmlee, Sociology

Laura Grindstaff, Sociology

Judith Newton, Women and Gender Studies

Stephen Russell, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

My dissertation examines the social context and social psychological dimensions of participation in high school Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), clubs bringing students of all sexual orientations together to counter homophobia and institutionalized heterosexism. I consider how such organizations provide environments where sexual self-concepts emerge and in which participants, through their interactions, simultaneously reinforce and disrupt sexual identity.

VANYA, MAGDALENA

Dissertation Title: *Building Democracy Through Marketing Social Problems: The Case of Domestic Violence in Postcommunist Hungary and Slovakia*

Committee Chair: Carole Joffe, Sociology
Committee Members: Jack Goldstone, Sociology
Ming-cheng Lo, Sociology
(Outside member TBA)

Abstract:

This research compares the construction of domestic violence as a social problem in two postcommunist countries, Hungary and Slovakia. Most studies of the postsocialist region provide macro-economic and political analyses of the democratic transition. This dissertation fills a gap in the literature by exploring the emergence and construction of a social problem as another consequence of the change in the regime. In addition, I also explore the role and characteristics of collective action through examining how they articulate and publicize a social problem in newly emerging civil societies.

Focusing specifically on domestic violence allows me to probe dominant gender ideologies in the two countries and their resistance to or containment of counterhegemonic gendered social movements. Furthermore, this research tackles how the articulation of a social problem by a social movement affects the postsocialist democratic project. I use qualitative interviews with feminist activists and elected political officials, as well as ethnographic field work in relevant organizations to reveal differences and similarities between Slovakia and Hungary, two countries of the former Soviet bloc with diverse communist arrangements in the past.

WYLIE, HEATHER

Dissertation Title: *A Holistic Approach but a Holistic Profession? Intraprofessional Conflict and Midwifery*

Committee Chair: Diane Wolf, Sociology
Committee Members: Carole Joffe, Sociology
Debra Paterniti, UCD Medical Center and Sociology

Abstract:

What is the nature of intraprofessional conflict? Is it always detrimental? Or can conflict serve more beneficial purposes? How do internal divisions influence boundaries with related professions? Who benefits from internal conflict? Who doesn't? These are a few of the questions I will address in my study of intraprofessional conflict among midwives. Examining both historical and contemporary relationships between Certified Nurse Midwives and Direct Entry Midwives (referring to non-ACNM certified midwives including Direct Entry midwives, Lay midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives), I seek to explore how conflict within professions shapes internal boundaries, professional trajectories and relationships with related professions. Does internal conflict undermine a profession's status and future success? Can conflict actually contribute to professional solidarity? Is internal unity essential to professional stability? Does conflict expand professional boundaries thereby challenging jurisdictional claims of competing professions?

–Compiled by Vicki Smith, Chair, Graduate Program