

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13:
CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE ABD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CA, DAVIS**

All faculty are from UC Davis unless otherwise noted

CHAUDHARY, ALI

Dissertation Title: *Spoiled By War: How Government Policies, Community Characteristics and Stigma Shape the Pakistani Non-Profit Sector in London, Toronto and New York City*

Committee Co-Chairs: Luis E. Guarnizo, Human Ecology
Fred Block, Sociology

Committee Members: Dina G. Okamoto, Sociology, Indiana University
Irene Bloemraad, Sociology at UCB

Abstract:

Social scientists increasingly recognize the many ways in which community-based organizations (CBOs) affect and transform macro- and micro-level processes. Similarly, research on immigrant communities reveals how CBOs help facilitate processes of immigrant incorporation and transnational development in migrants' homelands. Much of the existing scholarship on immigrant CBOs focuses on how 'contexts of reception' in host societies determine the prevalence and effectiveness of immigrant CBOs. However, much of this literature suffers from two key limitations. First, recent scholarship overemphasizes State-centered policies as the primary contextual factor shaping a migrant communities' organizational capacity—thereby overlooking the effects of socioeconomic integration or cultural processes. Second, existing research neglects to explore how different contextual factors affect the experiences and behaviors of immigrant CBOs. Using the case of Pakistani immigrants, this study investigates how State policies, migrants' mode of socioeconomic incorporation, and racialized stigma shape the composition and experiences of Pakistani immigrant CBOs in Toronto and New York City. Data were gathered through a combination of strategies: analyses of U.S, Canadian, and U.K. census data; 131 semi-structured, in-depth interviews; over 200 hours of participant observation; and an original database of all registered Pakistani nonprofit organizations across the three cities, which was constructed through intensive web-based content analysis of organizations' directories, websites, and mission statements. Findings reveal that the size, activities, and geographical focus of Pakistani organizations are strongly shaped by a number of key contextual factors in Toronto and New York. Contrary to arguments presented by earlier research and my own expectations, inclusive Canadian multicultural policies are not positively associated with a larger or more transnationally oriented immigrant nonprofit sector. In effect, the Pakistani nonprofit sector appears to be proportionally much smaller in "multicultural" Toronto than that in New York, where the official policies tend to be *laissez faire* and assimilationist. Additionally, I find that a moral panic and stigma linking Pakistanis to terrorism has taken root in all three cities, creating external pressures on Pakistani CBOs to model themselves after larger secular and mainstream secular and Christian organizations. This effort to mimic non-Pakistani mainstream organizations in order to manage stigma and increase organizational legitimacy is interpreted as a case of *coercive institutional isomorphism*. This processes of isomorphism, in turn, increases administrative costs, which ultimately constrain organizations' abilities to fulfill their missions and goals, related to incorporation and/or transnational development. Thus, global stigma makes it difficult for Pakistani organizations to serve their communities in London, Toronto and New York and promote social change in Pakistan

CHIARALUCE, CARA

Dissertation Title: *Missing Pieces of the Autism Puzzle: Caregiver Narratives of Identity & Healthcare Empowerment*

Committee Chair: Ming-Cheng Lo, Sociology

Committee Members: Diane Wolf, Sociology
Debora Paterniti, Sociology

Abstract:

Drawing on in-depth semi-structured interviews and two years of participation observation, I explore the complex socio-political experience associated with caring for a child with an ambiguous, contested, and pervasive medical disorder, which characterizes autism/ASD today. Told through illness narratives, I show how family stories of self-identity and social life inform healthcare empowerment practices, which are both shaped by, and seek to challenge, mainstream medical practice and dominant cultural discourses about the disorder itself. Particular emphasis is placed on caregiver's reconstruction of self and identity transformation through chaos-to-quest narratives, lay advocacy and community-based empowerment practices, as well as the significant role that dominant cultural discourses on invisibility, deviance, and medicalization play in this highly nuanced social caring experience. Using a chronic illness narrative approach, I develop a theoretical framework of healthcare empowerment by specifying the dynamics and modes through which empowerment is practiced empirically-- how parents fight for a child's diagnosis, educate themselves, secure support services for their children and themselves, and create extensive lay networks based on embodied knowledge. Together, these mechanisms function to subvert dominant healthcare practices and top-down knowledge production and dissemination between professionals and caregivers, and create a collective identity. I argue that patients and caregivers use narratives to think through and to make sense of what the illness experience means to them, what they need and want, and how they feel limited, constrained, or enabled and empowered in medical and healthcare encounters. My research brings relevance to both the micro- and meso-scales by conceptualizing individual, subjective illness narratives as, at least in part, informed by meso-level dynamics-- in particular, collective illness identity formation and empowerment practices grounded in the home, family, local community, and national support networks. This study contributes vital, yet missing, pieces to the autism puzzle, which currently focuses on prevention, the fight for a so-called "cure," and the role of vaccines in disorder prevalence. In the meantime, families are living with autism each day and are struggling for cultural understanding and medical legitimacy, and to secure adequate support services.

HALPIN, BRIAN

Dissertation Title: *From Precarity to Employability: Third Wave Marketization and the Fictitious Commodification of Labor*

Committee Chair: Victoria Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Christopher Benner, Human Ecology

Abstract:

My dissertation examines the mechanisms that low-wage, precariously positioned workers develop to mitigate the deleterious aspects of their employment (poverty level wages, volatility, lack of security). Research on low-wage employment often depicts low-wage workers as victims of unrelenting economic changes — the expansion of a neoliberal employment regime has torn asunder the standard employment relationship. Yet the idea that the New Deal employment relationship applied to workers from across the occupational hierarchy is itself questionable. However, the transformation of employment since the 1970's — what some working in the tradition of Karl Polanyi have called third-wave marketization — has unquestionably intensified the fictitious commodification of labor. Since the late 1970's employment relations based on New Deal era norms and institutions have become radically destabilized and transformed. In this project I look at the consequences of the fictitious commodification of labor in an era of turbulent unpredictability by examining class specific forms of employability. A key feature of third-wave marketization is the individualization of employment and the shortening of time-horizons, which coupled with increased precariousness, reinforces workers' strategies of employability. As workers seek to mitigate and navigate the new realities of contemporary employment, enhancing ones employability becomes a key strategy. Moreover, as work becomes increasingly individualized – through the erosion of unions and collective voice on the shop floor, and the new entrepreneurial spirit of employment – employability becomes another individualized component of the new world of work.

RULLO, JOANNA

Dissertation Title:

Committee Chair: Laura Grindstaff, Sociology
Committee Members: Victoria Smith, Sociology
Grace Wang, American Studies

Abstract:

RYAN, KRYSTI

Dissertation Title: *Parenting Outside the Gender Box: Raising Gender-Nonconforming Children in a Binary World*

Committee Chair: Kimberlee Shauman, Sociology
Committee Members: Mary Jackman, Sociology
Vicki Smith, Sociology
Linda Blum, Sociology at Northeastern University

Abstract: Sociology of Family and Care Work scholars have long recognized the tasks associated with parenting as a unique form of unpaid labor. Not surprisingly, research indicates that this labor is exacerbated in families with children who have special needs. Often, parents of disabled children face significant social censure if they do not consistently and tirelessly engage in work to assist their children in overcoming obstacles and improving their future prospects. As a result, they see care work as necessarily extending beyond efforts to facilitate enrichment opportunities within the home to include aggressive intervention in institutional settings to make

sure that their children are being treated equally and afforded the same opportunities as other children. While trans* and gender-nonconforming children are not often considered special needs population, they are a population with unique needs as a result of high levels of stigmatization, discrimination and differential treatment, which is likely to impact the labor associated with parenting. This dissertation project will examine the unique aspects of care work associated with raising a gender-nonconforming or trans-identified child using semi-structured, in depth interviews to experiences of parents with gender-nonconforming children. In particular, this study will focus on parents interactions with social institutions, such as schools or medical providers, that may be unsupportive of or uneducated about gender identities that do not support the binary. This dissertation will also explore how parents understand their child's gender-nonconformity and how it contributes to the way they approach parenting. This study will contribute both to a deeper understanding of what it means to "do" parenting, as well to the overall health and safety of gender-nonconforming children by highlighting the ways that social institutions can be targeted as sites for promoting gender tolerance.