

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14:
CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE ABD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CA, DAVIS**

All faculty are from UC Davis unless otherwise noted

Name: Ethan Evans

Dissertation Title: “The Affordable Care Act: Evolution of Support Infrastructure in the American Welfare State”

Committee Chair: Thomas Beamish, Sociology

Committee Members: Drew Halfman, Sociology
Ryken Grattet, Sociology
Dean Heather Young, Betty Moore School of Nursing

Abstract:

In 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), "Obamacare," became law. Supporters heralded health reform as a giant step forward, furthering the promise of America. The opposition warned that reform was dangerous, a socialist revolution. Despite conflicting accounts, the ACA certainly expands involvement of private organizations, both for- and non-profit, in the social safety net. In this project, I will investigate the institutional “support infrastructure” of health care as molded by the ACA. This project reflects interest in Social Welfare, Medical Sociology, and Organizations and Institutions by exploring the Affordable Care Act, its design and implementation, for what it reveals about contemporary conceptions of poverty, social welfare, and social welfare provision. Especially, I seek to better understand the meaning of this historic expansion and the transformation of the welfare state reflected by the heavy engagement/integration of state, civic and market spheres in governing health care access and delivery.

I will focus within the domains of enrollment assistance, care coordination and provider experience in California – a state with the greatest number of pre-ACA uninsured residents, 7 million, and the seventh largest percentage of uninsured residents under age 65. With this dissertation, I investigate new arrangements of actors under a mixed welfare network, a further development in a history of reluctance, which transforms the state/citizen contract in America. The objective is to learn about how the support infrastructure of the US welfare state is changing at an organizational level.

Name: Carmen Fortes

Dissertation Title: “Aging in the Gay Mecca: A Field Study of San Francisco's Castro Neighborhood in the Early 21st Century”

Committee Co-Chairs: Bruce Haynes, Sociology; Mary Jackman, Sociology

Committee Members: Bill McCarthy, Sociology
Maxine Craig, Women & Gender Studies

Abstract:

The Castro neighborhood in San Francisco is widely known as ‘the gay capital of the world.’ Well documented in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) literature, the Castro has attained almost mythic status as the idealized center of gay sexual expression and freedom. While much is known about the Castro’s rise as a central site of the gay rights movement in the latter portion of the 20th century, little is known about the lived experiences of the Castro's eldest residents, and denizens in the early 21st century. This segment of the population has likely participated in and/or witnessed the early post-Stonewall era gay rights movement and are now experiencing the aging process through the lens of persons who are part of a marginalized sexual minority group albeit in an era of greater acceptance. I use multiple sources of data including direct and participant observation; informal and semi-structured interviews in order to explore the social worlds of LGBT elders. The present study attempts fill in the gaps in the literature regarding the daily lived experiences of older queer folk who either live in or regularly frequent the Castro.

Name: Sam Haraway

Dissertation Title: “The Tour de Technoscience: Lance Armstrong and the Sociology of the Techno-Athlete”

Committee Chair: Patrick Carroll, Sociology

Committee Members: John R. Hall, Sociology
Simon Sadler, Design

Abstract: My dissertation is a socio-historical study of the “techno-athlete” that treats Lance Armstrong’s seven-consecutive Tour de France victories (1999-2005) and doping controversy as a case by which to reexamine questions concerning subjectivity, agency, and doping in sport. I first reconstruct sport as “trials of strength” (Latour 1988) between heterogenous actor-networks. Far from competitions between human individuals or symbolic representations of the “pure” body, what I call “techno-sport” is anchored in the assemblages of laboratories, materials, bodies, knowledge, institutions, sponsorships, and so on, by which contemporary sport unfolds. I then explore Armstrong’s training for the 1999-2005 Tours de France as *translations of the self* by which aerodynamic science, nutrition regimes, clothing and equipment designs, periodized training methods, and blood-boosting techniques (by PEDs and altitude training alike), generate

a techno-athlete who is at once distributed and centered by a heterogeneous network (Mialet 2012). By understanding sport as a material and collective process we can escape the myth of the singularized, heroic athlete around which the biopolitics of anti-doping expands today. I ask, what becomes of skilled performances, the subjectivity and agency of the contemporary athlete, in light of the heterogeneous collectivities through which contemporary sport unfolds?

Name: Jennifer Kutzleb

Dissertation Title: “Creating Impactful Science and the Rise of Market Logic in Ireland”

Committee Chair: Fred Block, Sociology

Committee Members: Jim Griesmer, Philosophy
Drew Halfmann, Sociology
Vicki Smith, Sociology

Abstract:

Over the last three decades, science has transformed from an economic resource to an economic engine and driver of economic development. While network collaboration between science and industry, and government intervention has been found to play a key role in generating economic growth through innovation, how these collaborations should be achieved and how governments should play a role is less understood. This study examine one of Ireland's most successful university-industry research centers, which is aggressively pursuing a promising, although controversial, area of research and innovation: the brain-gut-microbiota axis. This research center looks to connect the gut bacteria to mental health and mental illness. Using archival data and in-depth interviews with key Irish stakeholders, I examine how government intervention and collaborative networks, between the scientific community and industry, shapes emerging scientific fields, produces commercially viable scientific innovations and catalyzes economic growth.

With this study, I found that Irish government agencies, adopting the idea of science as economic engine, are increasingly demanding science research have economic and societal impact, especially after the 2008 economic crisis. Scientists, working within government funded university-industry research centers, must carefully navigate this new market logic and the more established, and often competing, logic of science - the idea of pursuing science for the sake of knowledge regardless of its application. These scientists, however, do not passively accept government mandates. Instead, they negotiate and reinterpret these two logics and often "talk back" to government agencies. In turn, government agencies often flexibly adapt to scientists' push back and reshape policies. I argue that while the initial push for impact came from the Irish government, the rhetoric, metrics and expectations that define these impacts are "co-created", although not equally, by government agencies, industry and the scientific community and that the created narrative shapes the Irish innovation system and policy.

Name: Kelsey D. Meagher

Dissertation Title: *Dangerous Diets: Food Safety Governance in a Globalized World*

Committee Chair: Tom Beamish, Sociology

Committee Members: Xiaoling Shu, Sociology
Nicole Woolsey Biggart, Graduate School of Management

Abstract:

This dissertation explores how different constituents define and pursue food safety and identifies structural factors leading to stricter standards and enforcement. I examine contemporary food safety governance at three critical stages of the supply chain: production, regulation, and consumption of foodborne risks. First, I investigate the social and economic factors associated with the introduction of contaminants into the global food supply by modeling cross-national variations in compliance with U.S. food safety standards for pathogens and pesticide residues. Next, I analyze the regulation of foodborne risks, with particular attention to the role of foodborne disease outbreaks in triggering governance reforms. Using semi-structured interviews and supplemental archival materials, I reconstruct the development and legacy of the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) following the 2006 outbreak of E. coli in California. Finally, I study cultural differences in consumer perceptions of foodborne risks using survey data from the United States and European Union. I expand the literature on consumer risk perception by examining social and cultural influences on consumers' evaluations of foodborne risks, preferred sources of information about foodborne risks, and responses to food safety crises. This research contributes to existing scholarship by exploring the institutional perspectives of key stakeholders in foodborne risk governance and the sociocultural conditions under which "reflexive modernization" occurs (Beck, 1992). Additionally, it explores the impacts of globalization and neoliberalism on contemporary risk governance.

Name: Emerald T. Nguyen

Dissertation Title: *All in the Family? Investigating the Causes and Consequences of Household Extension for Immigrant and U.S. Born Families*

Committee Chair: Erin Hamilton, Sociology (co-chair),
Dina G. Okamoto, Sociology, Indiana University

Committee Members: Kimberlee Shauman, Sociology

Abstract:

The economic recession is changing the way we think about family structure that will have consequences for household members of all ages for years to come. The trend of the last several decades of decreasing household size has reversed: according to recent PEW reports, during the early recession years the percent of multigenerational households rose from 15.4% in 2007 to 16.7% in 2009, and as of 2012, 36% of adults age 18 to 31 (a.k.a 'the millennial generation') are

still living at home with their parents (Fry 2013, Taylor et al. 2011). This trend is problematic from an American ideological perspective that extols autonomy and self-reliance by “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps,” and because of potentially negative impacts to individual well-being when households are doubling up and competing for limited resources. However, the reality is that intergenerational support is increasingly important as aging adults who have seen their financial assets depleted are more reliant on their adult children for living assistance. Young adults are experiencing delays in life course milestones such as employment or home ownership, and find themselves continuing to live with their parents even as they raise their own children. Intergenerational support is particularly critical for immigrants who are often at a resource deficit compared to the U.S.-born; this poses major challenges to their assimilation and upward mobility. Family extension helps to offset economic disadvantage and immigrants have been found to reside in extended households—especially horizontal households that consist of similar-aged kin or non-kin—at much higher proportions than the native-born (Bengston 2001, Blank 1998, Burr and Mutchler 1993, Glick 1999, Glick et al. 1997, Glick and Van Hook 2011). There has been a significant rise in the number of multigenerational and extended households in the U.S. driven by economic uncertainty, rising educational expectations, and changing norms towards marriage. This is coupled with two longer-term demographic changes: (1) increased life-spans leading to a burgeoning elderly population and (2) population diversity and growth due to immigration. The aging of the ‘baby boom’ generation has coincided with successive waves of immigrants since the 1960s and a diversification of U.S. racial and ethnic composition by groups from Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

How has the confluence of these demographic, cultural and economic forces affected American families, and what are the implications of these factors on individuals’ well-being and chances at mobility?

In this dissertation project, I will utilize a unique mixed-method approach to address important questions about the nature of American families before and during the recession period, focusing specifically on this increasingly important household form. I will combine complex statistical models along with in-depth, semi-structured interviews to better understand the causes and consequences of household extension among immigrant and U.S.-born individuals. The findings from this project have broad implications that speak to long-term socioeconomic consequences not only for older household members, but for the mobility of young adults over the next few decades as they struggle with the increased economic instability and occupational insecurity that have led to a shrinking middle class. It also adds a much needed perspective to the debate about the definition of “the Family” by focusing on a household structure other than the traditional two-parent model, while not relegating the extended family to the same category of ‘fragile family’ as has been done with single-parent and cohabiting households.