

Speaking Sociologically

Department of Sociology, UC Davis

Fall 2006

From the Chair: Reflections on the New Academic Year . . .

There is a whirlwind of activity in the Department of Sociology! We are fortunate to have two new junior faculty, for one thing. Natalia Deeb-Sossa and Michael McQuarrie join us from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and New York University, respectively. You can learn more about their research and teaching interests on Page 4. As they have moved into our department there have been a number of other spatial moves, with MSO Mary Dixon choreographing many office exchanges and renovations like a pro. This herculean task appears to be completed – for now, anyway.

Ryken Grattet, John Hall, and Bill McCarthy are rejoining the department, after sojourns at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Sacramento, the Education Abroad Program in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the University of Toronto, Canada – all foreign territories in their own way. We hope to hire three more faculty members this year: a social psychologist and two historical comparative sociologists.

We have an outstanding entering cohort of nine graduate students, including students from around the nation and one from Spain. And of course, we have new leadership, with Diane Felmlee serving as Vice-Chair and Director of Graduate Studies and myself serving as – well, my position has been described as Chair, but also as psychologist, legal consultant, broker, career advisor, social director, and parent, depending on who's giving the pep talk. (I've been known to give child-rearing advice but, sorry, I'm no expert when it comes to retirement, marital, or tax counseling.)

(Reflections cont'd. next page)

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There is a higher order whirlwind on the UC Davis campus, as well. UCD is opening its doors to the largest group of freshman ever, with approximately 5,500 of them moving into dorms and apartments as I write this. Our department has over 800 majors and sociology is the sixth largest major on campus. In fact, it is useful for all of us to know that of the top eleven majors on our campus, seven of those are in the social sciences (psychology, economics, communications, sociology, political science, international relations, and history, in that order – (http://facts.ucdavis.edu/largest_undergraduate_majors_by_degrees_conferred.lasso). We carry a lot of weight when it comes to teaching and serving undergraduate students. Keep in mind, as we do our research, write our articles and books, get our grants, work with other faculty, staff and graduate students, and carry out our committee work, that our teaching is at the core of everything and that we are significantly impacted by these larger currents on the campus.

What are some of my goals this year? My own hope is that our department can be a positive, constructive working environment for all of us. Partly this means trying to maintain a high level of citizenship, where we strive to respect each others' work (including the work of staff) and give each other the personal and intellectual space to do it. Partly it means staying focused on what matters: teaching, doing research, and taking care of the business of governing our department as well as the university. Finally, for me, it means always being mindful of the discipline, connecting to people outside our campus, getting feedback and support from them, and using connections to others as a resource and as a way of keeping sight of the big picture. Ambitious goals, I know – but hope springs eternal and no one ever accused me of being a pessimist!

I plan to work in the new Chair's office on the first floor of the department on a regular basis (you can find my office hours on the department web site). I always welcome people to stop in and/or to make an appointment to talk. I'd like to thank everyone on the staff for creating a supportive atmosphere on the first floor and for putting up with having a department chair in their midst. Here's to a great and productive year for all.

Vicki Smith
Chair, Sociology Department

Babies!

- ✓ Saavarna, born to Sangha Niyogi and her partner, May 20, 2006.
- ✓ Sophia, born to Carolina Apesoa-Varano and Charlie Varano, October 18, 2005.
- ✓ Kina, born to Xiaoling and Dong Shu, August 30, 2006.
- ✓ Nicola, born to John Hall and Jenny Broom, September 24, 2005.
- ✓ Adrian, born to Marian Negoita and his partner, May 5, 2006.

And more on the way:

Forthcoming from Tom Beamish and Jacqueline Romo, and Patrick Carroll and Veronique Remulla. ✓✓

Faculty Activities

Patrick Carroll's book *Science, Culture, and Modern State Formation* has just been published by the University of California Press. He organized "Culture, Materiality, and the Modern City," a regular session for the Sociology of Culture Section, at the 2006 ASA meetings, Montreal.

Diane Felmlee received a National Science Foundation grant, along with Co-PI's, E. Ferrer, K. Widaman, and F. Hsieh. The grant, "Dynamics of Human Behavior: Modeling the Dynamics of Dyadic Interactions," is for a three-year period and totals \$722,334. In addition, this past spring Diane was elected to the position of Chair of the Mathematical Sociology Section of the ASA. She will serve as Chair-Elect in 2006-07 and take over as Chair in 2007-08.

Ryken Grattet was the 2006 recipient of the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Practice, given by the Pacific Sociological Association.

On the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, **John Hall** presented a paper entitled "Apocalypse and History" at a conference held at King's College, London, on "Dying for Faith: Religiously Motivated Violence in the Contemporary World."

Bruce Haynes's book, *Red Lines, Black Spaces*, is being issued in paperback this fall by Yale University Press.

Carole Joffe was a 2006 recipient of the UC Davis Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award. At a luncheon at Chancellor Vanderhoef's residence, Carole was honored for her extensive scholarly contributions outside the university in the fields of medicine and reproductive rights.

Over the past several months, **David Kyle** gave invited lectures on his migration research at UCLA, Tulane, Princeton, University of Florida, Duke, UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies, UC Multi-Campus Research Unit of World History (keynote speaker), and at foreign universities or research centers in Sweden, Denmark, Ecuador, and The Republic of Moldova. Recent media interviews include *Wired Magazine*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Newsweek International*, and a live interview on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's news program, "The Hour."

David recently published "Seeing the State like a Migrant: Why So Many Non-Criminals Break Immigration Laws" (with Christina Siracusa) in *(Il)licit Flows of People, Objects, and Ideas* (Willem van Schendel and Itty Abraham, eds.), Indiana University Press. He is currently working on a related book and the 2nd Edition of *Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives*.

Ming-cheng M. Lo, Christopher P. Bettinger, and Yun Fan have a forthcoming article in *Social Justice*, entitled, "Deploying Weapons of the Weak in Civil Society: Political Culture in Hong Kong and Taiwan." Ming-cheng was married to Paul Bergin (of the UCD Economics Department) here in Davis on September 9. Our best wishes to both of them.

Heartfelt congratulations also to **Dina Okamoto** who married Chris Pelton in Tucson, Arizona in May of this year. Dina has two forthcoming publications: "Institutional Panethnicity: Boundary Formation in Asian American Organizing" in *Social Forces* and "The Opportunities and Costs of Voice and Exit: Modeling Ethnic Group Rebellion and Emigration" in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (with Rima Wilkes). (Congratulations on that, too!)

Deb Paterniti has been awarded an 18-month grant for a study of Breast Cancer Prevention in Slavic Immigrant Women (\$167,359) by the California Breast Cancer Research Program. Deb recently published "From Physician-Centered to Community-Oriented Perspectives on Health Care: Assessing the Efficacy of Community-based Training" with co-authors from the medical school, in *Academic Medicine*. Deb just finished a two-year term as co-chair of the Health, Health Services, and Health Policy division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Xiaoling Shu's project, entitled "Globalization and Value Orientations in China: Gender, Family, Marriage and Sexual Norms" has been awarded \$18,200 by the Faculty Research Grant Program to Promote Extramural Funding, Academic Senate, UC Davis. This past spring Xiaoling was elected to the Council of the Section on Asia and Asian Americans of the American Sociological Association.

Last but not least, Xiaoling, husband Dong, and daughter Kasey were joined by daughter Kina, born August 30, 2006. All are happy and healthy.

Vicki Smith recently received a Spencer Foundation Grant for \$28,500 for a study of high school counselors in Northern California. She also has a book contract with Cornell/ILR Press for *The Good Temp*, which she is co-authoring with former grad student Estee Neuwirth. *The Good Temp* examines the diffusion and normalization of temporary employment in the late twentieth century.

Vicki was a key note speaker at the California-Nevada Conference of United Methodist Women, Sacramento; her talk was entitled "Minimum Wage Politics in California." For a feature on the minimum wage in California, she was also interviewed by Dave Walker and Lois Hart on KCRA News.

Diane Wolf is serving as the Chair of the University of California Press Editorial Board, effective July 1, 2006. During 2006-07 Diane also will direct the Jewish Studies Program.

Welcome New Faculty:

Natalia Deeb-Sossa, a sociologist from Bogotá, Colombia who comes to use with a Ph.D from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has conducted research in social psychology, symbolic interaction, race, class and gender, and methodology. Her work makes contributions to substantive issues in inequality. She has used both qualitative methods (fieldwork, in-depth interviews, focus groups) and quantitative methods. Her dissertation is a study of health care workers and clients in a private, not-for-profit health care center. Through participant observation and in-depth interviews she analyzed how workers reproduce – or resist reproducing – inequalities of race, class and gender in their interactions with each other and in their daily work with the poor, especially Latinas/os. This fall Natalia teaches a graduate seminar on social psychology of inequality and an undergraduate class on social interaction.

From **Michael McQuarrie**: I come to UC Davis after developing interests in urban sociology, political sociology, and social theory at New York University. My dissertation uses the transformation of urban community-based organizations over the last 25 years to examine questions related to civil society and the reconstruction of urban governance. Prior to arriving at NYU I received a M.A. in history from Duke University. In between stints in graduate school I worked as lead organizer for hospital organizing at District 1199 WV/OH/KY--Service Employees International Union and as associate organizer of South Bronx Churches, an Industrial Areas Foundation affiliate. I have been married to Rachel Brickman for six years and we have an 18-month old daughter, Maude. (In the winter,

Michael will teach a graduate seminar on Urban Sociology.)

And Welcome New and Continuing Fall Lecturers:

We are indebted to our lecturers, both new and returning. They bring valuable expertise and experience to our undergraduate curriculum and we hugely depend on their efforts.

Continuing lecturers include **Thomas Burr** (teaching sociological theory), **David Gharaglozou** (sociology of religion and political economy of fundamentalism), **Ellis Jones** (mass communications), **Kerstin Lück** (immigration and opportunity, intercultural relations in multicultural societies), **Lalia Kiburi** (social stratification), **Helen Roland** (economic sociology), and **Norm Skonovd** (deviance).

New to our ranks of lecturers are **Carl Grindstaff** (population) and **Magdi Vanya** (gender).

Others will join us in the winter and spring quarters.

Finally, we welcome back all the members of the Sociology Graduate Group, which now includes **Milmon Harrison**, African American and African Studies; **Rhacel Parrenas**, Asian American Studies; **Luis Guarnizo**, **Bill Lacy**, **Michael Smith**, Community Development; and **Deb Paterniti**, UCD Medical Center. The members of our grad group are a great source of support for our graduate students.

Save these dates!

Thursday, November 16, 2006: Sociologist **Todd Gitlin** will give a colloquium; it will be co-sponsored by Center for History, Society and Culture and Sociology.

And in 2007: ASA President-Elect **Arne Kalleberg** will give a colloquium in our department on Thursday, May 10.

The Lemert Lecture will be held Thursday, May 24 and our special speaker this year will be **Judith Stacey**, currently of New York University and former of UC Davis.

Other colloquia speakers and dates will be announced soon.

Staff News:

Charles McLaughlin attended a web development training conference in San Francisco. He has also been appointed to the campus-wide Technology Infrastructure Forum. Congratulations, Charles!

Graduate Student News

Congratulations to the following graduate students for accomplishments over the last year:

Completion of Qualifying Papers:

Matt Bakker, Teresa Casey, Brian Dick, Lucas Kirkpatrick, David Orzechowicz, Julie Siebens, Julie Setele, and Eric Silva.

Completion of qualifying papers and qualifying exams: **Jaime Becker, Melanie Jones, Demetra Kalogrides, Jesse Rude, Yifei Zhu.**

Completion of PhD: **Magdi Vanya, Heather Kohler Flynn, and Heather Wylie!**



Welcome New Grad Students:

The new cohort of nine students includes **Carmen Fortes, Cara Chiarluce, Valerie Feldman, Jennifer Haylett, Rebeca Ibanez-Martin, John Kincaid, Jason Logan, Genevieve Payne, and Laurie Shlala.**



ASA Alumni/Graduate Student dinner

G.S.S.A. and the Sociology Department co-hosted a dinner for Davis alums and current graduate students at the 2006 ASA annual conference. The dinner was held in the lovely courtyard of a smallish French bistro in Old Montreal. C'était très bien! Alums shared professional development advice about a number of subjects including making the most of a post-doc, negotiating employment contracts, approaching the job market, turning dissertations into books, and strengthening

professional networks.

Many graduate students finished the night feeling a sense of solidarity, hope, and renewed motivation to work hard. Graduate student attendees included **Monica Williams, Jesse Rude, Julie Collins, Melanie Jones, Yifei Zhu, Joan Meyers, Dina Biscotti, Jane Le, and Matt Keller.** Alum attendees included **Maureen Sullivan, Clare Stacey, Jeff Sweat, Jennifer Reich, Eileen Otis, Anna Muraco, Lori Kendal, John Dale, Jennifer Reich, Peter Bahr, Ursula Castellano, and Thomas Burr.** Thanks to **Melanie Jones, Jesse Rude, and Julie Collins-Dogrul** for organizing the event.



Graduate Student Kudos:

Julie Collins-Dogrul is the recipient of the 2006-07 George and Dorothy Zolk Dissertation Fellowship. Julie has a forthcoming article in *Social Science and Medicine* entitled "Managing U.S.-Mexico "Border Health": An Organizational Field Perspective." Finally, she presented papers at the 2006 ASA meetings in Montreal and at the Association for Borderlands Studies Conference in Phoenix. Her article and her conference papers all draw on her dissertation research.

Kim Ebert and **Jesse Rude** published an article with Drew Halfmann, "The Biomedical Legacy in Minority Health Policy-Making, 1975-2002," in *Research in Sociology of Health Care*, 2006.

Valerie Feldman, a member of the incoming cohort, received the Floyd and Mary Schwall Medical Research Fellowship, a multi-year fellowship for students planning to do medical-

related research.

Carmen Fortes, a member of the incoming graduate cohort, is the recipient of a 2006-07 McNair Fellowship.

Melanie Jones and Eric Grodsky have an article forthcoming in *Social Science Research Journal*, entitled "Real and Imagined Barriers to College Entry: Perceptions of Cost."

Jane Le recently received the Consortium for Women and Research Travel Grant, the GSA Travel Grant, and the Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship. She presented her research at this year's ASA meeting in Montreal.

Joan S.M. Meyers' chapter, "Workplace Democracy Comes of Age: Economic Stability, Growth, and Workforce Diversity" appeared in Vicki Smith's edited volume, *Research in the Sociology of Work: Special Issue on Worker Participation* (2006). She also presented some of her dissertation research at the 2006 ASA meetings and survived being the only ethnographic paper among a quantitative panel gathered under the title "Workplace Diversity." Joan's dissertation research was supported over the last year by a generous dissertation fellowship from the University of California Labor and Employment Research Fund.

In Japan collecting data for his dissertation, **Bob Moorehead** has given two papers based on his research, one at Nagoya City University, Nagoya, and the other at Aichi Prefectural University, Nagakute. Bob's Fulbright Fellowship has been extended until November 2006.

Marian Negoita has published a revised version of his area paper. "The Social Bases of Development: Hungary and Romania in

Comparative Perspective," appears in *Socio-Economic Review*, 2006.

In addition to co-authoring the above-mentioned article with Kim Ebert and Drew Halfmann, **Jesse Rude** won the 2006 Mayhew Award for best graduate student qualifying paper, for "Making Friends, Making Selves: How Adolescents Negotiate Racial and Ethnic Identities Through Peer Relationships." Finally, Jesse was the recipient of a 2006-07 UCD Humanities Research Fellowship. Whew! A good year for Jesse!

Laurie Shlala, a member of the incoming cohort, was awarded a 2006-08 Cota-Robles Fellowship.

Macky Yamaguchi was awarded a Pacific Rim Research Program Dissertation Fellowship for 2006-2007. Macky currently is in Japan doing her research.

Placement Update:

Jonathan Isler accepted a tenure-track position at University of Illinois, Springfield.

Anna Muraco accepted a tenure-track position at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles

Estee Neuwirth accepted a position as Program Evaluation Consultant at Kaiser Permanente

Zach Schiller accepted a position as Lecturer at Kent State University

Clare Stacey accepted a tenure-track position at Kent State University

Heather Wylie accepted a tenure-track position at Shasta Community College.

Ethnograd: Notes From Down Under
(The Ongoing Saga)

David Orzechowicz and Julie Siebens

It is odd to be co-writing this between Davis (Julie) and Maui (David). While the distance made the process short and difficult (e-mail access is sketchy in Maui), there was one theme that quickly emerged: Grad student – professor relationships (in the platonic sense. C'mon – let's be professional here.)

More specifically, grad student insecurities about their relationship to the faculty with whom they work.

We've all had these thoughts to varying degrees (except for that one student with an awesome UN career saving malnourished people across the world, great looks, an amazing partner, a child on the way, a laid-back, very realistic, self-assured view on grad school, and who will probably win the lottery the first time he buys a ticket. To the younger cohorts that may not know this person; trust us, you'll know him when you see him.)

Unlike this Superman, the two authors have wondered how interactions with our respective faculty members will play out. In our fantasies they usually include comments from faculty like these:

"Wow. You're stupid." (long awkward pause) "And ugly. Can Superman stand-in for you at today's meeting?"

"You're only here because we need TA's. Badly."

"I'm sorry. What was your name again?"

"Hey, someone's gotta be last in the program. I just wish it wasn't one of my students."

"Of course we value you! You provide a valuable lesson to others in the department by setting an example of what research shouldn't look like."

"You misunderstand: There is NO such thing as a tenured graduate student."

"OK. This department is casual, but we're not THAT casual."

"Remind me again what this dissertation is about."

"Have we met before?"

“Ah yes. You still think you belong here.”

“Your work has brought shame to the entire department. Here is a ceremonial dagger. You know what to do.”

“It’s really nice to have a department mascot.”

“Oh David, I’m glad you’re here. I need your help. I’m trying to find a nice way to tell you that your research is, well, crap.”

"Indulge me one more time. Exactly /WHICH /incident got you banned from future ASA meetings?"

There are also those awkward moments when you TA or otherwise work for your advisor or a committee member, heard in comments like:

“So, are you having a problem understanding the course readings?”

“Why are students coming to me with bruises?”

“You wrote WHAT for this year’s *Ethnograd*?”

“Just fill this flask for me please. And don’t steal any this time.”

“You’re smarter than most of my undergraduates. You should think about applying to grad school. But not here. I don’t think you’d be quite up to it.”

Prof: "After seeing you in discussion section, I imagine you would do well at a community college."

TA: "Really? You think I would make a good teacher there?"

Prof: "Teaching? No, no. I meant attending."

Now granted, some of these statements were never actually uttered. But they (or something similar) still run through our heads for the hour (or day) before we meet advisors or committee members to talk about some aspect of the program which should (and probably could) have been completed at least six months sooner. Luckily there is some comfort when we all acknowledge that we have had some thoughts like these (even if they never manifested).

Authors’ Note: The order of authorship does not indicate the amount of work or creative input for this piece so much as order of blame should readers find this offensive, inappropriate, or just plain dull.

Editor’s Note: Stay tuned for the next *Ethnograd* column, “Party Games for Children of Sociologists.”