

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-09:
CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE ABD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CA, DAVIS**

All faculty are from UC Davis unless otherwise noted

BAKEHORN, JILL

Dissertation Title: *Creating an Authentic Fantasy: How Women-Made Porn Constructs “Real” Sex*

Committee Chair: Laura Grindstaff, Sociology

Committee Members: Lyn Lofland, Sociology
Maxine Craig, Women and Gender Studies

Abstract:

I draw upon my qualifying paper research which examined women's narratives of sex-positive feminism in the context of making pornography as a form of activism. I further explore how activist ideologies are not only articulated, but negotiated and refined in the process of making commercial films. A key part feature of the work done by these women is the focus on authenticity. My dissertation explores why and how these narratives of authenticity are constructed as well as put into practice. Authenticity is an important way for the women in my study to set themselves and their work apart from the mainstream industry and involves making identity claims as well as featuring “real” bodies doing “real” things. I utilized qualitative methods including in-depth, semi-structured interviews as well as fieldwork.

BAKKER, MATT

Dissertation Title: *Neoliberal Coalitions and Migrating Subjects: An Examination of the Remittances-to-Development Agenda in North America*

Committee Chair: Michael Peter Smith, Human and Community Development

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Luis Eduardo Guarnizo, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

This dissertation project explores a central paradox of contemporary migration governance efforts across the globe: as migration has gained visibility in policy making arenas in recent years, it has simultaneously been celebrated as a key contributor to global development and bemoaned as a social problem that needs to be eradicated. The dissertation examines a complex of migration-related policies and practices currently being deployed across North America that brings these two seemingly contradictory representations into alignment within a single political agenda. The project interrogates a set of policy discourses and practices that I term the “remittances-to-development agenda,” which is sustained by a loose coalition of U.S. and Mexican government agencies, international financial organizations, U.S.-based foundations, and organized migrant groups and is focused on putting an end to future Mexican emigration by channeling contemporary migrant remittance flows towards economic development in Mexico’s migrant-sending regions. The project adopts a transnational ethnographic approach combining fieldwork at a number of key sites across Mexico and the United States. The ultimate goals of the project are three-fold: 1) to explain the forces at work in constructing and giving content to the remittances-to-

development agenda; 2) to examine the concrete practices and institutional structures putting the agenda into place; and 3) to analyze the impact of the agenda as it comes into contact on the ground with the migrants and the residents of Mexico's migrant-sending regions who are its ultimate targets.

BECKER, JAIME

Dissertation Title: *Seeing the Forest: Global Gender Inequality*

Committee Chair: Fred Block, Sociology

Committee Members: Drew Halfmann, Sociology

Jack Goldstone, School of Public Policy, George Mason University

Abstract:

Gender systems have been in place across remarkably different societies and cultures across both space and time. Despite the varying content, structures, and organization of these systems, what remains nearly universal is a binary relational system of gender that produces inequality, to varying degrees, between women and men. Scholars find that gains in equality on one axis or another (i.e. proportional participation in the paid labor market or formal legislative equality) do not fundamentally change structures and ideologies of inequality. Thus far, no clear map has emerged to elucidate the tenacity of gender systems in the face of change. More and better empirical analyses of the mechanisms that perpetuate inequality in the realm of politics, the economy, and cultural ideology are needed. This dissertation research will begin to take on the challenge through a multi-method analysis of gender inequality on a global scale. Through quantitative data, I will identify salient indicators of gender in/equality to create an index by nation state. Using qualitative paired case comparisons I will generate hypotheses about why nation states fall where they do on the in/equality index. Key gendered variables will be used to test hypotheses through statistical regressions. I hope to construct a robust causal model that will guide social movement, economic development, and state policy-making activity in producing greater gender equality.

BISCOTTI, DINA

Dissertation Title: *University-Industry Relationships in the Field of Agricultural Biotechnology*

Committee Chair: William Lacy, Community and Regional Development

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

Leland Glenna, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology,
Pennsylvania State University

Abstract:

In my dissertation I will analyze in-depth interviews with over 200 scientists and administrators from nine U.S. universities and thirty agricultural biotechnology companies to address the following research questions: Is there evidence of increasing organizational homogenization or differentiation between universities and private companies in the field of agricultural biotechnology? What are the interests of academic and industry scientists and administrators in the field of agricultural biotechnology and what are the means by which they pursue these interests? These questions are of sociological significance for scholars of science, organizations and institutions and of broader social significance for those concerned with commercial influence on academic science in fields like agricultural biotechnology. Many scholars of university-industry relationships assert that the institutional boundaries between academic and

commercial science in knowledge-intensive fields like biotechnology are becoming blurred. However, when a field is comprised of organizations embedded in historically variant institutional contexts, institutional legitimacy may hinge on the capacity of certain types of organizations to distinguish themselves from other types of organizations in a field. The predicted homogenization of organizations within a field must be subjected to extensive empirical investigation. DiMaggio and Powell claim that organizations in a field may be diverse along some dimensions while homogeneous along others. I hypothesize that organizational homogenization will occur between organizations in a field along dimensions that enhance their institutional legitimacy and be resisted along dimensions that threaten their institutional legitimacy.

CASEY, TERESA

Dissertation Title: *Don't Do the Crime if You Can't....Deal With the Repercussions From Your Friends and Family*

Committee Chair: Bill McCarthy, Sociology

Committee Members: Diane Felmlee, Sociology

Larry Cohen, Sociology

Eric Grodsky, Sociology, University of Minnesota

Abstract:

Most research in crime and delinquency focuses on how relationships either prevent or encourage crime. This approach ignores the reverse process: the ways in which offending impacts relationships. My dissertation will examine the effects of offending on relationships and will address three other oversights in the literature: I will examine the effects of crime on several types of relationships; I will examine alternative forms of certain relationships (e.g., marriage and cohabitation); and I will examine crime's effect on relationships in a nationally representative sample of males and females. Using the life-course perspective as my theoretical framework, my research will focus on three topics that will form the basis for three papers: 1) offending's impact on the quality of relationships with parents; 2) crime's affect on friendship duration and quality; and 3) offending's influence on romantic relationship type, duration, stability, and quality. In each chapter I will compare alternative relationship formats to more traditional ones, determine if effects are specific to particular types of crime, examine if crime's consequences vary as respondents age and explore the possibility of interaction effects. My dissertation will use data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), a nationally representative probability sample of adolescents in grades 7-12 in the United States between the years 1994-2002. The study used a stratified sampling approach to ensure that respondents are representative in terms of region, urbanicity, school type and size, and ethnicity. I will use OLS, logit and other approaches to model my outcomes. I will explore the use of multiple imputation to deal with missing data. Where appropriate, my analyses will also model for selection into a particular type of relationship.

COLLINS, GREG (PhD 2009)

Dissertation Title: *Connected: Developing Somalia's Telecoms Industry in the Wake of State Collapse*

Committee Chair: John Walton, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

Donald Donhem, Anthropology

Abstract:

In part, the improbable success of Somalia's telecoms industry is explained by advances in telecoms technology such as mobile phones and pre-paid calling as these reduced the institutional burdens associated with protecting landline infrastructure and enforcing post-paid accounts. The extraordinary demand for telecoms in Somalia and the peculiar, but highly favorable structure of payment through which telecoms companies around the world compensate one another for landing international calls on each other's networks also played an important role. Yet, above all, it is attributable to the strengths of Somali society and its ability to provide functional substitutes for the roles development-enabling states play in their economies. These same strengths also account for the collapse of the Somali state and the failure of internationally-backed efforts to rebuild it, mirroring Hyden's (2006a) argument that an 'economy of affection' has permeated state institutions throughout Africa, weakened their bureaucratic logic, and replaced it with a logic of connections that manifests itself as patronage, corruption, tribalism and the like. However, the success of Somalia's telecoms industry and the broader opportunities for development enabled by it also gave rise to an alternative, Islamic state (re)building movement that built upon the strengths of Somali society so evident in the telecoms case, rather than attempting to suppress, subvert and supplant them. Unfortunately for Somalia and Somalis, the U.S. viewed the prospect of an Islamic Somali state as an even greater terrorist threat than Somalia remaining collapsed or descending back into civil war.

DICK, BRIAN

Dissertation Title: *Untying String Theory: A Sociological Analysis of a Theory of Everything*

Committee Chair: John R. Hall, Sociology
Committee Members: Patrick Carroll, Sociology
Don Palmer, Graduate School of Management
Joe Dumit, Anthropology

Abstract:

My dissertation explores the "bizarre" history of superstring theory in theoretical particle physics. I have distinguished three important periods in the history of superstring theory. Each of these provides sociological insights into the workings of science: I examine the nature of rejected science, how a scientific theory comes to be viewed as credible, and the ways in which rhetoric is employed in credibility contests during scientific controversies. The early history of string theory had properties similar to other cases of rejected science researched by sociologists, such as cold fusion and the detection of gravity waves. Although string theory had initially arisen in the late 1960s as a theory of the strong force, it was abandoned by most of its initial proponents with the development of Quantum Chromodynamics. Nonetheless, a small group of physicists continued to work on the theory, having become convinced that a certain formulation of string theory may be able to provide a quantum account of gravity. This lonely pursuit would pay off a decade later when physicists began to view string theory as a worthy pursuit in the mid-1980s, a period that has come to be known as the "first superstring revolution." There were a conjunction of factors responsible for the theory's quick acceptance and the subsequent "bandwagon effect" that took place as a large number of physicists began working on the theory. As string theory became very popular in theoretical particle physics, it simultaneously became the subject of controversy. The theory does not make any experimentally testable predictions leading many physicists to question whether string theory can be considered a science or something more akin to mathematics, or even philosophy. I look at the ways in which the disciplinary boundaries of physics are rhetorically demarcated.

EBERT, KIM

Dissertation Title: *Racialized Organizations, 1950-2000*

Committee Chair: Mary Jackman, Sociology

Committee Members: Bruce Haynes, Sociology

Dina Okamoto, Sociology

Tyrone Forman, Sociology and African American Studies; Institute of Government and Public Affairs; Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago

Abstract:

I seek to analyze the conditions that encourage the formation of “racialized” organizations between 1950 and 2000. This sample of organizations includes the spectrum of racial, ethnic, and national organizations, including radical white extremist groups, less radical white supremacist groups, racial and ethnic minority groups, racially conservative organizations, and white ethnic and/or immigrant organizations. My goals in this project are twofold. First, I plan to document the trends in racialized protest, advocacy, and service organizations during the second half of the twentieth century. Second, I plan to analyze some of the patterns revealed by the initial description. Using data from *The Encyclopedia of Associations* (and supplemented with additional organizational databases) and the U.S. Census, I will address two questions: What conditions encourage the formation of “racialized” protest, advocacy, and service organizations? Does the formation and presence of racial-ethnic minority organizations spark the formation of racially conservative (such as the “colorblind”) organizations?

HERNANDEZ, JESUS

Dissertation Title: *Three Shades of Red: Mortgage Redlining and the Crisis of Social Reproduction in Sacramento*

Committee Chair: Michael Peter Smith, Community and Regional Development

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

Bruce Haynes, Sociology

Gregory Squires, George Washington University

Abstract:

This dissertation shows how historically race-based patterns of residential segregation and suburbanization are intrinsically connected to the subprime loan and foreclosure crisis we see today. To demonstrate this connection, I use a case study of mortgage lending patterns in Sacramento, California, a metropolitan area noted for its diverse population but a place that is currently experiencing one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation. Three critical points highlight this research. First, highly influenced by the real estate industry, federal housing policy created the institutional framework necessary for both residential segregation and contemporary subprime lending to take place via market structures. Second, housing policy created a series of structural conditions that isolated some communities from social, political and economic networks, thus leaving them vulnerable to economic disaster. Finally, this case study of Sacramento shows that the roots of the current housing crisis are found in residential segregation and bank deregulation. Accordingly, this case study demonstrates how the combination of historical and contemporary housing policies left racially segregated neighborhoods vulnerable to capital extraction and the resulting economic and social catastrophes brought on by the

meltdown of the globally leveraged deregulated subprime loan industry.

JONES, MELANIE

Dissertation Title: *Information Matters: How Class Shapes College Knowledge Among African Americans*

Committee Chair: Mary Jackman and Dina Okamoto, Sociology
Committee Members: Bruce Haynes, Sociology
Eric Grodsky, Sociology, University of Minnesota
Patricia Gandara, School of Education, UCLA

Abstract:

Past research shows that increased levels of college information are associated with higher college aspirations and rates of attendance. However, we know little about how social class influences access to and use of college information among African Americans. This project examines how the social class background of African American high school students shapes the ways in which they obtain and use college information from sources both within and outside of high school. I use ethnographic methods, interviews, and observations at a public high school in California to study ninth- and eleventh-grade African American students and their parents, teachers, and counselors over the course of about two school years. I provide a unique approach to studying the interplay of structure and agency, as well as the activation of cultural and social capital, in how students gain and use college information to make college choices. I contribute to past research on college choice by showing that quantity and quality of college information matters, but that college information is most profitable when students know how to use it to their advantage. I also show that working-class African Americans are particularly sensitive to using college information sources outside of high school, such as family, friend, and community networks, which is influential for research on the role of race and class in access to and use of social ties.

KELLER, MATT (PhD 2008)

Dissertation Title: *The Socio-Cultural Basis of Governance Discourses: Global Intellectual Culture and the Shifting Terrain of Official Explanations of Collective Violence*

Committee Chair: Fred Block, Sociology
Committee Members: Patrick Carroll, Sociology
John Walton, Sociology
Sean O’Riain, Sociology, National University of Ireland – Maynooth

Abstract:

For more than two centuries, democratic states have deployed prominent commissions of inquiry to investigate a host of controversial issues. Commission narratives have often critically shaped new legislative initiatives, framed public and policy debates, and stimulated academic research programs. Commission reports have also generated resistance: accusations of a one-sided “whitewash” have often provided a substantial impetus for the generation of counter-narratives, and bolstered the work of a host of social movements. Commissions have, nevertheless, been largely overlooked in much socio-historical research; the rare studies which have taken commissions as a phenomenon *sui generis* have overwhelmingly regarded them as embedded in either case-specific or nationally-bounded political contexts. In my dissertation I broaden the scope of such analyses through an analysis of 25 commission

reports concerned with perhaps the most contentious of dynamics within a state: crises of legitimacy engendered by collective violence and the state's use of force against its own citizens. Through a comparative and historical analysis of commission reports – the universe of 20th century collective violence commissions across five nations – I show that the explanatory tropes deployed by federal-level violence commissions are historically patterned in distinct, temporally bound logics that cross-cut both local concerns and national political contexts. The patterning of these explanatory logics has substantial implications for the ways that states have historically constructed the “legitimate” use of violence and set in motion particular types of governance regimes. But what causes such global temporal patterning? I argue that global violence commission logics are embedded within a global politico-intellectual culture, a culture which is, in turn, impacted by large-scale political processes and their relation to academic theories and inter-professional territorial struggles. By recasting these high-profile governance discourses as intertwined with broad currents in intellectual and political history, the dissertation suggests a new way of interpreting – and impacting – trends in commission processes and findings, and offers insights into the relation between the construction of knowledge and discourses of governance.

KIRKPATRICK, LUCAS

Dissertation Title: *Liquid Disaster: The Rise of Local Infrastructural Politics in New Orleans*

Committee Chair: Michael Peter Smith, Community/Regional Development
Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Michael McQuarrie, Sociology
Neil Brenner, Sociology, NYU

Abstract:

The infrastructural control of the water, energy, and waste (inter alia) circulating into and out-of cities is an indispensable precondition for urbanization. Water control systems, in particular, tend to be deeply related to social power and the political, economic, discursive, and socio-ecological struggles that flow from its deployment. It appears, furthermore, that “infrastructural politics” is currently being restructured, rescaled, and re-legitimated; a process that is changing the ways decisions about urban infrastructure are socially, financially, and politically adjudicated. In short, while infrastructure networks once provided the relatively unproblematic backdrop for urban development politics, they are increasingly becoming the very substance of such politics. As urban infrastructures gain visibility, the social relationships that underlie them are opened-up for re-negotiation. Thus, it is my hypothesis that urban infrastructures are rapidly becoming potent sites of social contestation and local political struggle. The changing nature of the infrastructural politics of water control is vividly demonstrated in the case of New Orleans—specifically its levee system and its water/sewer networks. There are two broad prongs of my research methodology. First, I will analyze Hurricane Katrina as a key “rupture” in the political practices associated with the city's water control systems. To this end, I will be conducting in-depth interviews with actors involved in the disaster. Secondly, I will be collecting and analyzing archival resources in an attempt to put the current “rupture” in historical perspective.

MEYERS, JOAN (PhD 2009)

Dissertation Title: *Working Democracies: Power and Inequality in Two Employee-Owned Companies*

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Ming-cheng Lo, Sociology
Miriam Wells, Human and Community Development

Abstract:

My dissertation adds to the empirical knowledge about current democratic, employee-owned workplaces, and also advances understanding of the social justice possibilities and limits of bureaucracy. It is primarily based on three years of ethnographic research at two large (100+) democratic companies doing business for more than 25 years, both of which transformed from their initial elite homogeneity into ethnoracially diverse and primarily working-class workforces. While both companies initially utilized informal, face-to-face control and were financially unstable, they had both become successful, stable businesses with highly formalized bureaucratic organizational structures. However, while one organization instituted *managerial control* through the hierarchical and wage-stratified division of labor, the other developed *worker control* through a dense clustering of decentralized participatory and centralized representative democratic practices. I ask whether, and how, it is possible for workplaces to interrupt social and economic inequality and injustice. My study challenges scholarly theories of bureaucracy and participatory democratic power, showing that formal rules, policies, and procedures interact quite differently with managerial hierarchy and decentralized worker control. I find that minimizations and (re)productions of gender, ethnicity/race, and class inequalities are the outcomes of these different versions of bureaucracy. Further, I find that organizational narratives about workers produced at each company facilitate the bureaucratic practices that block or accentuate organizational inequality regimes.

MOOREHEAD, ROBERT

Dissertation Title: *You Can't Go Home Again: Japanese Peruvian Immigrants' Struggle for Belonging and Identity in the Ancestral Homeland*

Committee Chair: Lyn Lofland, Sociology
Committee members: Bruce Haynes, Sociology
John Lie, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
Ayumi Takenaka, Bryn Mawr College

Abstract:

This dissertation explores the social and economic marginalization of Japanese Peruvian immigrants to Japan, and the impact of that marginalization on their incorporation into, and their sense of identity with, Japanese society. I draw on the complex and contradictory nature of Japanese Peruvians' ties to Japan and Peru, including their historical relationship with the Japanese state, and their racialization as foreigners in both Peru and Japan, as I analyze Peruvian parents' efforts to both permanently settle in Japan and to instill a Peruvian ethnic identity in their children. Through ethnographic study, I focus on a public elementary school in central Japan as the primary site of socialization for the 1.5 and second generation. I analyze how the school reproduces Peruvians' marginalized status by providing ineffective remedial language assistance for children, stereotyping Peruvian children and parents, questioning the parents' commitment to living in Japan, and challenging the parents to acculturate. I also examine Peruvians' efforts at incorporation into the local community, including their attempts to distance themselves from other foreigners as a way to deflect negative stereotypes of their group.

NIYOGI, SANGHAMITRA

Dissertation Title: *Internal Ethnicity: Identification Processes of Two Ethno-Religious Communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.*

Committee Chair: Bruce Haynes, Sociology

Committee Members: Laura Grindstaff, Sociology
Sunaina Maira, Asian American Studies

Abstract:

Internal ethnicity refers to the presence of ethnic groups within an immigrant group (Bozorgmehr, 1997). For these groups, pre-migration ethnicity often overrides national identities and forms the bases of ethnic identity and ethnicity in the receiving societies. This project will compare and contrast the identification processes of two ethno-religious sub groups within the larger population of Asian Indians in the San Francisco bay area, namely: Bengali-Hindus and Punjabi-Sikhs. Sixty Asian Indian immigrants in the bay area will be interviewed, 15 each from the groups: Punjabi Sikh first generation; Punjabi Sikh second generation; Bengali-Hindu first generation and Bengali-Hindu second generation. This study will address the following research questions: What are the determinants of ethnic identity for the Punjabi-Sikhs and the Bengali-Hindus? What role does internal ethnicity play in shaping their identity? Does the examination of a sub-group's interpretation/appropriation of its own internal ethnicity advance our understanding of the implications for mobility, class reproduction and pan ethnic group formation? For the immigrants in my sample, the identification and adaptation processes are complicated by the fact that unlike the Chinese and the Japanese who are considered Asian, the racial classification of Asian Indians in the US is still ambiguous. I build on the work of several scholars (Waters 1999, Bozorgmehr 1997 and Lamont 1992), using an analytical frame which is based on the assumption that individuals do not draw boundaries out of their experiences, interests, or social position alone. The interaction of cultural-structural factors shape immigrants' perceptions in important ways (Lamont, 1992).

OVINK, SARAH

Dissertation Title: *Mexican-American Postsecondary Pathways: Investigating the College Attendance Gender Gap*

Committee Chair: Dina G. Okamoto, Sociology

Committee Members: Vicki Smith, Sociology
Eric Grodsky, Sociology, University of Minnesota
Claude Fischer, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Abstract:

Though the female advantage in college enrollment and attainment has been documented for all racial/ethnic groups, little research focuses on within-group gender gaps. The gender gap varies among ethnic groups, suggesting differences in process between groups. In this dissertation, I examine the influences, aspirations and expectations of Mexican-American students that contribute to gender disparities in their postsecondary pathways through interviews with San Francisco Bay Area Mexican-American students throughout their senior year of high school and into their first year of college or labor force participation. I use these qualitative findings to build a more comprehensive, generalizable model of Mexican Americans' post-secondary pathways using the first and second follow-ups to the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002. With this mixed-methods approach I will be able to illuminate some of the important processes and mechanisms that result in a female educational advantage for Mexican-

American students at the local and national levels.

PLEAU, ROBIN

Dissertation Title: *Working in the Middle: Trends and Correlates of Multigenerational Household Structure and Its Effect on Women's Employment*

Committee Chair: Kimberlee Shauman, Sociology

Committee Members: Vicki Smith, Sociology
Ann Stevens, Economics

Abstract:

In my dissertation I examine the relationship between multigenerational household structure and midlife women's labor force participation. Recent demographic, social and economic shifts suggest that the prevalence of multigenerational households in the U.S. may have increased over the last two decades. For example, we might expect young adult children to move in or stay with parents due to trends of delayed marriage and a more challenging employment climate, and we might expect midlife adults (ages 40-64) to be increasingly caring for today's elder generation due to population aging and low mortality rates. These household arrangements may affect midlife women's employment differently than men's, since research suggests that women of all ages curtail employment in the face of household and family obligations. However, limiting employment at midlife can affect women's economic security in old age. Continued employment at midlife benefits women through longer tenure and greater pay, which translates into increased Social Security income and higher likelihood of old age income vehicles such as private pensions and investments. My dissertation considers the effect of multigenerational household structure on midlife women's employment behavior using a three-step process. I first examine the prevalence of multigenerational households from 1980 to 2008 using Current Population Survey data. Next, I look at individual- and household-level correlates of multigenerational household structure using Health and Retirement Study panel data. Finally, I examine the effects of multigenerational household formation on midlife women's labor force participation, using the Health and Retirement Study dataset.

RUDE, JESSE

Dissertation Title: *Interracial Friendships in Context: Their Formation, Development, and Impact*

Committee Chair: Dina G. Okamoto, Sociology

Committee Members: Mary R. Jackman, Sociology
Mignon R. Moore, Sociology, UCLA

Abstract:

Drawing on in-depth interviews with 60 working-age adults, my dissertation explores the ways interracial friendships *form, develop, and impact* the lives of those who engage in them. Fieldwork at two racially integrated settings in Los Angeles (a church and an artistic venue) provided access to black and white individuals with close friends of another race and to contexts in which these relationships routinely develop. Much of the scholarship on "racial homophily" suggests that structural factors present the largest obstacle to interracial friendship *formation*, but purely structural accounts cannot explain the paucity of cross-race friendships within integrated settings. I supplement this approach with the concept of "cognitive filtering," arguing that persons of different races are less likely to see each other as sources of role-support. Regarding the *development* of interracial friendships, I argue that, although all

friendships navigate a series of dialectical tensions, interracial friendships are particularly vulnerable to relational pressures. Among these, performing solidarity as a dyad while asserting one's individuality appears to be especially challenging. These friendships often fail or succeed depending on individuals' abilities to maintain a delicate balance between downplaying and engaging with their racial differences. In terms of interracial friendship's *impact*, I find little evidence that these relationships transform racially prejudiced persons into non-prejudiced persons. However, by providing a space in which people routinely deal with racial issues, interracial friendships may broaden individuals' racial perspectives. I describe four basic forms this "broadening" may take, from the superficial to the profound. Experiences that deepen one's understanding of what it is like to be another race – an understanding I term "racial empathy" – are particularly transformative. I show that both whites and blacks can benefit from interracial friendships in these ways but whites are more likely to report shifts in thoughts and behavior. I conclude by examining interracial friendship's promise and limitations for effecting social change and theorize that changes in one's racial perspectives result from a reconfiguration of one's racial identity. I speculate that these transformations can have an impact beyond the realm of face-to-face interaction, affecting the sense of racial "group position" held collectively.

SIEBENS, JULIE

Dissertation Title: *Changing Effects of Social Origins on Educational Transitions*

Committee Chair: Kimberlee Shauman, Sociology

Committee Members: Michal Kurlaender, Education
Eric Grodsky, Sociology, University of Minnesota

Abstract:

The relationship between social origins and educational outcomes has a long history in stratification research. I will continue this tradition in my dissertation by writing three related articles which examine the effects of social origins on making various educational transitions. The first article will test and compare theories explaining how and why the effects of social origins change across the course of the educational career. In the second article, I will analyze the strength of the educational "floor" thought to set a minimum level of attainment for children. The third article will move onto macro-level factors and examine how changes in unemployment rates may interact with social origins to influence transition probabilities.

SILVA, ERIC (PhD 2009)

Dissertation Title: *Rhetorical Agency in the Civil Sphere: Public Accounts for Indian Mascots and Evolutionary Theory*

Committee Chair: Lyn Lofland, Sociology

Committee Members: Laura Grindstaff, Sociology
David Snow, Sociology, University of California, Irvine

Abstract:

Based on a content analysis of letters to the editor (N=1,490), I describe some aspects of how actors exercise rhetorical agency by arguing, in the public or civil sphere, for changing or maintaining the contested practices of representing sports teams with American Indian mascots and of exclusively teaching evolutionary theory in public high school science classes. I present and answer two empirical questions about how actors, rhetorically craft their public accounts of these contested practices. The first

question: What are the rhetorical decisions that face those who wish to influence public opinion of a contested practice? My answer is that public debaters' have two sets of rhetorical decisions. (1.) They must choose which rhetorical forms to deploy in their statement. The specific rhetorical forms account for different issues within the debate (i.e., the effects of the practice, one's ability to decipher the effects of the practice, and one's right to speak about the controversy). (2.) The next set of decisions involves selecting the type of content (which I conceptualize as "frames" Benford and Snow 2000, Goffman 1974, and Scheff 2005) to place within their chosen rhetorical forms. The second question: How do actors use the same cultural ideas to define the same reality differently? I find that the seemingly paradoxical situation is achieved by the rhetorical creation of three simultaneous modes of disagreement. In the first mode, "value disagreement," debaters on each side appeal to different values in their public accounts. In the second mode, "articulation disagreement," opponents approach the same rhetorical objective with the same values, but they use them differently. In the third mode, "reality disagreement," each side uses the same values in the same way, but they come to different conclusions. My hope is that these two answers should improve our understanding of how actors exercise rhetorical agency in the civil sphere. Also, I believe that the concepts that I develop should prove useful to those who study the relationship between public discourse and political controversies.

VEAZEY, BRIAN

Dissertation Title: *Midnight's Children: Work, Culture, and Identity in an Indian Call Center*

Committee Chair: Laura Grindstaff and Ming-cheng Lo, Sociology
Committee Members: Beth Bechky, Graduate School of Management

Abstract:

My dissertation seeks to understand how the process of *talent transformation*, a very specific form of cultural, soft-skill, and technical training common in the Indian call center industry, has unintentionally created a valued, and potentially transferable, form of 'organizationally-engineered' cultural capital (Kunda, 1991; Bourdieu, 1986) that some young, non-elite Indians strategically seek to accumulate, cultivate, and ultimately activate in their struggle for upward professional mobility. More precisely, I am interested in the ways in which cultural and soft skills training transmit a very specific form of 'American' cultural capital, and how call center agents experience, make sense of, and ultimately respond to this process. By combining in-depth interviews with current and former customer service representatives (CSRs), trainers, and Human Resource professionals with ethnographic observations from my fieldwork as an American 'culture trainer' in an Indian call center, I provide an empirically-rich, and theoretically-important, account of one organization's attempts to create and transmit 'American' culture; how its agents receive, consume, and attempt to use it; and what happens when CSRs spread such organizationally-engineered cultural forms and practices beyond the walls of the call center into the larger society.

WILLIAMS, MONICA

Dissertation Title: *Configurations of Social Control in Community Responses to Sex Offenders*

Committee Chair: Ryken Grattet, Sociology
Committee Members: Tom Beamish, Sociology
Bill McCarthy, Sociology

Valerie Jenness, Interim Dean of Social Ecology and Professor,
Criminology, Law and Society; Sociology, UC Irvine

Abstract:

Communities responding to sex offenders simultaneously enact formal and informal social controls. Yet, social control theories conceptualize formal and informal social control as separate realms that operate inversely. I extend these theories by proposing a theory of configurations of social control. In a configurations model of control, elements of the form and content of informal and formal social control combine to create new types not reducible to their formal and informal components. Drawing on legal consciousness, legal mobilization, risk, disaster, and community research, I provide a framework for understanding how the law links formal and informal social control such that we cannot experience either type of control without experiencing the other. Examining configurations of social control in the context of community responses to sexually violent predators (SVPs) provides a way to understand how social control operates on the ground. In my dissertation research, I will combine media, archival, interview, and participant observation data from three responses to SVPs in California to analyze how communities invoke formal and informal social controls in their responses to sex offenders. My findings will suggest how we must account for configurations of control when understanding the conflicted social control system that mandates sex offender releases, but also creates an inhospitable social context for reentry. More broadly, this research will provide a framework for understanding conflicts around other social problems that create a system at odds with itself.

YAMAGUCHI, MAKIKO

Dissertation Title: *Making Possibilities: The Japanese Feminist Movement and the Politics of Engagement*

Committee Chair: Diane Wolf, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

Drew Halfmann, Sociology

Sabine Fruhstuck, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies,
University of California, Santa Barbara

Abstract:

My dissertation investigates the grassroots feminist movements in the two issue areas of labor/employment and education. Despite commonality in demographics and activist socialization, activists in these two issue areas have experienced different outcomes of mobilization. That is, labor feminists gained incremental success, whereas education feminists encountered major defeats after small victories. Education feminists especially, most of who are teachers, suffered from the recent resurgence of anti-feminist campaigns against gender equality education. An explanation lies, I argue, in the disparate policy venues of mobilization, level of visibility, and the existence of political alliances and opponents. Labor feminist activism has taken place mainly in the realm of public contestation over women's status in the workplace. Public recognition of gender discrimination in workplaces coupled with international pressure on Japanese businesses keep business conservatives from explicitly keeping the status quo. In this public sphere, activists have worked closely with legal experts and claimed their legitimacy and kept visibility as lay experts when making demands. On the other hand, education feminists have mobilized largely on local level. Working against a large societal consensus that school education had already achieved gender equality, education activists argued that there was still much to change and devised a de facto policy of gender equality education as teachers through creating their own curricula and pluralistic negotiation with other actors. Their concentration on cultivation of professional

ethics of egalitarianism for the teaching profession did not easily lead to viable allies in the public sphere. Once out in the open, feminists were vulnerable to the antifeminist backlash that charged them with keeping their efforts from public view. This dissertation contributes to our understanding of social movements by examining professional-movement linkages and the importance of movement actors' and issues' visibility when taking an institutional approach to social movement analysis.

ZHU, YIFEI

Dissertation Title: *Globalization and Changes in Local Value Orientations: Gender, Family and Sexual Norms in China*

Committee Chair: Xiaoling Shu and Diane Felmlee, Sociology

Committee Members: Mary Jackman, Sociology

Abstract:

My dissertation investigates how Western culture and ideology, accompanying its economic influence, reshaped the Chinese value orientations on gender, family and sexual norms. How have gender, family and sexual attitudes changed in China during the past several decades? What are the major catalysis of these changes accompanying China's accelerating integration into the world capitalist market? How does macro-level social transformation interplay with micro-level factors in shaping individual attitudes, beliefs and ideology? Through what mechanisms are these changes taking place? I expect the exploration of these questions can shed light on the perception and reality of gender inequality in China in particular, as well as the process of globalization and value change in general. My analysis is based on data from two levels. Individual-level data come from the 1991 and 2000 Chinese Women's Social Status Survey, the 2000 Chinese Health and Family Life Survey, the 1990, 1995 and 2001 World Values Survey-China Survey, and the 2002 and 2006 Asia Barometer-China Survey. Community-level data are compiled by myself using published Statistical Yearbooks and the 2000 census in China. Using multilevel models to analyze both individual and community level data, I argue that education is a vehicle of socialization through which values promoted by the Western culture and the Communist Party state are diffused through the Chinese population. The uneven pace of this transition reflects the values advanced by both the globalization forces and the domestic elite at different historical times.

Students who are ABD but no abstract available:

Gregson, Jennifer

Orzechowicz, David

Traugot, Michael

~Compiled by Graduate Program Coordinator