Greetings! Once again, the Newsletter is filled with lots of announcements from our terrific section members. I would also like to thank the nominations committee for all the work they did putting together our list of candidates running for chair, council, and the Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee. The list of candidates can be found in the column to your right.

And, as promised in the Fall Newsletter, we are devoting this issue to another forum topic focusing this time on transnational feminist sociology. Jyoti Puri and Hyun Sook Kim kindly agreed to reprint an excerpted version of their essay on Transnational Feminist Sociology from Gender and Society. We are grateful to Dana Britton and Sage Publications for allowing us the reprint the excerpted version here. Enjoy!

2007 SECTION NOMINATIONS

The nominations were generated by the nominations committee, which is chaired by Mindy Strombler. One person will be elected Chair, two people will be elected to the council and two people will be elected to the Sally Hacker Committee. Members will have the opportunity to vote later this spring.

**Sex and Gender Chair:**

Michael Messner, University of Southern California
Jyoti Puri, Simmons College

**Sex and Gender Council:**

Patti Giuffre, Texas State University
Seungsook Moon, Vassar College
Michelle Budig, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Doreen Martinez, Northern Arizona University

**Sally Hacker Award Committee:**

Elizabeth Borland, The College of New Jersey
Karyn Losocco, University at Albany
Allison Pugh, University of Virginia
Peggy Kahn, University of Michigan-Flint
Cynthia Fabrizio-Pelak, University of Memphis
“GENDER-SEXUALITY-STATE-NATION: TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST ANALYSES”

By H. J. Kim-Puri

Feminists’ attention to states and nations has been uneven. The cultural struggles over citizenship, the deployment of nationalisms, and the exigencies of an inter-national system of states have not been fully analyzed from a race/sexuality/gender perspective. This is troubling given the ongoing evidence of the salience of states and nations in the lives of women and marginalized groups. Contrary to some predictions, states are not declining but being reconfigured in line with cross-border flows of capital, neoliberalism, and intra-, inter- and extra-state violence. The fault lines of nationalism(s) are also starkly evident. The flawed promises of nationalism as an all inclusive, horizontal community are especially visible from the positions of women and marginalized groups. [This essay] argues that understanding the changing cultural and political terrain of states and nations is relevant and crucial to analyses of sexuality and gender. This grows out of the recent work of a number of feminist scholars who have recognized that states, nationalisms and nations are profoundly gendered. They have attended to the gendered-, class-, and race-based idioms that shape the contours of nationalism, its boundaries, and its key symbols and meanings. This rich feminist social science scholarship explores the links between nationalisms, colonialism, racial and sexual discourses, gendered militarism, secular and religious fundamentalisms, and social movements (Alexander and Mohanty 1997; Bacchetta 2002; Enloe 2000, 1993, 1989; Hasso 2001, 1998; Jayawardena 1986; Kandiyoti 1991; Kim 1998, 1997; Mayer 2000; Moallem 2001; Moghadam 1996; Puri 2004, 1999; Stoler 1997, Yuval-Davis 1997). Our aim...is to encourage more systematic and extended attention to these concerns.

The terrain of nationalisms and genders is frequently relegated to feminists who focus on “international” arenas. Yet, this useful work remains ghettoized, with little impact on the ways in which issues of gender, sexuality and race are conceptualized within American (read: U.S.) sociology. Feminist research on the state has not fared better. For the most part, feminist analyses of states are divided into two analytical strands, on the United States and elsewhere, which remain disconnected and disengaged geographically. One strand considers the impact of U.S. policies on the lives of women, the indigent, and groups marginalized by race, class, religion, and citizenship (Mayer 2000; Orloff 2002, 1999; Orloff, Weir and Skocpol 1988; Peterson and Runyan 1999). Another strand of feminist theorizing on the state is located in cultural settings outside the United States (Kandiyoti 1991; Kaplan, Alarcon and Moallem 1999; Kim 1997; Mayer 2000; Yuval-Davis and Anthias 1989). More often than not, feminist analyses of the state consider it as being equivalent to the nation, and they are referred to interchangeably. Further, the state is seen as a monolith, undifferentiated and homogenous, rather than as a fragmented set of institutions with complex and uneven relationships.

The purpose of this [essay] is to highlight and to theorize the mutually constitutive relations of state, nation, sexuality, and gender. To bring these concepts and social structures into the same analytical field, we rely on transnational feminist theory. [W]e discuss the importance of transnational feminist studies [and] define what we mean by transnational feminist sociology in particular. Our position is that transnational feminist sociology can extend and help re-frame analyses by “de-naturalizing” states and nations, while also unraveling their material and cultural linkages with sexuality and gender.

For feminist sociologists, these issues about analytical frameworks and directions raise new and old concerns. Twenty years ago, Judith Stacey and Barrie Thorne (1985) raised the question of the impact of feminism in sociology in the United States; since then, ambivalent thoughts and counter-reflections were provoked and published in two issues of the newsletter Perspectives (Armstrong 2004; Ingraham and Seidman 1996; Naples 2004; Ray 2004). Whether one considers a feminist revolution in sociology to be a utopian ideal or an ongoing challenge, the discipline has been vitalized by feminist debates over theory, epistemology, methodology, and activism. These deliberations are of interest to us for feminisms and feminist theory have much to contribute to sociology. We think that feminist sociologies can (and must) further our knowledge about the United States and its relationships to the rest of the world. A transnational lens is enabling precisely to meet that goal.

APPROACHING THE “TRANS” OF THE TRANSNATIONAL

A number of feminist scholars have called for a transnational (as opposed to “global”) feminist cultural studies approach to studying gender and sexuality (Alexander and Mohanty 1997; Grewal and Kaplan...
We use the term “transnational” to signal an interdisciplinary theoretical and political orientation. Our conception of transnational feminist sociology includes four key dimensions:

1. An approach that bridges discursive and material analyses to understand how unequal economic, political and social relations are mediated and (re)produced through cultural representations and discourses. Sociological analyses of power, structures, relations, processes, organizations, identities, subjectivity, and movements need to attend to material/cultural meanings and conditions that jointly produce inequalities and exclusions.

2. An approach that highlights the importance of social structures and the state. This emphasis on social structures and especially the attention to state institutions and relations is necessary to contend with empires, imperialisms, colonialism, and nationalisms that are shaped through gendered, sexualized, and racialized imageries.

3. An approach that shifts analyses to linkages across cultural contexts rather than reproducing analyses of scale. Here, linkages refer to various forms of border crossings including conceptual, temporal, bureaucratic, geopolitical, geographical, economic, cultural, bureaucratic, and so on. This focus on linkages eschews nation-to-nation comparisons and treats scale or geographic unit of analysis as historically and culturally contingent.

4. An approach that stresses the role of empirical research for shedding light on cultural, material, structural, and historical forces, which, in turn, shape social relations, hierarchies, identities, and conflicts in distinct ways.

CONCLUSION

This [essay] explores themes and questions related to states, nations, gender, and sexuality that are of special concern to feminist sociologists and social scientists. [O]ur aim is to suggest the kinds of theoretical, methodological and empirical analyses that could further feminist sociological research. Our concerns elaborated [here] stem from the on-going attempts of feminist scholars (including our own) to grapple with theoretical, methodological, and pedagogic challenges in research, teaching and activism. Our thinking on theory and methodology evolved in conversation with the emergent debates about transnational feminism, feminist sociologies, and about the escalation of nationalisms and state violence of recent years. Some of our ideas were further developed through our work with the Caucus on Gender and Sexuality in International Contexts, which was formed in August 2000 and is part of the American Sociological Association. Working with the Caucus, we
found the space and engagements necessary to further our thinking on transnational feminist approaches…

We hope that the focus on the nexus between gender, sexuality, state, and nation will encourage more feminist research and analyses in these areas as well as discussions about the possibilities and limitations of transnational feminist approaches.

REFERENCES


--------. 1999. Motherhood, work and welfare: Gender ideologies and state social provision in...
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Syllabi

Race, Gender, and Class in Sociology: Toward an Inclusive Curriculum. Submission of syllabi and other instructional materials are invited for the 6th edition of this ASA resource publication. Materials may include essays on teaching from an inclusive race/gender/class perspective, complete syllabi for all undergraduate and graduate courses that incorporate an inclusive perspective, course assignments, class activities, and reviews of materials in all media. All materials must conform to the ASA Style Guide and be submitted electronically as MS Word documents to: Marcia Texler Segal (msegal@ius.edu) and Barbara Scott (b-scott1@neiu.edu). Inquiries are welcome at any time. Deadline: April 15, 2007

Call for Papers

We are seeking papers for a special issue of Race, Gender, & Class on "Race, Gender, Class, Sexuality, and War." Specifically we are looking for papers that explore the racial, gendered, classed, and sexualized dimensions of war and the military organizations and cultures that make war possible. Papers should examine simultaneously two or more of these social characteristics to understand how they compliment and complicate one another in military settings (recruitment, training, conflicts) and in warfare, broadly defined (ethnic, civil, international, guerrilla, terrorism, large-scale). We are interested in papers that focus on the RGCS aspects of contemporary militaries and wars involving groups, movements, nations, or international alliances. The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 2007. Papers should be submitted two ways: a) please send an electronic copy of your paper to nagel@ku.edu and b) please mail four (4) printed copies of your paper to guest editors: Joane Nagel and Meredith Kleykamp, Sociology Department, 1415 Jayhawk Boulevard, 716 Fraser Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

Call for Proposals

The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) invites proposals for panels, papers, roundtables and workshops for its 29th Annual Fall Research Conference, 8-10 November, Washington, DC. In recent years, the association has made fostering diversity in its membership and conference participation a priority. One of the recognized content areas of the Fall Research Conference is, "gender in policy and management," and APPAM's Diversity Committee has made a priority of outreach to scholars interested in gender-conscious research on public policy and management issues. Attendance at recent APPAM Fall Research Conferences has been majority female, and the leadership of the organization is nearly balanced in terms of men and women on the board of directors.

The mission of the Fall Research Conference is to provide an annual venue for the discussion of recent research in public policy and management. The conference is best known for its areas related to U.S. domestic social policy, but also includes considerable international/comparative content as well as topic areas ranging from environmental policy to public...
management to science/technology policy. The 2007 conference will feature up to 170 total panels, several plenaries and special presentations, and 40-50 posters.

To access information about the 2007 conference online, please visit this web page: http://www.appam.org/conferences/fall/dc2007/index.asp

The deadline for submitting proposals online is Monday, March 12, 2007. The APPAM website offers general information about the association and its activities on various other pages at http://www.appam.org/. The association's membership currently includes 102 academic and non-academic institutions in the field and approximately 2000 individual researchers. APPAM truly is a multidisciplinary association with very balanced participation by political scientists, economists, sociologists and other social scientists.

Call for Proposals

Sex Work: Culture, Policy, and Benefits
Exploring the Lives of Sex Workers and their Diverse Realities

A coalition of sex workers, social scientists, professional sex educators, scholars, health professionals and their supporting networks announce a Convergence in San Francisco, California, July 19th-20th, in conjunction with the San Francisco Sex Worker Arts and Film Festival, July 20th-22nd and additional events in San Francisco beginning July 14th.

The conference portion of this convergence will bring together sex workers and sex worker advocates and allies interested in exploring sex work as a culture, the policies surrounding it, and benefits sex workers receive from their work. The goal is to acknowledge that sex work is a professional endeavor peopled by diverse individuals with diverse needs, cultures, and concerns. Deadline for submissions: May 15, 2007

More details are available at http://www.desireealliance.org/conference.htm
Please send proposals to: Avaren Ipsen, aipsen@berkeley.edu

Upcoming Conference


WPC8 is sponsored by the Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. This year's theme for the national conference is: The Matrix: Examining Intersections, Making Connections, & Building Allies. WPC is a conference that examines the challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team-building strategies to work toward a more equitable future. WPC attracts students, professionals, faculty, activists, parents, and community leaders/members from diverse perspectives. WPC welcomes folks with varying levels of experience. Students and community members may participate for academic credit and the undergraduate or graduate levels.

Speakers include: Kevin Jennings, founder of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (www.GLSEN.org), Paula Rothenberg, Jean Kilbourne, Peggy McIntosh, Allan Johnson, Tim Wise, and many others.

To access information about the conference, visit http://www.uccs.edu/~wpc/

Call for Proposals

Feminist Pedagogy Conference 2007
What's Feminist About Feminist Pedagogy?

The second Feminist Pedagogy Conference seeks participants for a day-long conference entitled "What's Feminist about Feminist Pedagogy?" The conference will be held on October 12, 2007 at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City with keynote speaker Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature Nancy K. Miller.

The Feminist Pedagogy Conference is a venue for conversation between scholars and activists across the disciplines around the present state of feminist pedagogy and work on gender, both within and beyond the academy. Building on previous work, this is a forum to share pedagogical methods and ideas for teaching in women and gender studies and/or feminist approaches to learning and classroom strategies in various disciplines. Our aim is to address issues of gender and sexuality, in conjunction with race and class, both inside and outside of the academy.

We invite participants to lead or take part in panels, workshops and round-table discussions devoted to an analysis of materials and locations from which we might not always look for feminist theory and pedagogy, places outside or in the margins of the academy. We seek work that, for example, confronts problems, exclusions, alliances, successes, the challenges of interdisciplinary work, marginalization, competition, inclusions, and generational differences and similarities in feminist pedagogy. Paper abstracts and round-table proposals should be no longer than 300 words each and can be sent with a one-page resume via email (pasted into the text of
the message) to conference organizers Jen Gieseking, Jennifer Gaboury, and Antonia Levy at fpc2007@gmail.com. We welcome the submission of paper abstracts and round-table proposals from the same individual or group and dual submissions should be entered simultaneously.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to April 30th, 2007. More details: http://web.gc.cuny.edu/womenstudies/wgp/

New Books


Epstein investigates the new medical meanings of sex and gender by analyzing the "management of difference" by medical researchers, pharmaceutical companies, and federal health agencies. His work sounds a cautionary note about the growing reliance on "sex profiling" and "racial profiling" in modern medicine. The book will be published in May 2007.

Ferree, Myra Marx and Aili Mari Tripp, eds. 2007. Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights.

Increasingly feminists around the world have successfully campaigned for recognition of women's full personhood and empowerment. The book explores the social and political developments that have energized this movement. Drawn from an international group of scholars and activists, the authors of these original essays assess both the opportunities that transnationalism has created and the tensions it has inadvertently fostered. By focusing on both the local and global struggles of today's feminist activists this important volume reveals much about women's changing rights, treatment and impact in the global world. Contributors include Melinda Adams, Aida Bagic, Yakin Ertürk, Myra Marx Ferree, Amy G. Mazur, Dorothy E. McBride, Hilkka Pietilä, Tetyana Pudrovska, Margaret Snyder, Sarah Swider, Aili Mari Tripp, Nira Yuval-Davis.


Straight edge is a clean living youth movement that emerged from the punk rock subculture in the early 1980s. Its basic tenets promote a drug-free, tobacco-free, and sexually responsible lifestyle-tenets that, on the surface, seem counter to those typical of teenage rebellion. For many straight-edge kids, however, being clean and sober was (and still is) the ultimate expression of resistance-resistance to the consumerist and self-indulgent ethos that defines mainstream U.S. culture. In this first in-depth sociological analysis of the movement, Ross Haenfler follows the lives of dozens of straight-edge youths, showing how for these young men and women, and thousands of others worldwide, the adoption of the straight-edge doctrine as a way to better themselves evolved into a broader mission to improve the world in which they live. Although the original definition of straight edge focused on the rejection of mind-altering substances and promiscuous sex, modern interpretations include a vegetarian (or vegan) diet and an increasing involvement in environmental and political issues.


African American Families provides a systematic sociological study of contemporary life for families of African descent living in the United States. Analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, authors Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith identify the structural barriers that African Americans face in their attempts to raise their children and create loving, healthy, and raise the children of the next generation. This textbook is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses such as African American Families, Sociology of the Family, Contemporary Families, and Race and Ethnicity in the departments of Human Development and Family Studies, Sociology, African American Studies, and Black Studies.


This is the first book-length treatment of skin color bias to feature original research. Hunter compares how light-skinned and dark-skinned women in the African American and Mexican American communities fare in terms of education, income, the marriage market, and beauty standards. Special attention is also given to cosmetic surgery and issues of ethnic authenticity. Using a feminist racial lens, Hunter analyzes the costs and benefits of light and dark complexions.


"Lesbians" in East Asia: Diversity, Identities, and Resistance is a unique examination of research and vital issues involving lesbians and lesbianism in East Asia, using perspectives by academics and activists who typically are rarely published in English. Contributing experts from Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, and Korea discuss a variety of topics, including solidarity and conflicts between lesbians and feminists, identities
and identity politics, lesbian lives and families, and representation in mainstream culture.


In recent decades more Algerian, Moroccan, and Tunisian women have immigrated to France than men, yet despite their increasing numbers first generation immigrant women are rarely the focus of research. In this sociological study, Caitlin Killian examines how Muslim women construct and manage their identities in the midst of a foreign culture what they hold on to from their countries of origin and what they decide to embrace in France, why some immigrant women cope better with challenges in their new country than others, and how they raise children who will one day be French. She demonstrates that these women engage in selective acculturation and highlights their ability to resist labels that do not fit with their self perceptions. These findings point to the flexibility of personal identity, even among visible minorities whose self-identification choices were previously thought to be highly constrained.


This co-edited volume looks at the wider social context of women’s place in Indian society and culture (examining traditional ideal roles, advice books, gender equality among tribals, Dalit perspectives), marriage and family studies (changing age at marriage, matrimonial ads over time, partner violence, matriliney, widowhood, population control programs), empowerment experiences (Santal women’s experience, self-help groups, contrasts within India, elite women’s contribution through volunteer work), and women in unusual occupations (which includes entrepreneurship for tribal women, science, and government – local panchayat).


Editors Robert Perrucci and Carolyn C. Perrucci critically examine existing conditions in the workplace and discuss the political and economic forces that have shaped them. The book explores established practices governing how products are produced, how work is organized, and who comprises the labor force. Perrucci and Perrucci examine computerized production technology, global production chains, and the international division of labor as products of political struggles between corporations, workers, and the government. The outcomes of these struggles have produced our global economy, made jobs less secure, and kept wages of average Americans from growing the way they did post-World War II. These outcomes have also led to downsizing in the workplace, restructuring the social organization of work, and outsourcing jobs to other countries.


Today, a college education is increasingly viewed as the gateway to the American Dream – a necessary prerequisite for social mobility. Yet recent policy reforms in the United States effectively steer low-income adults away from an education that could further their career prospects, forcing them directly into the workforce where they often find only low-paying jobs with little opportunity for growth. In *Putting Poor People to Work*, Kathleen M. Shaw, Sara Goldrick-Rab, Christopher Mazzeo and Jerry A. Jacobs explore this troubling disconnect between the principles of “work-first” and “college for all” through the use of comprehensive interviews with government officials and sophisticated data from six states over a four-year period.


This is the first book in a new series Susan J. Ferguson edited titled “Families in the 21st Century.” The book brings together the best scholarship and data available to describe the extent of poverty among U.S. families, the problems poor families face, and the prospects for alleviating family poverty. Seccombe draws upon the most recent qualitative and quantitative data to help readers understand the extent, causes, and consequences of poverty. *Families in Poverty* is appropriate for use in any class concerned with family structure, social inequality, gender, social welfare, and government policy. It also finds an audience among those who work in various human service fields, including human development, social work, education, counseling, health services, and the government.

New Journal Articles


“Identity and Competence: The Use of Culture in the Interpretation of Sexual Images.” 
*Sociological Perspectives* 49(3): 411-432.


The Spring issue (April 2007) of Dissent Magazine will carry a debate between Arlene Skolnick and Kay Trimmerger on the future of marriage. Skolnick’s article, "Beyond the 'M' Word," was published in the Fall issue (2006) of *Dissent*. Trimmerger’s response is entitled, "Farther Beyond the 'M' Word."

**Member Awards**

Mary Frank Fox (Georgia Tech) was awarded The Outstanding Faculty Member/Woman of Distinction Award, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2006.

Esther Ngan-ling Chow (American University) was the recipient of the Stuart Rice Award for Career Achievement given by the District of Columbia Sociological Society in 2006.

Carolyn Cummings Perrucci (Purdue University) has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems for a three-year term.

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### 2006-2007 Sex and Gender Council

**Rene Almeling,** *UCLA, almeling@ucla.edu*

**Dana Britton,** Kansas State University, 785-532-4968, brittn@ksu.edu

**Kirsten Dellinger,** University of Mississippi, 662-915-7323, kdelling@olemiss.edu

**Sarah Fenstermaker,** University of California at Santa Barbara, 805-893-3547, fenstermaker@soc.ucsb.edu

**Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez,** University of Texas at Austin, 512-232-6343, gloria386@mail.utexas.edu

**Nancy Naples,** University of Connecticut, 860-486-3049, nancy.naples@uconn.edu

**Belinda Robnett,** University of California, Irvine, brobnett@uci.edu

*Graduate student council member.

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### 2006-2007 Sex and Gender Officers

**Chair:** Jennifer Pierce, University of Minnesota, pierc012@umn.edu

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**Website Coordinator:** Ashley Finley, Dickinson College, 717-254-8922, finleya@dickinson.edu

**Newsletter Editor:** Emily S. Mann, University of Maryland, College Park, 202-276-9336, emann@soey.umd.edu