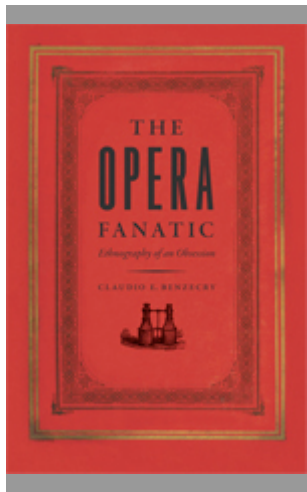


Department of Sociology Newsletter

Vol. 5 - 2012

College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences,
University of
Connecticut



Claudio Benzecry's book *The Opera Fanatic* has won the ASA Mary Douglas Award (ASA Culture section's best book award) for 2012. Congratulations Claudio!

UConn Sociology Leading the Discipline with Three Presidents

Three of our faculty members were elected Presidents of our professional organizations in 2011-2012!

Davita Silfen Glasberg is serving as the President of Sociologists Without Borders –US chapter. Sociologists Without Borders (SWB) is an international network of human rights scholars and activists. Along with the human rights section of the American Sociological Association, SWB continues to serve as the foremost platform for the rapidly growing scholarship on human rights within our discipline. **Nancy Naples** is serving as the President of Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), a pre-eminent regional sociological association founded in 1930. In her capacity as President, Nancy is organizing the 2013 ESS conference on Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Lives: Social Change, Social Action, & Social Justice. **Bandana Purkayastha** is President Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS); she becomes the President in February 2013. SWS, which started in 1969, has an illustrious record of breaking glass ceilings for women in academia and for bringing feminist



scholarship to our discipline. As President-Elect, Bandana is in charge of organizing the February 2013 Winter meetings with an emphasis on inter-national scholarship.



Professor **Clint Sanders**, who retired last year, was awarded the 2011 George Herbert Mead Lifetime Achievement Award last year. The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism (SSSI) George Herbert Mead Award represents outstanding contributions in scholarship, service to SSSI, an enduring faith in the principles of symbolic interaction, and a career's worth of commitment to putting such faith into practice. Recipients of the Mead Award have extended and improved upon the foundations established by Mead, showing that what interactionists write and teach not only informs humans, but also improves the human condition.



Congratulations to **Noel Cazenave**, who was promoted to Full Professor, and **Maya Beasley**, who was promoted to Associate Professor!

Bandana Purkayastha was awarded the 2012 Faculty Mentoring Award, which is determined solely by graduate students. This is the third time she has received this award, honored also in 2006 and 2009.

Mary Bernstein has received a grant from ASA's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline for her project "Crossing Boundaries." She also continues to serve as a Deputy Editor for Gender & Society, the 4th ranked Sociology journal in Sociology and first ranked for Women's Studies.

PhD student Barret Katuna wrote enthusiastically in support: "Dr. Bandana Purkayastha embodies the type of scholar and mentor that I hope to be to other aspiring scholars. Throughout the past four years of my graduate work, she has served as an outstanding mentor both inside and outside of the classroom. Overall, my relationship with Bandana is academically, intellectually, and socially stimulating. Bandana should get the lifetime mentorship award because she is truly amazing! I honestly would not be where I am at in terms of publications without her guidance."

David Weakliem has become the Editor of Comparative Sociology, an international journal dedicated to advancing comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions.



Editorships

Mary Bernstein, Deputy Editor,
Gender & Society

Claudio Benzecry, Associate
Editor, *Apuntes de
Investigacion del CECYP*

David Weakliem, Editor,
Comparative Sociology

Margaret Abraham and
Bandana Purkayastha (Guest
Editors), Special Issue on Linking
Research to Activism, *Current
Sociology*.

Series Editorships

Nancy Naples, "Praxis: Theory in
Action Series," SUNY Press.

Bandana Purkayastha,
Frontpage Publications.

Panel Reviewer

Bandana Purkayastha,
National Endowment for the
Humanities

Peer Review/grants

Nancy Naples, National
Endowment for the Humanities

Richard Rockwell, Panel
Reviewer, National Science
Foundation

Officer & Committee Work

Claudio Benzecry and **Andrew
Deener**: ASA Culture section
Newsletter Editors, with **Allen Hyde**
and **Trisha Tiamzon**, Student Editors

Mary Bernstein: Publications
Committee, Society for the Study
of Social Problems; Treasurer ASA
Section on Collective Behavior and
Social Movements

Manisha Desai: ASA Human Rights
section Council member; Officer,
Treasurer Thematic Group on
Human Rights and Global Justice,
International Sociological
Association; Regional
Representative, Research
Committee on Gender,
International Sociological
Association

Bandana Purkayastha: Vice
President, International
Sociological Society-RC-01;

Secretary, International
Sociological Association-RC-32;
ASA Asia and Asian American
section Council member; ASA
Jessie Bernard Award Committee
member

International Engagements

Arnie Dashefsky was recently
informed that he was nominated
to serve as part of the Distinguished
Lectureship Program of the
Association of Jewish Studies, an
international association of 1,850
members. He is one of three
sociologists selected on the panel
of 60.

Manisha Desai returned from year-
long field work in India. Manisha
was one of the 19 American
recipients of Fulbright Hays
fellowships for 2011. Her research
focused on three protest
movements within contemporary
neo-liberal transformations in India.
She is currently collating her data
on the Mahuva Movement (a
movement to protect water, land
and forests as common resources
of people) and two others -- the
*Macchimar Adhikar Sangharsh
Samiti* (MASS, Committee for the
Struggle for Fisherfolks' Rights) and
Par-Purna Adivasi Sangh
(Collective of Indigenous People
from Par-Purna Rivers).

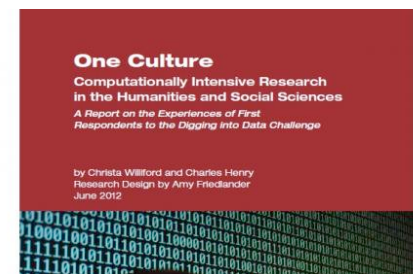
Bandana Purkayastha was invited
to serve on the international expert
group for Presidency University,
Kolkata India. This group provides
inputs for the future directions of
the institutions, including the
current group of hires. She is one of
twelve expert group members from
the US. Presidency College was
founded in 1817 as the first
Western-type educational
institution in Asia. As one of the pre-
eminent centers of learning in India
for nearly two centuries, the
college was granted university
status in 2010.

Bandana also delivered a

colloquium, "A Sociology of
Human Rights," at the University of
Calcutta in April 2012.

Richard Rockwell was the only
representative from North America
to serve on the panel for an
interagency, international grant
competition called Digging into
Data (DiD) on behalf of the
National Science Foundation. The
NSF is one of 8 agencies
participating in this competition
(the others are listed on the DiD
web site:
<http://www.diggingintodata.org/>).

The panel met in London in
September 2011. Their report is:
[CLIR Releases Report About
Digging into Data Challenge](#)



Gaye Tuchman was an invited
panelist for a Discussion on the
Humanities and Liberal Arts in 21st
Century Higher Education. This
symposium took place in Florence,
Italy, November 10-12, 2011,
organized by The John Brademas
Center for the Study of Congress,
the Humanities Initiative at NYU,
and the James Madison Project at
Princeton University.

Gaye was also the keynote
speaker at a special workshop in
Haifa, Israel on "What is
Newsworthy? Reexamining News
Criteria." Gaye's topic was The
Business of News: Accountability
Regimes and Ideological
Institutions.

Claudio Benzecry, "Opera y cierre
social en Buenos Aires en el
temprano siglo XX. Hacia una
teoría de los regímenes de
clasificación cultural." Lecture
Series. El Colegio de Mexico.

Simon Hsu-Chih Cheng, "The Effects of Internet Use on Adolescents' First Romantic and Sexual Relationships in Taiwan." The Fourth Conference of Taiwan Youth Project.

National Engagements

Claudio Benzecry has been invited to be part of the editorial board of the newly formed *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*. He also gave a talk and taught a workshop at Brown for the Mellon Graduate Workshop on Knowledge, Politics, and Identity on March 16. In April he toured California, giving talks at UC Santa Cruz and US Davis Sociology Colloquia. He also presented a paper at the New School on memory and art.

During her service as SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, **Nancy Naples** gave talks on discursive politics, social justice, and feminist praxis at Ohio University and Cal State University-Dominguez Hills and sexual citizenship and reproductive rights at Rice University.

Plenary panelists, **Manisha Desai**, "Mahila Panchayats: Practice of Real Utopias in India," and **Bandana Purkayastha**, "Towards a Violence-Free Utopia," Winter Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society.

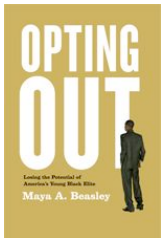
Gaye Tuchman, "Student Outcomes Assessment," American Sociological Association invited presentation.

Gaye Tuchman had an opinion piece in *Insidehighered.com* ("Commodifying the Academic Self").

Gordon Gauchat's (PhD, 2011) ASR article, "Politicization of Science in the Public Sphere," has received coverage from many news outlets, including MSNBC, *Slate*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, among others.



*In
the
News*



Maya Beasley's new book *Opting Out: Losing the Potential of America's Young Black Elite* has received coverage in the popular press, in newspapers and on the internet and radio.

Claudio Benzecry has given interviews on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and several Spanish-language radio and newspapers.

Arnold Dashefsky's work on Jewish communities was featured on the UConn CLAS Today blog and quoted in two online articles on the current size of the US Jewish population.

Noel Cazenave wrote an op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* in March 2012.

Bandana Purkayastha, *Khabar 365 Din*, op-ed in Bengali, January 2012.

Bradley Wright, "The 'War' on Religion: A Closer Look at What America Really Thinks about Christians," in *Relevant Magazine*. He also wrote the cover story for *Christianity Today*, "They Like You: What Americans Really Think about Evangelicals and Why We Worry About It."

Public Engagement

Susan Eisenhandler: Board of Directors HUD residential complex for the elderly

Noel Cazenave: Everyday Democracy (everyday-democracy.org)

Jeremy Pais: Provides data on CT poverty to the Hearst Newspaper Group.

Kathryn Ratcliff: Board Member, Eastern CT Area Health Education Center.

Bradley Wright gave a speaking series on religion at St. James Church in Glastonbury, CT; an invited lecture at Biola University; the Fleer lecture at Central Methodist University; and was convocation speaker at Gordon College.



SCHOLARSHIP

Edited Collections & Books

William T. Armaline (PhD, 2007), Davita Silfen Glasberg, and Bandana Purkayastha, eds. *Human Rights in Our Own Back Yard: Injustice and Resistance in the United States*. University of Pennsylvania Press (equal editorship).

Maya Beasley. *Opting Out: Losing the Potential of America's Young Black Elite*. University of Chicago Press.

Claudio Benzecry's book *The Opera Fanatic* has been translated into Spanish. The publisher Siglo XXI will distribute it in Buenos Aires, Mexico, and Barcelona. The Craft of Ethnography workshop (based at Columbia, CUNY GC, NCSR, Princeton, and NYU) gave a reception at ESS for Claudio's book on February 24.

Mary Bernstein's edited book (co-edited with Verta Taylor) *(Not) The Marrying Kind: The Politics of Same Sex Marriage* has received a contract from the University of Minnesota Press and is about ready to go into production. She has two chapters in this book, including one with former graduate student **Mary Burke (PhD, 2011)** and another chapter with Verta Taylor. Current graduate student **Kristine Olsen** also has a chapter in this book.

Andrew S. Deener. *Venice: A Contested Bohemia in Los Angeles*. University of Chicago Press.

Davita Silfen Glasberg and Deric M. Shannon (PhD, 2011). *Political Sociology: Oppression, Resistance, and the State*. Sage/Pine Forge Press.

Amii Omara-Otunn, **Bandana Purkayastha**, and **Sergio Mobilia (MA, 2010)**, eds. *Human Rights: Voices of World's Young Activists*. Frontpage Publications (equal editorship).

Bradley R. E. Wright's *Upside: Surprising Good News about the State of the World* (Bethany House [a

division of Baker Publishing]) presents social and economic trends in the United States and world, using data collected from the US Census, United Nations, and numerous other sources. Brad has been interviewed on the Research on Religion podcast as well as several dozen other radio and TV shows.

Book Chapters

Davita Silfen Glasberg, Angie Beeman (PhD, 2010), Casey, C., "Preying on the American Dream: Predatory Lending, The Social Construction of Foreclosure and Resistance to Economic Injustice," in *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard*.

Miho Iwata and Bandana Purkayastha, "Reflections on Cultural Human Rights," *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard*.

Bandana Purkayastha, "Human Rights, Global Visions," in *Human Rights: Voices of World's Young Activists*.

Bandana Purkayastha, Davita Silfen Glasberg, William T. Armaline, (PhD, 2007), "Human Rights in the United States: The 'Gold Standard' and the Human Rights Enterprise" in *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard*.

Bandana Purkayastha and Jayme Schwartzman, "Mother-work and the work of mothers: Contemporary Globalization and the Labour of Poor Women," in *Women's Encounter with Globalization*.

Bandana Purkayastha, Purkayastha, A., Chandra Waring, "From International Platforms to Local Yards: Standing Up for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the United States," in *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard*.

Kathryn Strother Ratcliff and Lwendo Moonzwe, "Globalization, Women and Health: Threats and Empowerment," in *Women's Encounter with Globalization*.

Journal Articles

Abraham, M. and **Bandana Purkayastha**, "Making a difference: Linking research and action in practice, pedagogy, and policy for social justice: Introduction," in *Current Sociology*.

Claudio Benzecry, "A Night at the Opera. How does taste become a passion?" in *Contexts*.

Casey, C., **Davita Glasberg**, and **Angie Beeman (PhD, 2010)**, "Racial Disparities in Access to Mortgage Credit: Does Governance Matter?" in *Social Science Quarterly*.

Simon Hsu-Chih Cheng and Powell, B., "Misclassification By Whom? A Comment on Campbell and Troyer," in *American Sociological Review*.

Crowder, Kyle, **Jeremy Pais**, Scott J. South, "Neighborhood Diversity, Metropolitan Constraints, and Household Migration," in *American Sociological Review*.

Erturk, Y. and **Bandana Purkayastha**, "Linking Research, Policy and Action: A look at the work of the special rapporteur on violence against women," in *Current Sociology*.

Mary J. Fischer, "The Effects of Interracial Contact in College on the Interracial Attitudes of White Students," in *Social Psychology of Education*.

Elizabeth Holzer, "A Case Study of Political Failure in a Refugee Camp," in *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

Anjana Narayan (PhD, 2006), **Bandana Purkayastha**, Banerji, S., "Constructing Virtual, transnational identities on the web: The case of Hindu student groups in the US and UK," in *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.

Jeremy Pais, Kyle Crowder, and Scott J. South, "Metropolitan Heterogeneity and Minority Neighborhood Attainment: Spatial Assimilation or Place Stratification?" in *Social Problems*.

Kim Price-Glynn (with Carter Rakovski), "Intersectional Identities and Worker Experiences in Home Health Care: The National Home Health Aide Survey" in a special issue of *Research in the Sociology of Health Care*, entitled "Issues in Health and Health Care Related to Race/Ethnicity, Immigration, SES and Gender."

Bandana Purkayastha, "Intersectionality in a transnational world," in *Gender & Society*.

Bandana Purkayastha and **Anjana Narayan (PhD, 2006)**, "Talking Gender Superiority in Virtual Spaces," in *Journal of South Asian Diasporas*.

Ranita Ray and **Bandana Purkayastha**, "Challenges In Localizing Global Human Rights," in *Sociologists Without Borders*.

Deric Shannon (PhD, 2011), M., Heckert, J., **Abbey S. Willis**,

"Loving and Teaching: Some Notes on Queering Anarchist Pedagogies," in *Educational Studies*.

Deric Shannon (PhD, 2011), M., Janik-Marusov, L., **Lauren Sardi (PhD, 2010)**, L., **Dina Giovanelli**, Offiaeli, R., "From Tactics to Praxis: Learning Feminist Pedagogy through Methodology," in *The Qualitative Review*.

South, S. J., Crowder, K., **Jeremy Pais**, "Metropolitan Structure and Neighborhood Attainment: Exploring Intermetropolitan Variation in Racial Residential Segregation," in *Demography*.

Michael Wallace and **Travis Scott Lowe**, "Work Values and Job Rewards among European Workers," in *Research in Sociology of Work*.

Wallace, Michael, Bradley R.E. Wright, Christine Zozula, Stacy Missari, Christopher M. Donnelly, Annie Scola Wisnesky, "A New Approach for Studying Stratification and Religion: Early Results from a National Internet-Based Field Experiment Study of U.S. Churches," in *Research in the Sociology of Work*.

David Weakliem, Gordon Gauchat (PhD, 2011), Brad Wright, "Sociological Stratification: Change and Continuity in the Distribution of Departmental Prestige, 1965-2007," in *American Sociologist*.

Werum, R. E., Davis, T., **Simon Hsu-Chih Cheng**, "How Institutional Context Alters Social Reproduction Dynamics: Ethnic Track Placement Patterns in the U.S. and Germany," in *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*.

Bradley R. E. Wright, Christina Zozula, and W. Bradford Wilcox, "Bad News about the Good News: The Construction of the Christian-Failure Narrative," in *Journal of Religion & Society*.



Mary Bernstein: Crossing Boundaries. American Sociological Association, Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

Arnold Dashefsky: Distinguished Lectureship Program; Mandell L. Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank (Jewish Federations of North America); Judaic Studies Program Development (Jewish Federations of Connecticut)

Andrew Deener: Completed third year of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellowship

Manisha Desai: Completed Fulbright Hays Fellowship (one of 19 granted in the US)

Grants & Awards

Other Publications

Maya Beasley, "Is the West Too Hard on Terrorism: How Decentralization Makes The War on Terror Obsolete," in *Muftah: A Mid East and North Africa Foreign Policy Magazine*.

Gaye Tuchman, "Pressured and Measured: Professors at Wannabe U," in *The Hedgehog Review*, which is a publication of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. It has published essays by such sociologists as Richard Sennett, Arlie Hochschild, Zygmunt Baumann, Viviana Zelizer, and Craig Calhoun.

"Metrics, Business Plans, and the Vanishing Public Good," in *Thought & Action*.

"The Escalation of Business as Usual," *Academe*.

"The Humanities, Higher Education, and Social Class," in *Western Humanities Review*.

"Book review: Institutional Review Board," in *Contemporary Sociology*.

Adams, J. P. and **David L. Weakliem,** "From Unpublished Paper to Citation Classic: August B. Hollingshead's Four-Factor Index of Social Status," in *Yale Journal of Sociology*.



Due to the efforts of **Claudio Benzecry** and **Gaye Tuchman**, we were able to attract a galaxy of top scholars to our colloquia series. Our speakers for 2011-2012 were Sujata Patel, University of Hyderabad, India, and International Sociological Association's Vice President for National Associations; David Brady, Duke University, and Center for European Studies; Sarah Sobieraj, Tufts University; Michael Sauder, University of Iowa and Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program, Harvard University; Rene Almelling, Yale University; Brian Powell, James H. Rudy Professor, Indiana University; Joanna Dreby, University at Albany State University of New York; and Jennifer Lundquist, Associate Professor of Sociology at UMass Amherst.

Focus on Fulbright Scholars

We are pleased to host three Fulbright scholars in the department: Farhan (Pakistan) and Adane (Israel), who joined us this past year, and Rodrigo (Chile), who arrived in 2009. They will be joined in the fall by Fulbright student researcher Apoorva Ghosh, from India. Apoorva will be working with Mary Bernstein on an extended project.

Adane Zawdu is a Fulbright scholar from Israel. He earned his BA (Sociology and Philosophy) and MA (Sociology) at Tel-Aviv University. His research interests include Culture; Nationalism; Race and Ethnicity. For his doctoral thesis he seeks to explore the folk understandings of social difference in Israel.

Adane co-authored an article that was published in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*: "Between Global Racial and Bounded Identity: Choice of Destigmatization Strategies Among Ethiopian Jews In Israel" (2012, with Prof. Nissim Mizrachi). And he currently is working on a paper titled: "The Everyday Strategies to Equalize Oneself."

His faculty advisor is Professor Gaye Tuchman.



Farhan Navid Yousaf (pictured at left) is a Fulbright scholar from Pakistan. He earned his MA and an M.Phil from Punjab University in Lahore. He has served Government of the Punjab, Pakistan in various capacities relating to planning and development, and is currently associated with the International Islamic University in Islamabad as a faculty member. He was awarded an ILO fellowship to represent Pakistan on a gender budgeting meeting in Italy, and is a UNDP certified Master trainer on gender equity issues. While he has publications on the subject of human trafficking, he intends to pursue his interest in 'Human Trafficking in Pakistan: Gender and Rights perspectives' further. He has been awarded UConn Human Rights Institute Grant 2012-13 to study women trafficking in Pakistan.



From left: PhD student Josef Ma, Rodrigo, Farhan, and Adane enjoying Gaye's retirement party.

Rodrigo Figueroa is Bachelor in Sociology (University of Chile, 1998) and Master in Economics and Labor Relations (Pontifical Catholic University, Peru). He also is a professor in Sociology Department at University of Chile. He has conducted researches in areas such as economic development, poverty, middle class's subjectivity, labor relationships, and neoliberalism. He currently is developing his doctoral thesis, which deals with the relationships between inequality and financialization in LACs. He focuses on four countries of the region: Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil. In methodological terms, this thesis is a comparative study that involves quantitative analyses as well as the description of institutional changes. Finally, His areas of interest are Economic Sociology, Sociology of Work, Social Stratification, Inequality, Development theories, Financial Markets, Political Economy, and Cultural Studies and Performativity of Economics.



Undergraduate & Graduate Student Awards and Publications

Undergraduate Awards

Janet M. Fierberg Award for Academic Achievement in Sociology and/or Social Work

Sharielle Applewhite

Rebecca Parkhurst, who was accepted into the UConn School of Social Work.

Graduate Awards

Ranita Ray was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for her work entitled, "Youth, Poverty, and Educational Success."

Also continuing on their grants are **Lwendo Moonzwe**, who received an NIH grant, and **Chandra Waring**, who won the SWS Chow/Green Dissertation Scholarship.

Kamryn Warren also received a State Department Scholarship to

learn Nepali, a language she wishes to learn because of her interest in researching a specific refugee group.

Allen Hyde received a Mitofsky Summer Research Fellowship from the Roper Center for his study entitled, "Saving Motor City: Detroit Residents React to the Auto Bailout."

Miho Iwata was awarded a Humanities Institute Fellowship to complete her dissertation research in Japan.

Roseanne Njiru and **Farhan Yousaf** were awarded Human Rights Institute Fellowships for their work on violence in internally displaced persons camps in Kenya and trafficking in Pakistan (ask for names of topics and list separately).

Malaena Taylor and **Todd Vachon** also received a joint Mitofsky Summer Research Fellowship for "A Tale of Two Movements: Evaluating Public Support for the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street Movements."

Kamryn Warren and **Chandra Waring** were awarded one-year Multicultural Fellowships.

Shweta Majumdar Adur won the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Stacy Missari and **Christine Zozula's** paper, "Woman as...": Personhood, Rights, and the Case of Domestic Violence," has been chosen as this year's winner of the Susan Porter Benson Graduate Student Paper Award in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Stacy Missari received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award based on her research scholarship.

Malaena Taylor won the Ronald Taylor Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper for her paper, "Denying, Deflecting, and Distracting: Identity Contests and the Tea Party Movement."

Publications

Daring, Christa, Jen Rogue, **Deric Shannon (PhD, 2011)**, and **Abbey Willis**, eds. *Queering Anarchism: Addressing and Undressing Power and Desire* (forthcoming).

Barret Katuna, "The Human Rights Enterprise and Women's Rights

Organizing" forthcoming in *Societies Without Borders*.

Stacy Missari and **Christine Zozula**, "'Woman As...': Personhood, Rights and The Case of Domestic Violence," in *Societies Without Borders*.

Abbey Volcano and **Deric Shannon (PhD, 2011)**, "Capitalism in the 2000s: Some Broad Strokes for Beginners," in *The Accumulation of Freedom: Writings on Anarchist Economics*.

Wilson, James A., **Christine Zozula**, "Risk, Recidivism and Rehabilitation: Another Look at Project Greenlight," in *The Prison Journal*.

Abbey Volcano, "Police at the Borders," forthcoming in *Queering Anarchism: Addressing and Undressing Power and Desire*.

Around the Discipline

Barret Katuna, in her role as the lead United Nations Delegate to the Economic and Social Council for Sociologists for Women in Society, organized the first SWS Parallel Side Event to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, "Feminist Sociological Insight on Literacy Projects, Community Grassroots Groups, and Rural Women's Leadership." It took place on March 5, 2012 in New York, New York. Participating scholars included: **Manisha Desai** (University of Connecticut), Shobha Gurung (Southern Utah University) and Kristy Kelly (Columbia University).

Welcome to new Assistant Professor, Emir Estrada!



We welcome Emir Estrada, who will join us in Fall 2012. Dr. Estrada obtained her PhD from University of Southern California. She will hold a joint appointment with *El Instituto*: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean and Latin American Studies. Her research interests span Immigration, Latina/o Sociology, Childhood, Children and Work, Chicana/o Studies, Qualitative Methods, Race and Ethnic Relations, and Gender. Her recent publications include "Latina Adolescent Street Vendors in Los Angeles: Gendered Streetwise?" in *Low-Wage Work, Migration and Gender* edited by Anna Guevara and Nilda Flores-Gonzalez (University of Illinois Press) and "Intersectional Dignities: Latino Immigrant Street Vendor Youth in Los Angeles" in *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* (both co-authored with Pierette Hondagneu Sotelo).

Emir Estrada was prominently featured in USC news:
<http://128.125.126.117/news/stories/1171/going-places/>

Jobs/Alumni

Angie Beeman (PhD, 2010) has accepted a position at Baruch College.

Mary Burke (PhD, 2010) accepted a joint position at University of Vermont as lecturer of Sociology and Women's Studies.

Jungyun Gill (PhD, 2011) accepted a tenure-track position at Mountain State University in West Virginia.

Gretchen Marin (MA, 2012) has accepted a position as the Coordinator of International Programs and Latino Academic Success at Elms College in Chicopee, MA.

Thomas Hochschild, Jr. (PhD, 2011) began a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Valdosta College.

Mustafa Gurbuz (PhD, 2012) will be a Post-Doctoral Scholar in the Sociology Department at the University of South Florida.

Sergio Mobilia (MA, 2010) was awarded the Global ERG Leadership Award for his efforts organizing Sum of Google 2011 in Buenos Aires. Sergio works for Google Argentina.

Moving Forward!

Graduations

James Hogan, MA

Allen Hyde, MA

Gretchen Marin, MA

Malaena Taylor, MA

Todd Vachon, MA

Mustafa Gurbuz, PhD

Barb Gurr, PhD

Tom Hochschild, PhD

Melissa Lavin, PhD

Happy Retirement, Gaye and Arnie!

Gaye Tuchman retired in December 2011. Her contributions to Sociology and our department cannot be over stated. Her life captures the ways in which our discipline changed. Gaye received her PhD in 1969. She was the first woman to hold a tenure track position in the country. She was one of the pioneering women who created Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) in 1969. At that time there were no women in the American Sociological Association's (ASA) executive bodies, no ASA sections on sex and gender, no sociology classes on gender, very few books or articles written by women,

and almost no scholarly space to discuss women or gender. But the work of this pioneering groups created a revolution. Within 25 years of the formation of SWS, the Presidents of every major professional sociological organization in the US were women. Gaye served as Vice President of SWS in 1976-77. Gaye has been part of the pioneering group of women who broke glass ceilings and worked hard to change the rules that keep out women and minorities in academia.

Gaye's scholarship continues to attract significant attention nationally and internationally. Her book *Making News* was published in 1978; it was republished this year. Gaye was been invited repeatedly to Europe, Latin America, and Israel to talk about making news in 2010 and 2011. Her latest book, *Wannabe U*, is making news across the world. As scholars examine the rapidly changing structures of academia and the consequences of such changes, Gaye continues to be a much sought-after speaker and commentator within academia and outside it, nationally and internationally.



Arnold Dashefsky, Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies and Professor of Sociology and Director, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, retired in June 2012. Arnie has been a pioneer in the field of Jewish Studies. He is the Founding Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, located in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, at UConn. He has also served as the Director of the Berman Institute – North American Jewish Data Bank.

Arnie's outstanding contributions to the development of the field is evident through his record of publications, which span *Contemporary Jewry*, Volumes 7 and 8 (edited for the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and published by Transaction Books, 1986 and 1987); *Charitable Choices: Philanthropic Decisions of Donors in the American Jewish Community*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009. (with B. Lazerwitz); *Jewish Choices: American Jewish Denominationalism*, Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1998 (with B. Lazerwitz , J.A. Winter and E. Tabory); *Americans Abroad: A Comparative Study of Emigrants from the United States*, New York: Plenum, 1992 (with J. De Amicis , B. Lazerwitz and E. Tabory); and *Ethnic Identification Among American Jews*, Lanham, MD: UPA (with Howard M. Shapiro). He is currently working on a book: *Jewish Options* (with J. A. Winter), which analyzes contemporary patterns in American Jewish life.

A former Associate Head of Sociology, Arnie has been a dedicated teacher and mentor. He designed some of the first courses on American Jewry for our university. He plans to continue teaching and directing the work of the North American Jewish Databank for sometime.



Susan Eisenhandler completed 25 years of service at UConn.

Noel Casenave completed 20 years of service.

Mary Bernstein, Nancy Naples, and Michael Wallace completed 10 years of service.

Thank You!

Milestones in Service

New Beginnings!

Rachel Leventhal-Weiner welcomed daughter Emily Rose on July 18, 2011.

Jeremiah Coldsmith welcomed Nicolas on August 1, 2011.

Jayne Schwartzman Amarone and Andy Amarone welcomed their son Bence on August 6, 2011.

Travis Lowe's son Isaac Scott was born on September 29, 2011.

Barret Katuna married Benjamin Kehl on December 17, 2011 in Westbrook, CT.

Nikki McGary and Nate Teodoro welcomed Amber Sierra Teodoro on June 2, 2012.

Kim Price-Glynn welcomed a baby girl, Lilly, this spring.



Obituaries

Jack Wright, who completed a PhD in Sociology at UConn, passed away in May 2012. Jack was a much loved member of a cohort of grads and faculty. He is survived by his wife, Holly Best.

Obituary in Portland, ME Press Herald: <http://tinyurl.com/77rb37x>

Ronald Fernandez, a seminal scholar on the disenfranchisement of Puerto Ricans died in August 2011. He got his PhD from UConn Sociology, and worked as a professor of sociology at Central Connecticut State University. Dr. Fernandez's research into the lives of the Los Macheteros, the men who were involved in the Wells Fargo armed car robbery in Hartford, led him to develop a broader interest in the history and colonial subject status of Puerto Ricans. His books include *The Disenchanted Island: Puerto Rico and the United States in the Twentieth Century*, and *America beyond Black and White*. His book on Puerto Rican cultural history was nationally recognized by the American Library Association with the Denali Book Award.

2012 Incoming Graduate Program Cohort

Devon Goss graduated from Lewis and Clark College with an M.S. in Psychological and Cultural Studies in 2012, where she examined the trans identity movement and the concept of resistance to transphobic oppression via an ethnographic lens. Previously, she investigated third party perceptions of sexual assault involving alcohol consumption as part of her undergraduate studies at the University of Portland, winning a Psi Chi Western Regional Award in 2009. She is interested in continuing her studies of queer community and social movements at UConn.

Caner Hazar graduated with a master's degree in Women's Studies from Istanbul University and did graduate work on sexuality at Ruhr-University Bochum. He has been a contributor to independent news portals and a volunteer for solidarity organizations. His masters thesis deals with sexuality, gender and sex as categories of knowledge which are at work in the construction of sexual difference and hierarchy using interviews with sexual dissidents in Turkey. His research interests are sexualities, social constructivism, social implications of queer theory, epistemology and political sociology. He plans to analyze the role of class in the social construction of sexual subcultures.

Koyel Khan received her B.A. in Sociology from Presidency College, Calcutta and M.A in Sociology from Jadavpur University. She has taught Sociology in high school for a while and also worked in a World Bank project which was concerned with development of rural livelihoods by improving access to information through ICT tools. She is particularly interested in social stratification and mobility, development and culture.

Granite Angran Li graduated with a B.A from the Ocean University of China. He previously traveled to the U.S. to participate in the Summer Work Travel Program in Montana and worked with Professor Mackinnon on a paper titled, "Modernization, Rising Expectations, Relative Deprivation and a New Form of Social Unrest in

China" during the summer 2011. He is interested in focusing on social movements, political sociology, and the development of human rights in China.

Gregory Mills graduated with an MA in Sociology from the University of South Florida, where he gained several academic honors. He is currently finishing his thesis which examines perceptions of cultural hostility and patterns of identity negotiation among first-generation Middle Eastern and Muslim immigrants in post-9/11 America. Gregory has lived and worked abroad extensively, which gives his research a sharp international context, and sparked his interests in migration and transnationalism. He is also interested in immigrant educational and occupational mobility, especially since the onset of the Great Recession in the late 2000s. Gregory is also an avid backpacker and hiker.

Heidi Obach graduated from SUNY Binghamton with a BA in Sociology. Her interests range from sociology of the family to education and child welfare policy. She presented her thesis "Race and Foster Care" at the Eastern Sociological Society 2012 meeting. It examines the way race impacts the experiences of fostered children through the descriptions of foster care caseworkers and how those descriptions compare with the views of child welfare professionals and policy makers. Her current interests include exploring how different groups and organizations approach educational equity and reducing the achievement gap.

Shi (Sylvia) Pu graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in China in 2010. She received several highly exclusive awards for academic excellence including the China National Scholarship. She worked for a major state-owned energy company for two years, where she discovered both the unjust truth uncovered by China's rapid economic

development and her determination to make Sociology her lifetime career. Her areas of interests are quantitative methodology, political economy, social change, inequality and human rights. Her ultimate academic pursuit is to find the key to China's democracy.

Meral Tunador graduated cum laude with a major in Sociology and a minor in Near East Studies from the University of Washington. As a UW honors scholar, Meral conducted ethnographic research on the transition to adulthood in gay men and how it coincides and conflicts with contemporary life course theory perspectives. Her broad research interests include social movements, transnational identities, and sexualities.

Lauren Van Derzee graduated magna cum laude with dual degrees in French and Sociology from Susquehanna University. She received the Outstanding Sociology Student award for her senior thesis and involvement in the department. She has worked as a research assistant cleaning and coding data for the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission. She also spent a semester studying in France developing language skills and knowledge of the French political and education systems. Lauren is particularly interested in focusing on education, stratification, social movements, and quantitative methods.

Stephen Wulff graduated with a Master's degree in the social sciences from the University of Chicago in 2011, where he investigated how marginalized communities facing secondary marginalization build social capital and enhance their resilience within urban environments. At UConn, he looks forward to further investigating problems related to resiliency at the crossroads of sexuality, race, ethnicity, gender, and class by using qualitative field methods to uncover the

mechanisms and contexts that operate as the sources of both risk and resilience for marginalized groups.

Rachel Sloan graduated magna cum laude with college honors and distinction in Sociology from Albright College. She received the Lisamarie Cope '02 Memorial Award and the Sociology and Anthropology Department Research Award for her research on gender stereotypes. In addition to her interest in gender, she is also interested in cultural sociology, particularly the effects of globalization and tourism, as well as politically conservative social movement organizations.

Welcome to UConn and to the Sociology Department!

**THANK
YOU!**

We have a great team of faculty, staff and graduate students. None of our accomplishments could have been achieved without our collective commitment to excellence, collegiality and commitment to outstanding professional standards.

Bandana Purkayastha has been appointed Department Head and will continue in this position for the next four years.

Kathryn Strother Ratcliff continues to do an outstanding job as Associate Head and

Scheduler. This is a monstrous job, requiring the juggling of multiple schedules, faculty interests and skills, graduate student teaching abilities and schedules, and room availabilities. Scheduling requires an ability to keep track of many moving pieces that simultaneously shift right up until the day preregistration begins—and often thereafter! Kay has been unflappable in creating a carefully developed schedule for the department.

Michael Wallace has done an excellent job as Director of Graduate Studies. As the university grows more complex in structure, the job of the DGS has become complicated. Mike has ably managed the multiple needs of the graduate program and introduced some signature programs of his own, including a very successful Political Economy Workshop series. Mike and the graduate program committee have selected an outstanding class of eleven graduate students next year. Mike has worked with Bandana, Kay, and David to ensure the strength of our graduate program.

David Weakliem has served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and has been a steady and important factor in maintaining the undergraduate program even as he assumed the additional task as Editor of Contemporary Sociology. He has worked with Bandana, Kay, and Mike on the Planning Committee to ensure a full and diverse program, serving the needs of not only our undergraduate majors and minors, but of the entire university in our offerings of Gen Ed and W seats.

Arlene Goodwin has remained consistently invaluable, as always. Without her, we would easily overspend our budget, and get mired in multiple crises. In a year with an interim head, a new director of graduate studies, multiple faculty promotions, searches, problems with our building—Manchester Hall—and numerous changes in technologies and protocol at the university Arlene has been a rock guiding us smoothly through the changes. She has taken additional significant tasks such as supervising office moves, making sure the construction at Manchester Hall is accomplished smoothly. Her work makes all of our lives easier. Thank you, Arlene, for being the gifted rock of this department!

Kathy Covey continues to be the spine of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs. She is the front lines of admitting new majors, securing plans of study, organizing the administration of the graduate program, and administering the admissions process.. In addition she constantly acts as a mentor to graduate and undergraduate students who are bewildered by the paperwork they have to complete. Thank you, Kathy, for your incredible attention to detail and your good cheer when all else looked grim!

Chelsea Martin and **Rachel Eldracher** were our student workers this year. We truly appreciate their help with copying, scanning, and all the other "little" activities that made our lives so much easier through the year. Chelsea graduated this year; we wish her the very best for the future!

Trisha Tiamzon, thank you for designing and helping with this newsletter. Thank you also for helping with office assignments for graduate students.

Nikki McGary and Trisha Tiamzon, we appreciate your work as the past and current head of our wonderful graduate students.

