Arlene Kaplan Daniels Award Committee Report 2020

Submitted by Tanya L. Saunders, Committee Chair

July 22, 2020

Committee Members: Tanya L. Saunders, Meghan Rich, Judith Halasz, LaTonya Trotter, Noreen M. Sugrue, and Mathew H. McLeskey (all participated)

This year we received twelve submissions. The papers were varied in topic and many represented important contributions to the social science literature. The committee was asked to rank the papers in order of preference. The committee was charged to base their rankings on the extent to which each submission:

1. Addresses contemporary issues of women's justice locally, nationally, and globally

2.Brings a fresh perspective to women's inclusion in global society and advances new theoretical directions discussing women and social justice

3.Is theoretically informed and possess an empirical orientation. Given the volume of papers and their quality, it was a challenge to rank many of the papers.

Among the committee members who participated, they ranked their top five papers, and the three papers that had the most overall votes were selected and discussed to determine a winner and an honorable mention. The 2020 Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award winner is Joss T. Greene for the paper titled, "Categorical Exclusions: How Racialized Gender Regulation Reproduces Reentry Hardship."   This paper has significant implications for policies directed at re-entry post-incarceration. The essay is a timely essay, given the recent push to expand suffrage to former felons. The most significant intervention is in using the intersections of race and gender to analysis to address an immensely important social issue. Drawing on seven months of ethnography and 79 interviews with service providers and formerly incarcerated transgender people, the shows that these organizational practices of gender categorization are racialized and impact resource access. Gender sanctioning posed a major problem for black trans women, who were highly scrutinized in women's programs, characterized as illegitimate based on biological definitions of gender, and harassed for any perceived deviation from gender norms. Regulation of black trans women's woman-hood led to systematic material deprivation. The author argues that by understanding the connections between categorical exclusions and exclusion from resources we can better understand the reproduction of reentry hardship and inequality more broadly.

The honorable mention went to "Identify of Distance: How Economically Marginalized Black and Latina Women Navigate Risk Discourse and Employ Feminist Ideals," by Dr. Ranita Ray. "Identity of Distance" begins by challenging the premise that teen pregnancy and parenthood is a

major impediment for young Black and Latina women's occupational and educational mobility. It challenges the idea that it is also a substantial variable in the reproduction of poverty. Drawing on three years of in-depth and ethnography among thirteen economically marginalized Black and Latinx youth, the author shed new light on old questions and assumptions about teen parenthood and its role in the reproduction of poverty. The article is a foundational essay both theoretically and empirically, and will be useful to those across disciplines to those who study the intersections of women and social justice, and race, gender and class. The paper simultaneously challenges academics, community organizers, and the larger public to begin to rethink public policies in this area.