



## Message from the Chair of the Division

*Carol Gardner*

“Welcome to the first SSSP Disabilities Division newsletter.” That’s a sentence I’ve been longing to write for years, and a sentence I know our membership has been more than ready to read. As the first Chair, I am also honored just to be writing it.

And I’ve necessarily written on the model of those somewhat Academy Award acceptance speeches, where everyone but the speaker’s great-grandmother’s cousin’s wing-chair has thanks and kudos heaped upon them. In our case? It’s only just to do so here, however.

Of course this Division could not have come into being without the help of so many of our 90-odd current members. In addition, we are fortunate to be in an organization that is dedicated to alleviating social problems. Many longtime SSSP members have been active in the movement to found this division; to mention only a few, we must all be grateful to Liat Ben-Moshe, Valerie Leiter, Kathe Lowney, Julie Cowgill, Lloyd Klein, Nancy Naples, Jeremy Brunson, Jennifer Wesely, and Ira Silver.

Nor could the division been realized without the help and encouragement of those in the Society for the Study of Social Problems home office, most notably and wonderfully Michele Smith Koontz and Tom Hood. Sharon Shumaker has also provided expert assistance.

On a personal note, I need to thank Sharon Barnartt, Peter Conrad, and Candace West for strategic advice; students Olutope A. Omosegbon, Sarah Aktepy, Ben Drury, Nichol Kirby, Zak Koehler, and Alice Wong the fresh enthusiasm that students can lend to all endeavors; colleagues Carrie Foote, Robert Aponte, and Suzanne Steinmetz for departmental support; and, finally, the family support system of William P. Gronfein, Abigail Goldman, and Cosmo the Wonder Service-Dog.

Again on the model of the Award acceptance speeches, I must say that I know I’ve omitted many folks who worked hard create and shape this division.

I hope to see you in Boston. Please be sure you come to our Disabilities Division meeting and to our division’s sessions. Check your program for these, and consider attending pertinent ASA sessions (Sharon Barnartt has listed these on the Attachment).

## Message from the Division Newsletter Editor

*Olutope Omosegbon*

**Greetings, all!** I am a biology and sociology double-major at IUPUI. After graduation in 2009, I plan to pursue a Master’s in Public Health. Afterwards, I hope to go on to medical school. It is a passion of mine to serve myself by serving others. To serve our Division will help me meet this goal.

## Submissions for the Newsletter are wanted!

Please e-mail the Editor at: [oaomoseg@iupui.edu](mailto:oaomoseg@iupui.edu). Use Microsoft Word and jpeg for your files.

1. **References**
  - a. **Articles**
  - b. **Reviews**
  - c. **Academic and Non-Academic Books**
2. **Presentations**
3. **Personal updates**
  - a. **New degree**
  - b. **Promotion**
  - c. **Work with a new agency**
  - d. **Disability practice**
  - e. **Disability activism**
4. **Internet sources for faculty and student use**
  - a. **Websites**
  - b. **Chat rooms**
  - c. **Listservs**
  - d. **YouTube videos**
5. **News**
  - a. **Global**
  - b. **National**
  - c. **Regional**
  - d. **Local**
6. **Suggestions**
  - a. **Effective teaching techniques**
  - b. **Information on useful accommodations for faculty, staff and students**
7. **Citations: Favorite readings for classrooms and why they were effective**
8. **The answer to the following question: “And what can I do with my background in the study of a disability as a social problem?”**

### INSIDE THE ISSUE

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# SSSP Conference Information for the Division

Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

Accessibility Committee– **Holmes, 10:30-12:10pm**

Session 13 “New Directions in Disability Research & Theory”– **Constitution, 10:30am-12:10pm\***

Session 23 “Family, Education, and Activism”– **12:30-2:10pm\***

Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

Session 63 “Disability Studies meets Sociology in Research, Teaching, and Activism”– **Hancock, 12:30-2:10pm\***

Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Session 95 “Speaking to ‘The System’: Diagnosis, Access, and Services from Users’ Perspectives”  
**Hancock, 8:30-10:10am\***

Session 107 “Disability and Family” **Hancock, 10:30-12:10pm**

Session 145 Division’s Graduate Student Paper Presentation **White Hill, 4:30-6:10pm**

\* denotes a session sponsored by the Division

## **Elsewhere at SSSP**

Shawn Cassiman, Ph.D. will be presenting a paper detailing some of his dissertation research: *Poor Disabled Mothers: Straddling Borders, Shifting Boundaries and Everyday Resistance* (Session 131) in **Hancock** from **2:30-4:10pm** on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Are You Who You Are Online?***

*Student Presentation on Immersive Learning and the Virtual World of Second Life*

The Racial and Ethnic Minorities Division would like you to know it is sponsoring a panel of undergraduate students who will be presenting on their experiences in an immersive learning class that explored race and ethnicity in the virtual world of Second Life. The students created an outstanding graphic novel and play and will be sharing their work with SSSP on Thursday, July 31 from 4:30-6:10pm in the Newbury Room. This is a session you will not want to miss. Please come out and support the efforts of our students.

# Graduate Student Paper Competition

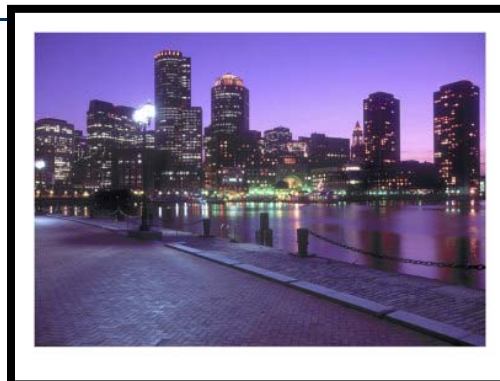
Winner: **Alexis Bender**, Georgia State University  
**Rolling Manhood: Masculinity and Race following  
Traumatic Injury**

The division is proud to award its first Graduate Student Paper Competition award to Alexis Bender, a doctoral candidate at Georgia State University. Alexis Bender’s “Rolling Manhood” acutely analyzes social categories of gender and health status/disability with attention to private and public spheres. In the process, she delivers a masterful parsing of our social world, in which health status/disability are seen to be situationally determined. In effect, Bender’s study has supplied a model for all who study the ways in which disability and gender work in everyday life.

Alexis’s abstract follows.

***In addition, this paper will be presented on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30-6:10pm in White Hill. It is session 145.***

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 more researchers have focused on disabilities and the experiences of people with disabilities. However, current research continues to ignore how different racial groups experience disability. This study uses qualitative research methodology involving in-depth, face-to-face interviews with 10 black and 10 white men with spinal cord injury/disease and amputation to examine how meanings for disability and masculinity through their built environment—the human made physical structures and infrastructure of a community—and employment experiences following injury. Using grounded theory methods, I found that these men find ways to “do” masculinity in public spaces, yet are limited in performing masculinity in the world of work. Furthermore, black and white men have different experiences and expectations about employment.



## Member Activities

Within this part of the newsletter, it is hoped that the division's members and opportunities alike will be highlighted. All items for consideration should be sent to the Editor at: [oaomoseg@iupui.edu](mailto:oaomoseg@iupui.edu).

### Members' Publications

#### Journal Articles

**Clune, L.** (2008 March) Nurses and students with (dis)abilities: Thinking about practice differently. *PNEIG Connection*, 3, (1), 7 - 8.

Magaña, S., Parish, S.L., & **Cassiman, S.A.** (2008). Policy lessons from low-income mothers with disabilities. *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, 29, 43-68. Parish, S.L.,

Magaña, S., & **Cassiman, S.A.** (2008). It's just that much harder: Multi-layered hardship experiences by low-income mothers with disabilities. *Affilia*, 23, 51-65

**Najarian, Cheryl G.** (Forthcoming, 2008). "Feminist Disability Theory." In O'Brien, Jodi and Shapiro, Eve (Eds), *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society*. Sage Publications.

**Najarian, Cheryl G.** (2008). "Deaf Women: Educational Experiences and Self Identity." *Disability & Society* 23 (2): 117 - 128.

#### Books

**Ronald J. Berger:** *Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability, and Basketball* (co-authored with Melvin Juette), Temple University Press (2008).

**Ronald J. Berger:** *Hoop Dreams on Wheels: Disability and the Competitive Wheelchair Athlete*, Routledge (forthcoming, Sept. 2008).

### Members' Research Investigations

#### Kathe Lowney

Kathe and her colleague Ginger Macheski, both at Valdosta State University, in Valdosta, Georgia, are working with the Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities. Kathe and Ginger are conducting a study on barriers to accessibility throughout the city. The project is an outgrowth of a graduate student sociological practice with a subcommittee of the Council; Kathe supervised the project. Focus groups with individuals with disabilities were conducted, analyzing the attitudinal and physical barriers they faced living in Valdosta. The mayor was both impressed and upset at the student's findings and pledged that improved accessibility would be one of his top five goals for the city in 2008. This study is part of a comprehensive plan to implement that goal. Kathe and Ginger are planning to conduct the study during Spring 2009 and intend to integrate community-based learning opportunities for students into several of their graduate and undergraduate courses that term. Do you have ideas on "best practices" for classes like these? Your ideas would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathe at: [klowney@valdosta.edu](mailto:klowney@valdosta.edu).

#### Shawn A. Cassiman, Ph.D.

Shawn is recruiting single mothers with disabilities for a study that he is conducting. He will be analyzing the experiences of mothers with disabilities as a follow-up to his dissertation studies on poor women with disabilities. Contact Shawn at: [cassima@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:cassima@notes.udayton.edu).

### Members' Presentations

**Clune, L.** (May 10, 2008). Admitting students with (dis)abilities into nursing programs: What we know and where we need to go. Leadership Conference, Canadian University School of Nursing: Toronto, Ontario.

**Clune, L.** (June 11, 2008). Admitting students with (dis)abilities: A systematic review of the literature. Poster presentation at the Nursing Research Day in the School of Nursing, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario.

### Career Opportunities

#### Brandeis University

#### The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

#### Senior Faculty Position in Disability Studies

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management invites applications for the Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Disability Policy at the rank of associate or full professor. The position carries a tenured appointment where appropriate. This individual will also be appointed as Director of the newly established Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at the Heller School. The Lurie Institute is set to become a major university-based institute for policy-related research on disability issues across the lifespan. The successful candidate is expected to have extensive research experience, preferably including working collaboratively with colleagues, other academic research centers, legislatures, state agencies and/or provider groups. We seek an established scholar with demonstrated experience in obtaining external funds for research support, interest and/or experience in policy setting at state and national levels, interest in mentoring graduate students, and evidence of excellent teaching. Applicants should have a doctoral degree in the social sciences, public health, medicine, law, or related fields. Candidates with an interest in services, financial support, legislative initiatives or other issues affecting persons with autism and their families are especially welcome.

Since its founding as Brandeis University's first professional school in 1959, the Heller School has been committed to developing new knowledge and insights in the field of social policy and in health and human services management. Through the graduate education of students, pursuit of applied interdisciplinary research, and active public engagement in both the public and private sectors, the Heller School examines policies and programs that respond to the changing needs of vulnerable individuals and social groups in our society.

*U.S. News and World Report* has ranked the Heller School

as the third-best graduate school in social policy. Brandeis University, a private, nonsectarian research institution located in Waltham, Massachusetts, was established in 1948. In 1998, Brandeis was ranked as the top-rising research institution in the nation in Graham and Diamond's *The Rise of American Research Universities*.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, samples of recent scholarship, and the names of at least three referees to the chair of the Nancy Lurie Marks Chair Search Committee, Brandeis University, 415 South Street, MS 134, Waltham MA 02454-9110. If you have any questions, contact Peter Conrad, Search Committee Chair, at [conrad@brandeis.edu](mailto:conrad@brandeis.edu).

Applications will be reviewed as they arrive, with priority given to those received before October 15, 2008. Brandeis University is an equal opportunity employer, committed to building a culturally diverse intellectual community, and strongly encourages applications from women and minorities.

### **Publishing**

**In search of a publishing outlet for symbolic interactionist construction of social problems? Read on to learn more about the new series from Lynne Rienner Publishers.**

How and why do some issues become social problems? How does media coverage shape our understanding of social issues? How do particular social policies emerge, and once they are in place, how are they implemented? Books in this new series will critically examine the subjective processes that turn social conditions into social problems. Collectively, the series will reflect the ability of the constructionist approach to transform the sociological study of social problems. Lynne Rienner Publishers seek fresh, provocative manuscripts addressing the social construction of social problems, including—but not limited to—projects relating to themes of race, class, gender, and crime. To discuss a possible book project or submit a proposal, please contact the series editors Joel Best ([joelbest@udel.edu](mailto:joelbest@udel.edu)) and Scott Harris ([harriss3@slu.edu](mailto:harriss3@slu.edu)). ❖

### **Study Opportunities**

**CUNY has a newly established Master's Program in Disability Studies.**

"Disability Studies is an emerging multidisciplinary field that spans the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. This new paradigm recognizes that disability is not inherent in the individual as a personal problem or deficit, but rather, is a set of physical and social barriers that constrains people. SPS offers courses in Disability Studies for current professionals and future practitioners in the disability field, people with disabilities, and disability advocates, scholars, and researchers." <http://sps.cuny.edu/programs/specourses/subjectdescription.aspx?sid=DSCP>

### **Member Spotlight**

**If you could like to be included within this part of the member's section, please submit blurb about yourself. 250-500 words, and a JPEG photo of yourself and another of your choice (logo of your institution or organization, etc.) is highly recommended. Items should be submitted to the chair or the Editor at: [oamoseg@iupui.edu](mailto:oamoseg@iupui.edu).**

**Liat Ben-Moshe**  
Syracuse University

I am delighted at the opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. I am a founding member of the Disabilities division of SSSP, and the

recent chair of the Accessibility Committee. I have been in the United States for about seven years, for six of which I have been a SSSP and SDS (Society for Disability Studies) member. Throughout my career I have tried to instill critical disability research and pedagogy in the field of sociology.

In 2005 I co-edited, with Mia Feldbaum, Rebecca Cory, and Ken Sagendorf, the anthology *Building Pedagogical Curb Cuts: Incorporating Disability in the University Classroom and Curriculum* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press) in order to inject disability curriculum and inclusive pedagogy across the disciplines; and in 2006 I wrote "Infusing Disability into the Curriculum: The Case of Saramago's Blindness," published in *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 26 (2).

One of my ongoing research projects is elaborated on in Ben-Moshe, L., and Powell, J. (2007), "Sign of Our Times? Revisi(tin)g the International Symbol of Access," in *Disability & Society* 22, 5, in which we investigate the history and cultural significance of the wheelchair symbol, which designates accessible parking spaces and restrooms.

In my current research I am investigating the politics of resistance to incarceration, in both deinstitutionalization (of people with psychiatric and developmental disabilities) and prison abolition activism.

I am also a member of various activist groups, among them BCCC (Beyond Compliance), a student disability activist organization at Syracuse University (<http://bccc.syr.edu>), and a board member of ARISE, the local Center for Independent Living. I am also the co-founder of the *Israeli Disability Studies Network* (IDSN) and co-editor with Sumi Colligan of a special issue of *Disability Studies Quarterly* 27 (4) on *Disability in Israel/Palestine*.

I have recently taught courses in Images of Disability and Sociology of Gender, but in fall 2008 I will be teaching my first Sociology of Disability course at Syracuse University, which will be heavily influenced by disability studies scholarship but will pay homage to our sociological roots and thinking as well (if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know).

Hope to meet some of you in person in Boston!

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**Jennifer K. Wesely, Ph.D.**  
University of North Florida

Jennifer is an assistant professor and graduate director in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of North Florida.<sup>1</sup> Her research examines gender, inequality, and social justice among marginalized groups like domestic violence victims, sex workers, and the homeless. The majority of her work is qualitative, using research techniques of in-depth interviewing and focus groups that unearth layers of a person's identity and "lived experiences."

To foreground the ways that those in particular marginalized populations negotiate meaning is to inform a deeper read of social problems and whom they "problematize." In a recent publication,<sup>2</sup> Jennifer discusses how lives of ongoing, cumulative victimization among the homeless women and exotic dancers I interviewed fed into their decisions to perpetrate criminal violence. This paper challenges early criminological theorizing -- which still persists -- that portrays women who are violent as biologically "unnatural" or pathologically as "mad," "sad," or "bad." Such stereotypic and one-dimensional constructs depoliticize women's violence, divorcing it from more nuanced individual meanings and from the institutional and structural contexts of gender and race inequality, domestic

violence, victimization, poverty, and social exclusion that shape it. Similar themes emerge in some of my other research, in which I examine relationships between gender, body, abuse, and power among a population of female exotic dancers.<sup>3</sup> Exotic dancers capitalize on hypersexualized image and performance to make money, but a identity and body boundary conflicts with which they struggle belie any straightforward interpretation of sex work. While dancers individually negotiate meanings of victimization and agency, the same structural contexts that make this a lucrative option for some women also limit the value of any "power" afforded. Some aspects of interviewing the exotic dancers are further detailed in an article where I turned my researcher's gaze back on myself. Specifically, I interrogated my own lived experiences as a feminist academic in light of their narratives,<sup>4</sup> challenging typical assertions of research(er) as neutral and objective.

I have also looked at how women who exercise outdoors negotiate their fear of crime in the largest urban park in the U.S.<sup>5</sup> My most recent work investigates the role of violence in the lives of homeless women in Florida. Funded by a NIJ grant,<sup>6</sup> my Co-Principals and I utilized about 800 detailed surveys with women at homeless shelters -- along with my in-depth interviews at one location -- from the four largest metropolitan areas in the state: Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. We are currently working on a book derived from this study.

If you have any questions or comments about my research, I can be reached at: [jwesely@unf.edu](mailto:jwesely@unf.edu).

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. from the School of Justice Studies, Arizona State University, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Wesely, Jennifer K. (2006). Considering the context of women's violence: Gender, lived experiences and cumulative victimization. *Feminist Criminology*, 1 (4), 303-328.

<sup>3</sup> Wesely, Jennifer K. (2005). "Where am I going to stop?" *Readings in Deviant Behavior*, 4th Edition. Edited by Thomas Calhoun and Alex Thio (pp. 207-210). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

<sup>4</sup> Wesely, Jennifer K. (2006). Negotiating Myself: The impact of studying female exotic dancers on a feminist researcher. *Qualitative Inquiry* 12(1), pp. 146-162.

<sup>5</sup> Wesely, Jennifer K. and Gaarder, Emily. (2004). Women negotiating fear: The gendered "nature" of urban outdoor experiences. *Gender & Society*, 18 (5), 645-663.

<sup>6</sup> "The Experience of Violence in the Lives of Florida's Homeless Women," National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant #2002WGBX0013. Principal Investigator: James D. Wright.

### Lloyd Klein

The City University of New York

I have been a SSSP member since 1976. During that time, it has been an honor to serve as elected chair of three social problems divisions. In addition, I have served in an appointed role on several committees. I am currently an elected member of the Committee on Committees. I was Chair-Elect and Chair of the Accessibility Committee from 2002 to 2004. In that capacity, the committee worked with Michele Koontz and Tom Hood toward ensuring that the meeting rooms and general conference was accessible for those with physical impairments.

In addition to maintaining an active role within the SSSP, I have presented papers and served on different committees within the American Sociological Association, American Society of Criminology, and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. My research work focuses upon victimology and such issues as criminal justice policy regarding sex offenders and restorative justice concerns. In addition, my doctoral research on consumer credit and credit cards resulted in a 1999 book, *It's in the Cards: Consumer Credit and the American Experience*, offering an analysis of credit cards, consumer credit, and economic transformation. Current research focuses upon the role of specialty or treatment courts in serving a rehabilitative function within the criminal justice system.

I have taught sociology, criminology, and criminal justice for the past 30 years. Although I am currently working in the Northeast, prior teaching positions included stints in Minnesota and Louisiana. I routinely teach introductory criminology and criminal justice and sometimes offer courses on methodology and statistics.

### Ira Silver

Framingham State College

Ira Silver is Associate Professor of Sociology at Framingham State College. He received his BA summa cum laude from Amherst College in 1991 and his Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern

University in 1998. His areas of interest are social problems, inequality, organizations, culture, and professional socialization. He is the author of *Unequal Partnerships: Beyond the Rhetoric of Philanthropic Collaboration* (Routledge, 2006), editor of *Social Problems: Readings* (Norton, 2008), and co-editor of *Academic Street Smarts: Informal Professionalization of Graduate Students in Sociology* (American Sociological Association, 2008). He is also social stratification editor for *Sociology Compass*. His current research investigates how the social construction of disaster by the news media, government, charitable organizations, and the public shapes the level of concern and response given to different social problems.

### Jeremy Brunson Gallaudet University



Jeremy Brunson is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts college in the United States devoted to the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Among his areas of specialization are disability and Deaf Studies, the analysis of video relay service, sign language interpreting, the sociology of work and the professions, qualitative and feminist methodologies, and institutional ethnography.

Professor Brunson holds a B.A. in Sociology and an M.S. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University – West and Arizona State University, respectively. He also holds an M.A. in Sociology and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Disability Studies from Syracuse University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Sociology.

As a public sociologist, Professor Brunson uses qualitative methodologies and institutional ethnography, the latter a method of inquiry influenced by the Second Wave of feminism; his aim is to expand the fields of Disability Studies/Sociology of Disability and the sociology of work and the professions.

His dissertation, titled *The Practice and Organization of Sign Language Interpreting in Video Relay Service: An Institutional Ethnography of Access*, explores the social organization of the work of sign language interpreting as exemplifying professionalization; in so doing, he documents the process and context of the work of American Sign Language interpretation in context.

Professor Brunson has presented and published in the areas of disability and access, the professionalization of sign language interpreting, the changing nature of work of sign language interpreters, and deafness as identity. His publications include "Your Case Will Be Heard Now: Sign Language Interpreters as a Problematic Accommodation" in the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* and "Commentary on the Professional Status of Sign Language Interpreters: An Alternative Perspective" in the *Journal of Interpretation*. He is currently working on several articles based on his dissertation that explore the tension between service providers and service recipients.

### Mentor & Mentee Opportunities

Recent graduate of University of Massachusetts, Amherst (*summa cum laude*, B.A. Sociology) seeks mentor in physical disability research. I do have experience with research involving parental relations; however, I am interested in all aspects of research involving physical disabilities.

If interested please contact me, Nate Johnson, at [njohnso@gmail.com](mailto:njohnso@gmail.com) or 978-413-7754.