



Family Division Newsletter

Society for the Study of Social Problems
Editor: Ebonie L. Cunningham

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IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIVISION CHAIR	1
SHARING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Learn What Important Contributions Division Members are Making to their Fields.....	1
CALL FOR PAPERS.....	3
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS.....	5
CALL TO ACTION.....	6
CONFERENCE INFORMATION.....	7

FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIVISION CHAIR

Dear Family Division Members,

Thanks to all who submitted papers to the Family Division Sessions! This year’s conference is August 10-12, 2006 at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure, Montréal, Québec, Canada. The conference theme is “Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities.” Our session chairs and the SSSP Program Committee are busy organizing the program, so look forward to further information about the preliminary and final programs. Remember to register for the meetings (reminder: program participants must pre-register by May 31st). Please consider staying at the SSSP Convention Hotel during the annual meeting.

Also, if you have not already done so, please renew your SSSP membership and encourage your colleagues and students to do the same. You can renew via the secure website, <http://www.sssp1.org>. Remember that the benefits of membership include a subscription to *Social Problems*, the SSSP newsletter, division newsletters, and information about the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings in Montréal!

Respectfully,
Nancy Mezey, Division Chair

Many of our division members are making important contributions to their fields. Please take the time to review a few of our members' recent publications. Consider making them a part of your library and/or incorporating them into course syllabi or your applied work. If you would like to share information about your recent accomplishments with other division members, please contact Ebonie Cunningham (elcunnin@purdue.edu).

***Advancing Critical Criminology: Theory and Application.* Edited by Walter DeKeseredy and Barbara Perry. Lexington Book Series: Critical Perspectives on Crime and Inequality**

Advancing Critical Criminology constitutes a timely addition to the growing body of knowledge on critical criminology scholarship. DeKeseredy and Perry have assembled a volume that provides scholars with an in-depth review of the extant literature on several major branches of criminology as well as examples of how critical criminologists apply their theoretical perspectives to substantive topics, such as drugs, interpersonal violence, and rural crime. Accordingly, this work is divided into two main sections: overviews of theories and applications. Each chapter provides a summary of work in a specific area, along with suggestions for moving the field forward. This reader is unique in its choice of topics, which have often been overlooked in the past. An expert collection of international scholars, *Advancing Critical Criminology* is certain to stimulate lively debates and generate further critical social scientific work in this field. **About the Authors:** Walter S. DeKeseredy is Professor of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Barbara Perry is Associate Professor of Social Science at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

***“Between Worlds:” Deaf Women, Work, and Intersections of Gender and Ability.* By Najarian, Cheryl G. (Forthcoming 2006). New York: Routledge.**

This qualitative study investigates the everyday lives of college educated deaf women in their family, educational, mothering and activism, and paid work experiences. The study is based on life history research with ten Deaf women in two different cities in the northeast. The data reveal the seemingly “invisible” and often visible work involved as these women negotiate places for themselves and resist various obstacles in their paid and unpaid work lives. The women develop strategies to negotiate being part of the Deaf world, hearing world, or somewhere, as they describe, “in between.” Despite being educated orally and usually forbidden to learn sign language in their early years, the women are often tracked into working in deaf work environments, specifically into teaching professions. As part of their mothering and activist work, the women also make political decisions about their identities as well as those of their children when they make decisions about how to communicate in their families. The study also shows how institutions such as schools, families, and workplaces shape the women’s work experiences and their identities. By uncovering the life experiences of these deaf women, these findings have implications for our education programs and hiring procedures.

***The Black College Mystique.* Charles Willie, Richard Reddick, and Ronald Brown. (January 2006), published by Rowman and Littlefield.**

In the *Black College Mystique*, Black colleges today are compared with historically Black colleges a generation ago. Their priorities then and now are identified. Five important themes about these schools are documented: 1) Black colleges are not just for Blacks; 2) Black colleges have the most diversified faculties among all institutions of higher education; 3) Black college administrators tend to believe that a college is no better than its faculty; 4) Black colleges have a two fold mission of

individual enhancement and community advancement; and 5) Black colleges are, have been, and will continue to be part of the higher education mainstream. The educational goals of Black colleges and the priorities of their presidents are analyzed. A case for Black colleges today is given and a detailed analysis of characteristics of contemporary presidents is presented, as well as action strategies for chief executive officers and their Boards of Trustees. Special attention is given to the unique teaching methods in these schools.

***Unsung Heroines: Single Mothers and the American Dream.* By Ruth Sidel (April 2006), University of California Press.**

This compelling book destroys the derogatory images of single mothers that too often prevail in the media and in politics by creating a rich, moving, multidimensional picture of who these women really are. Ruth Sidel interviewed mothers from diverse races, ethnicities, religions, and social classes who became single through divorce, separation, widowhood, or who never married; none had planned to raise children on their own. Weaving together these women's voices with an accessible, cutting-edge sociological and political analysis of single motherhood today, *Unsung Heroines* introduces a resilient, resourceful, and courageous population of women committed to their families, holding fast to quintessential American values, and creating positive new lives for themselves and their children. What emerges from this penetrating study is a clear message about what all families -- two-parent as well as single parent -- must have to succeed: decent jobs at a living wage, comprehensive health care, and preschool and after-school care. In a final chapter, Sidel gives a broad political-economic analysis that provides historical background on the way American social policy has evolved and compares the situation in the U.S. to the social policies and ideologies of other countries.

***The Career Mystique: Cracks in the American Dream.* By Phyllis Moen and Patricia Roehling.**

2005. Publisher: Rowman and Littlefield (review copies available for possible classroom adoption) Moen and Roehling draw on research on work, retirement, career paths, gender, policy, inequality, and families to show that taken-for-granted beliefs about policies and practices shaping the social organization of paid work and occupational paths are out of date in contemporary society. They chronicle the changing meaning of career in a workplace where companies export jobs, shed labor agreements, restructure, and even move offshore to stay competitive in the global economy, exploding the myth that commitment, seniority, and family relationships built around a breadwinner/homemaker model are the path to a successful career and comfortable (or at least sustainable) retirement.

They show the career mystique -- the cultural contradictions of jobs that require employees to invest all their time, energy, and commitment to moving up in seniority or job ladders that increasingly lead nowhere -- is a myth, standing in the way of creating new, alternative workplace and career flexibilities and safety nets. Moen and Roehling argue creating sustainable scenarios for employees and their families requires "only" imagination and the will to change. The first step is accepting that the social organization of workdays, workweeks, work years, and work lives is *not* immutable. These are social inventions that can and should be reinvented. *The Career Mystique* is Winner of the 2006 Association of American Publishers Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division's *Award for Excellence* in Sociology and Social Work.

2006 Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting

“Black Identity, Black Consciousness, and Politics of Exclusion: The Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality.”

Montreal, Quebec, Canada August 8-11

SESSION TITLE: THE IMPACT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ON BLACK FAMILIES

Black Americans continue to be disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and tend to serve longer sentences than their White counterparts for the same crimes. These factors have a pronounced affect on Black families as they cope with the involvement of family members who enter the system and subsequently become incarcerated or otherwise subject to criminal labels and/or penalties. Scholars addressing topics such adjudication, probation, parole, incarceration, etc and its consequences on various aspects of family life prior to, during of after involvement in the criminal justice system, are encouraged to submit papers for this session.

Please electronically submit extended abstracts (roughly 3-5 pages) or preferably working drafts by April 30, 2006 to the session organizer, Ebonie L. Cunningham at elcunnin@purdue.edu

Or via US Mail:

Ebonie L. Cunningham
700 W. State Street
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059

Session participants must be current members of the ABS and must register by the early registration deadline in order to be identified in the final printed program

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIOLOGISTS STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

UNDERGRADUATE COMPETITION

The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) is now accepting papers for its annual Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Students who are members of ABS qualify for the competition. The top three winners of the competition will receive cash awards. They will also present their papers at this year's ABS conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from August 8-11, 2006. The papers are to be no longer than 20 pages, including references. The papers cannot be under consideration for publication at the time of submission. Additionally, an abstract of no more than 200 words should be submitted with the paper.

GRADUATE COMPETITION

The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) is now accepting papers for its annual Graduate Student Paper Competition. Graduate students who are members of ABS qualify for the competition. The top

three winners of the competition will receive cash awards. They will also present their papers at this year's ABS conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from August 8-11, 2006. The papers are to be no longer than 30 pages, including references. The papers cannot be under consideration for publication at the time of submission. Additionally, an abstract of no more than 200 words should be submitted with the paper.

Students should submit six copies of the paper and abstract to:

ABS Student Paper Competition
Association of Black Sociologists
4200 Wisconsin Avenue NW, PMB 106-257
Washington, D.C. 20016

Please indicate on the envelope and cover page which competition, undergraduate or graduate, you are entering.

Students can also submit the paper and abstract electronically in either Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or PDF format to:

studentpaper@blacksociologists.org

<http://www.blacksociologists.org/./studentpaper@blacksociologists.org>.

Again, please indicate in the email and cover page which competition, undergraduate or graduate, the submission is intended. The submission deadline for the competition is May 1, 2006. Please visit the ABS website at www.blacksociologists.org <http://www.blacksociologists.org/> for further information about the Association of Black Sociologists and the Student Paper Competitions.

CALL TO CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

REPRESENTATIONS OF FAMILIES AND HOMES IN POPULAR CULTURE
Special Issue of *Journal of Family Issues*

Submission Due Date: June 1, 2006

Families and their dwellings have been represented in popular culture forms for centuries, from shelter magazines to situation comedies, from historical novels to contemporary home-improvement television shows. Theorizing and analysis of these representations, as well as audience perception of messages contained therein, are important if we are to understand how media shapes, and is shaped by, everyday family experiences and definitions of "home." This special issue of *Journal of Family Issues* focuses on innovative research and review articles that critically examine families and homes as they are represented in popular culture. Suggested topics for papers include but are not limited to:

- a. popular culture representations of family- and dwelling-related topics such as domestic division of labor, parenting, residential interior design and decoration, and children's roles;
- b. comparison of genres (such as television, print media, film, and music) that represent family or dwelling issues in different forms or styles;
- c. changes over time in representation of family or dwelling issues;
- d. audience reception analysis of family- or dwelling-related media representations;

- e. the role of celebrities or lifestyle icons (such as Martha Stewart) in reifying or changing family roles;
- f. intersections of race, class, gender, age, and sexualities in families in popular culture.

Manuscripts are sought that involve innovative, sophisticated, and timely research on this topic.

The guest editor of this special issue is Michelle Janning. The editor welcomes inquiries and consultation regarding potential topics and formats of submissions.

General Submission Guidelines: Articles should be no longer than 30 Pages (including tables, notes, and references), and must be written using APA 5th Edition format for sections, in text citations, and references. Inquiries should be addressed and manuscripts should be submitted electronically to Michelle Janning, *Guest Editor*, at janninmy@whitman.edu. Address: Department of Sociology, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA 99362. Phone 509-527-4952. Fax 509-527-5026.

The **submission deadline** for this special issue is **June 1, 2006**.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Sage Publications has announced that it will publish in 2007 a two-volume, multidisciplinary Encyclopedia of Social Problems, a premier reference tool for students, scholars, and professionals with a wide variety of specialties. General Editor Vincent N. Parrillo invites author contributors for the 700 entries of varying lengths (500, 1,000, 1,500, or 2,500 words). If you are interested in writing an entry (with a byline), send an e-mail to parrillov@wpunj.edu, giving your name, affiliation, address, phone number, c.v., and a short list of subject areas of greatest interest to you.

CALL TO ACTION

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED TO REINSTATE U. S. CAPITOL POLICE HORSE-MOUNTED UNIT

By Karen L. Bune

The United States Capitol Police Horse-Mounted Unit was a valuable asset to the nation's capitol in Washington, D. C. but it was only in existence 14 months, after which time the U. S. Congress voted to dismantle the unit. The budget request to continue funding of the unit, submitted by Chief Terrance W. Gainer, was only \$145,000.00 of a total \$250 million dollar budget. The cost to maintain a horse is only \$3.50 per day-- far less than the cost of an officer in a cruiser.

The horse-mounted unit was an effective and highly valuable law enforcement tool on Capitol Hill and was a significant visible enhancement to safety and security. In an area that is surrounded by streets, parks, and other territory that is difficult for police cruisers to access, the horse-mounted unit was able to traverse routes that were not easily accessible by other means. A horse-mounted officer sits two feet high on the horse and has a greater field of visibility that enables the officer to look out above crowds twenty to thirty feet, look into buses, and observe a wide range of activities in and around the U. S.

Capitol.

Approximately nine million visitors a year worldwide-- visit the U. S. Capitol, and it is a popular tourist site. Families bring their children, and the horses were a magnet that attracted both adults and children. Such interaction facilitated a good relationship between law enforcement and the community and enhanced public relations between the two entities. Families quickly detected a mobile presence that made them feel safer because people could see the visible horse-mounted unit. Families were provided an opportunity to approach and talk to a cop, and the horse-mounted officers conveyed the message to the community that the police care. Sgt. Bruce Harper who heads the Las Vegas Police Department Horse-Mounted Unit states, "People feel safer because you are there."

Horse-mounted units are effective in terms of crowd control, particularly when there are protests at the U. S. Capitol and the surrounding region. A horse can move a crowd quickly and efficiently and can be more effective than officers on foot. An officer on a horse is the equivalent to ten officers on the ground. Protestors can be somewhat intimidated by the presence of a horse because they are uncertain as to what the horse might do. This factor alone can often rapidly quell a disturbance.

The presence of a horse-mounted unit is a deterrent to potential terrorists who may be scanning the area over time to plot a future attack. The high visibility and frequent presence of a horse-mounted unit can thwart planning efforts and hinder easy access to the U. S. Capitol and surrounding area. Thom Slosson of the Las Angeles Sheriff's Department notes, "A horse patrolling an area will curtail their thoughts. It reduces their thoughts about how easy a target is."

During its short tenure, the U. S. Capitol Police Horse-Mounted Unit was also able to assist officers on the street with daily patrol, identify suspicious packages, and helped locate lost children and adults, that usually resulted in several per week, among numerous other tasks. The horse-mounted unit was a short-lived but highly successful law enforcement tool that was vitally necessary at the U. S. Capitol. The egregious move by Congress to dismantle this unit is an extreme disservice to the families and the public who visit the nation's Capitol, as well as those who live and work in the region. It is imperative this unit be reinstated as quickly as possible. Throughout the nation, citizens need to let their voices be heard to initiate a renewed effort for immediate congressional action to revitalize the U.S. Capitol Police Horse-Mounted Unit. It is a necessity for the safety, security, and protection of all in the nation's capitol.

***Karen L. Bune is an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Criminal Justice at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She is employed as a Victim Specialist in the domestic violence unit of the State's Attorney's Office in Prince George County, Maryland. She is A national consultant, speaker on victim issues, and a freelance writer. Ms. Bune is a member of SSSP. She can be reached at kbune@gmu.edu

Conference Information

Below is a list of all of the Family Division sponsored and co-sponsored sessions.

FAMILY DIVISION SPONSORED SESSIONS

Session I: Families in Diverse Communities - **THEMATIC**

Session II: Family Policy

Session III: Domesticity and Division of Labor

FAMILY DIVISION CO-SPONSORED SESSIONS

Session: Gender and Sexual Violence (with Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division and the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division)

Session: Changing Family Structure and Drugs (with Drinking and Drugs Division)

Session: Families in Global Perspectives (with Global Division)

Session: Family Divergences and the Law (with Law and Society Division)

Session: Same-Sex Marriage Across Borders (with Law and Society Division and the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division)

Session: Work, Family, and Social Class (with Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division)

Session: Families Across the Lifespan (with Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division)

Session: Threats to Academic Freedom: Academic Freedom and the Commercial Juggernaut in Canadian Universities (with Institutional Ethnography Division and the Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication, and Teaching Committee)