

IE NEWSLETTER

Institutional Ethnography Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

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FROM THE DIVISION CHAIR

Marjorie DeVault

It was great to see so many of you at the meeting in New York this past August, and my only regret is that taking up my duties as Division Chair kept me from attending as many sessions as I would have liked. However, I heard very good reports from the presentations I missed, and I enjoyed meeting old and new friends – I hope you all did, too.

You'll find some nice pictures in this edition of the newsletter, along with information about next year's program. We've put together an impressive group of sessions – so please check out pages 7 and 8 and start to plan your submissions. The 2008 meeting is in Boston, and those of you who know about my commuting life know that that's my hometown (or at least one of my hometowns), so it will be a special pleasure to welcome you there.

I know that we had IE Division members attending the annual meeting this year from across the USA and Canada, Italy, Taiwan, and Australia – and perhaps elsewhere (please let me know). As I write these notes, Lauri Grace and her colleagues are preparing for their big November IE conference at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria, AU. We'll look forward to a report from them in the next newsletter. In the meantime, it's great to know that this kind of international collaboration is growing.

We will need to have an IE Division election in the coming months, in order to install our next Chair-Elect. Paul Luken has agreed to chair a nominations committee, so please contact Paul at pluken@bellsouth.net if you'd like to make a nomination.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, the first I have had the pleasure of being associated with as Division Chair.

Highlights from New York

Marie Campbell receives 2007 Dorothy E. Smith Award

The Dorothy E. Smith Award for Scholar-Activism recognizes an individual or group using institutional ethnography in innovative ways that contribute to activist goals and activities – in either a single project or a longer trajectory of work. The 2007 committee was chaired by Chair-Elect Marjorie DeVault, and included Division Chair Alison Griffith, Tim Diamond, and Paul Luken. That committee decided to honor a Division member whose career has included a range of contributions to the development of an activist-oriented institutional ethnography, and made Marie Campbell the first recipient of the Dorothy E. Smith Scholar-Activist Award.

Many Division members will be familiar with Project Inter-seed, a participatory research project undertaken with a group of disability activists, in which a research team led by Campbell and including academics, service providers, and people with disabilities worked together to explore the ruling relations of home health care. An especially notable feature of that project is the board game the group created, as an innovative method for sharing their findings. In the conduct of that research, in the way it's written up, and in the innovative ways the group has followed up, Marie has provided an inspiring and useful example of how this kind of work might be conducted and disseminated.

The committee's decision was tied to more than one project, however. Virtually all of Marie's scholarship (and teaching!) over the years has shown her determination to conduct research that matters, and to make clear to whom it matters. The committee wished to recognize the "primer" she authored, with Fran Gregor, as a guide for those of us working to conceptualize activist research projects, and also the wonderfully clear and compelling book that she and Janet Rankin have

written about health care reform, which makes visible some of the frontline activism that those processes have stimulated and also suppressed.

Not content with simply publishing the work, Marie and Janet have now begun to organize a plan of activism with progressive nurses. Even after Marie's official (so-called) retirement, she continues to extend her thinking about an activist institutional ethnography through her work in Kyrgyzstan (which began as a teaching trip and has since become a collaborative project investigating "what's actually happening" in international development work aimed at women's empowerment).



Division Chair Marjorie DeVault (left) presents the 2007 Dorothy Smith Award for Scholar-Activism to Marie Campbell.

Marie Campbell is a scholar who has thought deeply about how researchers might contribute to activist efforts, and continues to do that kind of thinking. We are, therefore, most pleased to recognize her as an "all-round" activist institutional ethnographer with the very first Dorothy E. Smith Activist Scholar Award.

(Highlights from New York continued)

To learn more about the research mentioned on page 2, check out these references.

Marie Campbell, Brenda Copeland, and Betty Tate. 1998. "Taking the Standpoint of People with Disabilities in Research: Experiences with Participation." *Canadian Journal of Rehabilitation* 12: 95-104.

Marie Campbell. 2000. "Participatory Research on Health Care for People with Disabilities: Exploring the Social Organization of Service Provision." *Research in Social Science and Disabilities* 1: 131-154.

Marie Campbell and Frances Gregor. 2002. *Mapping Social Relations: A Primer in Doing Institutional Ethnography*. Aurora, ON: Garamond.

Janet M. Rankin and Marie L. Campbell. 2006. *Managing to Nurse: Inside Canada's Health Care Reform*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

The George Smith Award for Outstanding Student Paper



Michael Corman of the University of Calgary receives the 2007 George Smith Award from Lauri Grace, last year's winner.

The jury provides the following description of Michael Corman's winning paper titled: "Panning for gold – an institutional ethnography of health relations and the process of diagnosing autism in British Columbia":

This paper explores the role of standardized assessment tools in an extended process used to diagnose whether or not a child has autism, and whether the child and their carers have an entitlement to financial and other support. The analysis focuses on a stage of the diagnostic process in which several key texts are activated – the *Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment of Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in British Columbia*, the *Autism Diagnostic Interview*, the *Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale*, and the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. The paper explicates how these texts operate in relation to each other, and how they translate the lived experience of caregivers into the standardized textual representation of autism. These relationships and processes are mapped in a number of useful diagrams, supported by detailed explanations.

The paper describes how, after a long and relatively complex interaction between a team of professionals, the child who is presenting for diagnosis, and the child's carer/s, selected questions from the *Autism Diagnostic Interview* form to compile a final score which determines the overall diagnosis and decisions about entitlement to support. Michael argues that this process limits the availability of useful funding and support, and excludes families and children who would find this assistance beneficial but who apparently do not achieve the required score. This is a very interesting paper. It is a useful and substantial example of IE analysis, and it provides a concise explanation of IE and how IE is used in this study.

Michael Corman's winning paper can be found at http://www.sssp1.org/File/Corman_SmithAward2007_IE.PDF

(Highlights from New York continued)

Business meeting minutes

Thanks to Michael Corman and Marjorie DeVault for their collaboration in preparing these minutes.

The meeting began with introductions and announcements. Lauri Grace fielded questions about the Deakin University institutional ethnography conference to be held in Geelong, Victoria, Australia, in November, 2007. For more information, see www.ieoz07.com.

Members from Toronto provided information about the institutional ethnography workshop to be held at OISE immediately following the SSSP meeting.

After introductions and announcements, awards were announced and presented.



Recognizing Paul Luken's past good work as Editor of the IE newsletter was on the agenda of the IE business meeting held on August 10, 2007.

Marie L. Campbell was awarded the first Dorothy E. Smith Scholar-Activist Award and Michael K. Corman was awarded the 2007 George Smith Award for the Outstanding Student Paper. In addition, Paul Luken was presented with an award and thanks for his hard work as the IE newsletter editor for the past three years.

The meeting continued with Alison Griffith welcoming the new Chair, Marjorie DeVault. The first order of business discussed was that of resolutions to be considered at the annual SSSP business meeting. Marjorie DeVault noted that resolutions that members want the Society to consider require some advance preparation, and must be submitted quite early in the annual meeting. Given this point, the ensuing discussion focused on possible future resolutions. Possibilities included resolutions about lessening air travel of academics, global intellectual property, research funding patterns and priorities, and the State of Georgia's legislation regarding a slavery apology. Those who are interested in developing resolutions for next year, please feel free to contact Marjorie DeVault at mdevault@syracuse.edu

Discussion then turned to program sessions for next year, with members volunteering to organize various sessions for the next annual meeting in Boston. There was a desire for some sessions to be more open, so as to include a wide range of new research and methodological discussions, and for a session to take an historical look at IE and its development over time. Consideration was given to formats that would make sessions more interactive, and to the role for discussants in sessions that combine IE and non-IE papers. The Chair collected session ideas and potential organizers.

This year's meeting in New York was extremely fruitful, with old acquaintances reuniting, new and emerging IERS make valuable connections, and a multitude of sessions that captured the diversity of IE as a sociology and a method of inquiry *for people*. Next year's meeting in Boston promises to be just as exciting.

(Highlights from New York continued)



*Jean Louis Deveau of the University of New Brunswick in his role as organizer, presider and discussant during a session on *The Social Organization of Disability*.*

Call for nominees

Candidates are being sought to stand for the position of Chair-Elect of the IE Division. This is a one-year position, after which the Chair-Elect will have a two-year term as Division Chair. The election will be held early in 2008, and the new Chair-Elect will take office during the 2008 SSSP meeting in Boston. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to serve the Division and the Society. If you are interested, please contact Paul Luken, Nominations Committee Chair, at pluken@bellsouth.net



*Li-Fang Liang of Syracuse University presents her paper titled “*Learning Institutional Work: Lessons from Working with an Advocacy Group for Migrant Workers.*”*

**Mark your calendars for future
SSSP Annual Meetings.**

**July 31-August 2, 2008
Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers
Boston, MA**

**August 7-9, 2009
Stanford Court Hotel
San Francisco, CA**

**August 13-15, 2010
Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, GA**

Welcome new members!

Daphne Berry
David Boyer
Tian-Yun-Chang
Judson Everitt
Rebecca Godderis
Ercument Gundogdu
Ruihua Liao
Suzanne R. Miller
Stacy Missari
Gina Paris
Elizabeth Pelz
Lauren Ross
Sarah Rusche
Linda Shaw
Roland Simon
Nelson Tiburcio
Stephen Valocchi
Cindy Visscher

Reminder for ongoing members

Michele Koontz invites ongoing members to renew their membership now and to urge colleagues and students to do the same. You can renew via the secure website:

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/255/fuseaction/ssspmember.portal> .

Benefits of membership are numerous – receiving *Social Problems*, the IE Division newsletter and annual meeting information.

Michele asks members to please consider becoming a Sustaining Member (formerly Life Member).

Those who become Sustaining Members not only save money, but their contributions increase SSSP's endowment and support the Society's future activities.

Other notes and news

Peter Grahame has moved to Pennsylvania State University (Schuylkill), where he will be teaching a variety of courses in sociology and criminal justice. New address is:

Peter Grahame
Division of Social Sciences and Education
Pennsylvania State University
200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
USA

pgrahame@psu.edu

or

pgrahame@comcast.net

Zakia Salime sends the reference for a recently published article:

Salime, Zakia. 2007. "The 'War on Terrorism:' Appropriation and Subversion by Moroccan Women." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33-1: 1:24

Zakia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University.

Lauri Grace writes of the upcoming conference in Australia:

"I'm hoping this might be the start of some IE networking in Australia. I'm certainly going to be promoting the IE Division. I suspect we'll find that there are more people than we know about who are using IE in Australia and New Zealand.

I've already had a number of emails and phone calls from graduate students who have discovered IE but whose supervisors have no previous exposure to IE. In at least one case we have the grad student plus both his supervisors attending the conference in order to learn about IE. That kind of development is really exciting."

Lauri promises photos and reports for the next newsletter.

Editors' note

Speaking of the next and subsequent newsletters, we are looking for book reviews and other information on publications. If you have graduate students wanting to develop their CV's, why not encourage them to review IE-related books? Perhaps it would be a useful course assignment, with the best reviews considered for the newsletter? There are three newsletters a year, aimed to appear in February, June and November. For more information contact Gillian at gawalker@telus.com for copy and Cheryl at cdz@arialassociates.com

Institutional Ethnography Division – Preview of the 2008 Call for Papers

Here's a preview of IE sessions being planned for the 2008 SSSP annual meeting in Boston. Check the SSSP website for details about submission procedures. You must submit via the SSSP – not session organizers. For information on sessions without descriptions, please contact the organizer(s) listed below.

Division-Sponsored Sessions

Title: Institutional Ethnography: New Research

Organizer: Liza McCoy, University of Calgary

Phone: 403-220-6856

Email: mccoy@ucalgary.ca

This is an open-topic session intended to showcase institutional ethnography as a project of inquiry. Reports of research in any empirical area are invited. Papers should display an institutional ethnographic analysis.

Title: Institutional Ethnography: Focus on Methods

Organizer: Liza McCoy, University of Calgary

Email: mccoy@ucalgary.ca

This session will highlight methodological issues and innovations in institutional ethnographic research. Papers are invited that focus on data generation/relations in the field, data analysis, or ways of presenting institutional ethnographic research.

Title: Social Organization of Knowledge Production Across National, Disciplinary, and Institutional Borders

Organizer: Paul Luken, University of West Georgia **Email:** pluken@bellsouth.net

This session is for presenters who will address different aspects of the development and diffusion of institutional ethnography, for example, IE as a sociology for women that became a sociology for people, IE as a North American alternative sociology that is now moving to other parts of the world, IE as it is linked to the SSSP, and IE as it is used in collaborative projects.

Co-Sponsored Sessions

Title: Global Institutional Ethnography: Crossing Spatial and Temporal Borders

Organizers: Peter Grahame and Kamini Grahame, Pennsylvania State University

Email: pgrahame@comcast.net, kmg16@psu.edu

Co-Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography and Global Divisions

Title: Institutional Ethnographic Studies of New Modes of Governance

Organizer: Susan Turner, University of Guelph

Email: susantur@uoguelph.ca

Organizer: Ercument Gundogdu, York University

Email: gundogdu@yorku.ca

Co-Sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Law and Society, Environment and Technology Divisions

The organizers invite submissions providing ethnographic accounts of new forms of governing in practice. These may be studies in an early stage, or part of already completed work. The goal is to make visible and ethnographically explorable a broader organization of governance practices by bringing into view:

1. The location of practices in specific policy areas, sites and levels of governing work;
2. How these new forms operate and how specific governing practices translate into people's actual work and life courses;
3. New methods of ethnographic inquiry into governing institutions and practices.

Title: Coordinating Families

Organizer: Alison Griffith, York University

Email: agriffith@edu.yorku.ca

Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Family and Educational Problems Divisions

**Title: Research Across the Borders of
Community and Academy: Collaborative
Institutional Ethnography**

Organizer: Naomi Nichols, York University

Email: naomi_nichols@edu.yorku.edu

Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Conflict,
Social Action, and Change Divisions

This session has been organized to generate thoughtful and practical dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and researcher-practitioners. Participants are invited to present findings – from a pilot study, work-in-progress, or a completed project – generated through community-academic research collaborations. The intention is to explore, together:

- a) how this work takes shape;
- b) how institutional ethnography (or other ethnographic orientations) are being used to generate and mobilize knowledge; and
- c) how these kinds of collaborative experiences can be used to generate change.

**Title: Social Organization of Everyday
Life Across the Life Course**

Organizer: Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University **Email:** svaughan@asu.edu

Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Youth, Aging, and Life Course Divisions

The session will focus on the use of institutional ethnography to explore those institutional processes that organize the everyday world of children, families, and/or older people across the life course. Particularly important will be the examination of the ways in which the ruling relations have begun to reorganize everyday activities. I hope to draw both historical analyses of the life course and papers which examine in a more contemporary context those processes that have reorganized childhood, work and leisure, retirement and/or growing old.

**Title: Politics of Crossing: Labor Migration in
Global/Transnational Context**

Organizer: Li-Fang Liang, Syracuse University

Email: liliang@maxwell.syr.edu

Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography and Labor Studies Divisions

**Title: Speaking to the ‘The System’: Diagnosis,
Access, and Services from Users’ Perspectives**

Organizer: Jean-Louis Deveau

Email: jlpdev@nbnet.nb.ca

Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; and Disability Divisions

Recognizing that disability is perceived on the one hand by the medical profession as a pathological condition and, on the other hand, by disability rights activists as the result of an interaction between a subject’s impairment(s) and his or her social and physical environments, this session seeks papers that use institutional ethnography to explore the social relations that generate the disjuncture between these two different ways of knowing disability in schools, communities, and workplaces.

Title: Ethnographies of Social Control

Organizer: Danielle Rudes, University of California (Irvine) **Email:** drudes@uci.edu

Co-sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; and Institutional Ethnography Divisions

The organizer invites ethnographic submissions examining any aspect of social control related to crime, deviance, and/or delinquency within or among institutions and/or organizations, or exploring the ways that the concept of social control organizes knowledge in these areas. Sociologists have long debated the meaning of social control and it has become a central element in conceptualizations of the field. This session will explore social control “in action” – that is, to discover and discuss social control as it is constructed, negotiated, contested and/or ignored in real-world contexts, as well as how it shapes our scholarly work.

Special issue call for papers

We received the following call for papers which is clearly of interest to members, despite the recently past deadline. Contact Ian Hussey, Guest Editor, for a possible extension. (Eds.)

Institutional Ethnography Special 2008 Issue of *Socialist Studies: The Journal of the Society for Socialist Studies*

Institutional ethnography is a method of inquiry that changes Dorothy E. Smith's theory of the social organization of knowledge into a critical research practice. Institutional ethnographers employ Marx's ontology of the social. They see the social world as it is, continually coming about by the coordinating and concerting activities of people that is, the social happens, it is not an ensemble of meaning. They begin research in the actualities of everyday/everynight reality and seek to explicate, not explain, how those actualities are organized by and hook into extralocal, text-mediated ruling relations. Such an understanding can illuminate ways to change that organization. Throughout the last decade, some institutional ethnographers have been developing new ways of doing research for, not of, activism that is, creating knowledge for changing the world, not objectifying activists' actualities.

This special issue of *Socialist Studies* is a space for institutional ethnographers to share their work. Papers might offer examples of institutional ethnography, discussion of institutional ethnographic methods, the theory behind the research approach, the ways that institutional ethnography can be used by or for activists, amongst other topics. Articles should be submitted to Ian Hussey at ihussey@uvic.ca by November 1, 2007, and should conform to the Manuscript Guidelines available at www.socialiststudies.ca

Job opportunity

We received the following job advertisement earlier in the Fall. The deadline for applications appears to be flexible even though it will have passed by the time the newsletter reaches you. We include the advertisement here for your information. (Eds.)

The Department of Sociology and Criminology at the **University of West Georgia** invites applications for up to four sociology positions starting August 2008. These positions will be filled at the assistant professor level with the possibility for at least one associate professor level for an extremely well qualified candidate. We are looking for broadly trained sociologists who can contribute to the department's growing demands at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At least one of these positions will be filled by an individual who can enter into the rotation to teach statistics and another with an individual who can enter into the rotation to teach sociological theory. Successful candidates need a strong commitment to teaching, an active research agenda, and ability to enhance the undergraduate and masters programs. Located 45 miles west of Atlanta, the University of West Georgia is classified as a Doctoral Comprehensive University by the University System of Georgia. On a residential campus with over 10,000 students, the university offers more than 100 degree programs at the baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels. Interested applicants are invited to visit the department website at www.westga.edu/~soccrim/.

Send cover letter, CV and contact information of three references to John Randolph Fuller, Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA 30118. A doctorate in sociology or related field is required by time of appointment. Screening of applications begins November 1, 2007 and continues until the positions are filled. Finalists will be required to submit to criminal background investigations. The University of West Georgia welcomes applications from women and minorities.