

# IE NEWSLETTER

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

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## FROM THE DIVISION CHAIR

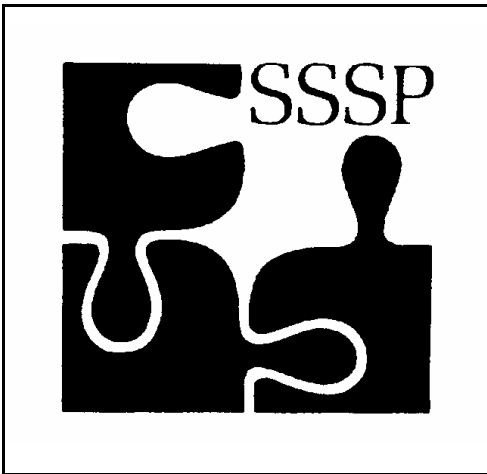
**TIM DIAMOND**

Greetings to all activators of this text (also known, outside institutional ethnography, as readers). Much to report in this issue. This communication vehicle, we hope, will play its part in "institutionalizing" institutional ethnography. Once we get the million dollar endowment to build the Institute deep in the British Columbia woods, we'll be all set. But in the meantime, we have the newsletter and the SSSP meetings to bring us together.

We may want a mini-conference of our own to grow out of these current efforts. In our SSSP Budget request I put in an extra \$100 for a Planning Meeting for a Mini-Conference. Whether or not we want such a conference, which would be partly sponsored by SSSP, can be decided at this meeting, which we will have in Philadelphia. Specifics will be discussed at the IE Business Meeting

Thanks are due to Eric Mykhalovskiy and Marj DeVault. They dutifully carried out their mandate as co-chairs of the Student Award Committee. They received, read, discussed, voted on and ... well, have not yet announced, The Winner. We look forward to the winner joining us at the meetings, with cash award, registration fees, and a banquet ticket compliments of the Division. A time has been allocated at the meetings for presentation of the winning paper.

As to the program for this entire meeting, including the institutional ethnography sessions – well, they could be great, or they could be a bomb! I'm too knee-deep to tell, having worked as co-chair for the whole program. Quite a lot of detail. Great working with PJ McGann and Michele Koontz. Now here's hoping that the new upstart Division will shine through in the midst of it. We've done what we could to make that happen.



Tim Diamond  
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Ryerson University  
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Paul Luken  
**Newsletter Editor**  
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At the meetings we'll have a celebration somewhere, sometime to announce all our many new publications, and most especially to toast the launch of Dorothy's new book called Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People (AltaMira, 2005).

So to all readers who cannot attend the Philadelphia meetings, our regrets and hopes that you will consider San Francisco next year (not New York as originally planned). And to those who can make it to the meetings this year, we hope you have a great time. And to both those who cannot make it, and those who can, please keep an eye out for a sponsor for that Institute deep in the woods.

### **A New IE Website Features an IE Bibliography by Dorothy Smith**

In March Marj DeVault, with assistance from her RA, Jeremy Brunson, launched a new IE website. Marj wrote, "My idea is to support some of the informal teaching and mentoring we've been doing at our conferences. That is, I'd like to use the website as a compendium of information for my own students who are interested in IE, and I hope other students and teachers will join in as well. Maybe others have similar sites designed for your own teaching. If so, perhaps we can link up." The website can be found at <http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/mdevault>.

A recent addition to the website is an extensive IE bibliography that was prepared by Dorothy Smith. I know that you will want to check it out, and Dorothy requests that any additions, corrections or comments be submitted by using the form at the end of the bibliography.

### ***Thanks Michele***

We owe a great deal of thanks to Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, for providing us with content for the newsletter and for being such a pleasure to work with throughout the year.

## **Vocational Education and Training Research in Western Australia**

My name is Lauri Grace. I am an external student in Perth, Western Australia, undertaking a Ph.D. through the Faculty of Education, Deakin University. My supervisor is Associate Professor John Henry. My project is titled "Language, power and ruling relations in Vocational Education and Training," and I am preparing to submit later this year.

With an extensive background as a workplace learning practitioner, I set out to explore issues of language and power in the Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. The VET sector is heavily regulated through a series of national government texts that typically use an obscure and excluding language form. Using IE to explore disquiet about this language form brought into view the hidden role being played by the VET regulatory framework. In particular, my research is exploring the impact this framework has on the positioning of practitioners in decisions about education and training in both local practice and policy development.

Having no direct contact with other IE researchers I have relied entirely on a range of published IE literature, and I had the privilege of meeting Dorothy Smith briefly when she visited Perth in late 2003. IE is not as widely known or used as it deserves to be in Australian VET research. I have published four refereed conference papers and have also run VET practitioner workshops drawing on my research. I would very much like to have contact with researchers who are doing similar work.

I can be contacted at [jandlgrace@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jandlgrace@iprimus.com.au) or phone/fax (Australia) (618) 9306 9510.

## *Institutional Ethnography at the SSSP Annual Meetings*

All sessions are sponsored by the Institutional Ethnography Division of the SSSP. Co-sponsors are also listed. Please check the final program for changes.

### **Friday, August 12**

#### **8:30am - 10:10am**

#### **Session 8: The Unintended Consequences of Therapeutic Intervention**

Room: Senate

*Organizer & Presider:* Kathryn J. Fox, University of Vermont

*Discussant:* Brenda Solomon, University of Vermont

#### *Papers:*

“The Pediatric Residents as Medical and Parental Interventions in a Health Clinic,” Vivian Wong, Northwestern University

“Are You Clean or Not? Complications in Drug Testing as an Objective Measure of Drug Use,” Leslie Paik, University of California, Los Angeles

“Cuz I’m Young and I’m Black, My Hat’s Real Low: The Textual Production of a Gang Task Force,” Emily Napier, Syracuse University

“Diagnosing Terrorists: The Dual Pathologization of Guantanamo Bay Detainees,” Alison Howell, York University

#### **10:30am - 12:10pm**

#### **Session 19: New Issues in Institutional Ethnography**

Room: Senate

*Organizers & Presiders:* Timothy Diamond, Ryerson University  
Ellen Pence, Praxis International

#### *Papers:*

“Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People,” Dorothy E. Smith, University of Victoria

“The Mothering Work of Schooling,” Alison Griffith, York University

“Employment Services for Immigrants with Backgrounds in Non-regulated Professional Work,” Liza McCoy, University of Calgary

“An Institutional Ethnography Outlook on Social Problems,” Paul Luken, University of West Georgia

#### **12:30-2:10**

#### **Division Business Meeting**

Room: Liberty A

#### **6:30pm - 7:30pm**

#### **Division-Sponsored Joint Reception**

Room: By the pool. In the event of rain, the reception will be held in the foyer/pre-function area, 2nd floor.

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### **Sunday, August 14**

#### **8:30am - 10:10am**

#### **Session 84: Youth, Aging, and Institutional Ethnography**

Room: Independence A

*Co-Sponsor:* Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division

*Organizer & Presider:* Suzanne Vaughan, Arizona State University West

*Discussant:* Paul C. Luken, University of West Georgia

*Papers:*

“Razing the Red Barn: The Social Organization of Regulating Children’s Knowledge of ‘Farm Animals,’” Cattryn Somers, Arizona State University, Tempe

“Could It Be Otherwise? Parents and the Inequality of Choice,” Lois Andre-Bechely, California State University, Los Angeles

“Textual Production of Personal Support Work,” Kathryn Church, Jijian Voronka and Timothy Diamond, Ryerson University

**8:30am - 10:10am**

**Session 87: Explicating Ruling Relations in Health Care: Session One**

Room: Declaration

*Co-Sponsor:* Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant:* Marie Campbell, University of Victoria

*Papers:*

“The Evolving ‘Health as a Human Right’ Discourse: An Institutional Ethnography,” Sonya Jakubec, University of Calgary and Mount Royal College

“Texts, Critique, and Global Public Health,” Eric Mykhalovskiy and Lorna Weir, York University

“How Nurses Practise Health Care Reform: Nursing Restructured,” Janet Rankin, Malaspina University-College

**10:30am - 12:10pm**

**Session 95: Explicating Ruling Relations in Health Care: Session Two**

Room: Declaration

*Co-Sponsor:* Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant:* Marie Campbell, University of Victoria

*Papers:*

“Physician Use of Evidence in Decision-making Related to Acute Stroke Therapies,” Fiona Webster, The University of Toronto and London Health Sciences Centre

“Duty to Accommodate: Using Institutional Ethnography to Check it Out,” Jean Louis Deveau, Human Resources Consultant/Consultant en ressources humaines; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

“Reading ‘Quality’ Reports in Health Care: Who Knows How?” Carolyn Green and Marie L. Campbell, University of Victoria

**12:30pm - 2:10pm**

**Session 103: Exploring Welfare Policies Ethnographically**

Room: Declaration

*Co-Sponsor:* Sociology and Social Welfare Division

*Organizer & Presider:* Frank Ridzi, Le Moyne College

*Papers:*

“Flexible Schedules, Flexible Families: The Effects of Work Conditions in Less-skilled Service Jobs on Low-income Single Parent Families,” Kimberly Clum, University of Michigan

“Welfare Policy and Low-Income Women’s Vulnerability to Domestic Violence: Ethnographic Evidence,” Diane M. Purvin, Wellesley Centers for Women

“Shifting Identities on the Frontlines: Welfare Reform Policies and Workers’ Professional Identities,” Stuart Henderson, Laura Schmidt and Daniel Dohan, University of California, San Francisco

“Against the State, With the State, Within the State: The Risks of Being an NGO in a Context of Health Reform in Santiago and Montevideo,” Javier Pereira, University of Texas at Austin

“State Immigration and Welfare Policy Impact on Terms of Employment and Work Experiences: Race and the Cases of Indian IT Workers and African American TANF Clients in the New Economy,” Payal Banerjee, Syracuse University

“Issues of Resource Allocation, Poverty and Welfare Reforms in the United States,” Mukaria J. Itang’ata and Syprose A. Owiti, Western Michigan University

**2:30pm - 4:10pm**

**Session 114: Roundtable on Formulating Institutional Ethnographies**

Room: Constitution

*Organizer:* Timothy Diamond, Ryerson University

*Papers:*

“Introducing ‘Safety’ into Domestic Violence Investigations,” Ellen Pence, Praxis International and Dorothy E. Smith, University of Victoria

“Tips on Starting from a Problematic,” Liza McCoy, University of Calgary and Susan Turner, University of Guelph

“Botanizing with Institutional Ethnographers at Syracuse,” Timothy Diamond, Ryerson University

### ***Welcome New IE Division Members***

(October 11, 2004 – May 10, 2005)

Shawn A. Cassiman  
Lara Foley  
Gennifer Furst  
Kristen Gilmore  
Randolph Grinc

Ella Haley  
Matthew W. Hughey  
Pamela Lewis  
Daniel J. Marschall  
Etsyko Maruoka-Ng

Cheryl G. Najarian  
Naomi Nichols  
Roxanne T. Ornelas  
Leslie Paik  
Ellen Pence

Elaine M. Power  
Janet M. Rankin  
Andrew H. Ruffner  
Mario Small  
Aleesha Taylor

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### ***Dorothy Smith in Taiwan***

Frank Wang, Assistant Professor, National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan

Dorothy Smith paid her first visit to Taiwan last November for two weeks. She was invited by Professor Anna Tang from Chung-Kung University, who is a key figure in the southern Taiwanese women’s movement. Dorothy had a very busy schedule: five lectures in colleges and universities and one paper presentation in the Trans-Asia conference on gender equality and education. Dorothy surprisingly discovered that many Asian scholars cited her work in their papers. “Dorothy really works very hard!” is the conclusion that we Taiwanese young scholars have made and wish that we will be as productive as Dorothy is in our 70s.

After a forty-year history of rule by dictatorship, there is an absence of the Leftist tradition in Taiwan. The union movement, civil right movement and social movement did not emerge until the lift of Marshall Law in 1987. The women’s movement in Taiwan has been flourishing in the past fifteen years and Dorothy Smith has been a source of inspiration for some Taiwanese feminists, however, mainly through text reading. Knowing Dorothy in person is another inspiration for many of us. It is in this context that Dorothy was treated and worshiped as the legacy of the feminist movement by many scholars and students here. Although Dorothy did

not like to be put in that position, it reflects the absence of Leftist tradition in Taiwan. On hearing Dorothy's arrival, one of my students responded, "I never saw a feminist who is 78 years old." While Chinese have much respect but also a strong stereotype of elderly persons, Dorothy used her bodily presence to deconstruct and challenge that image. Although Dorothy looks very similar to Chinese elderly women, she did not act like a Chinese elderly woman: hard working, strong personal autonomy, daily weight-lifting, carrying her own baggage to strengthen physical functioning, and being familiar with advanced technology.



As the only Taiwanese Ph.D. student trained by Dorothy and practicing IE, I was very thrilled with her visit. By translating and interpreting for Dorothy, I had another chance to re-learn IE. Dorothy's lectures have effectively aroused people's interest in IE as many find that IE provides a way of seeing and understanding our world. Its effect will not end after Dorothy's return to Canada. As far as I know, the women's study group in Southern Taiwan will continue to study Dorothy's work. I offer a course on IE this spring as some of my students will adopt IE in their master theses. The women's groups are organizing a trip to Canada this summer. In our last meeting, Professor Anna Tang, May-Hui Yo and I made a wish that we will host an IE conference and invite Dorothy to return to Taiwan after two years. Dorothy has planted the seed of IE in Taiwan and drew together a group of young scholars to devote to its growth. We may expect some IE examples from Taiwan soon.



In preparation for Dorothy's lecture, a study group was established. As you all know, Dorothy's early writing is not accessible to newcomers, let alone Taiwanese college students. Though intellectually distant these students might be, they were emotionally close to Dorothy, whom the students called "Granny Dorothy."

If any IE chapter members want to connect with scholars in Taiwan, please feel free to contact me at [tywang@ym.edu.tw](mailto:tywang@ym.edu.tw).

## ***INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY AND RURAL WOMEN'S RESEARCH***

**Susan Turner, Dorothy Smith and Marie Campbell** gave a two day intensive 'training' workshop on institutional ethnography to their co-researchers working on the Rural Women Making Change Program. The program is a Community University Research Alliance funded for five years by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The IE workshop was part of the official start up of the five year research program and took place in early March at the University of Guelph, Ontario. Co-researchers include women working in the National Farmers' Union Women's Committee (Saskatoon), Canadian Auto Workers Local 88 Women's Committee (Ingersoll), Women Today of Huron (Goderich), and the Women's Employment Resources Centre (Woodstock), as well as academics at five Canadian universities and women working in the policy processes in different areas of government.

Nine research teams are engaging partners and collaborators in a research program aimed to make change in three areas: rural women and girls everyday experience; rural women's organizations day to day work; and rural policy in trans-local arenas. **Belinda Leach, University Research Chair in Rural Gender Studies** at the University of Guelph, and the program's director, has been working with rural women's organizations for over a decade on issues arising out of the reorganization of economic relations world wide that affect rural communities and rural women in particular. The trans-national processes of political and economic change taking place are profoundly affecting rural communities and rural women's lives and work. Co-researchers met a year ago to work out how to

produce a broad program of research together and the mechanisms for cohesion and collaboration. Participants adopted institutional ethnography as the overarching approach for the research proposal and program. Some teams will take up institutional ethnography directly and work with Turner, Smith and Campbell throughout the program. Some team projects are designed to investigate the broader political and economic reorganization, 'map' particular policy processes and work with policy makers in a way that will complement and link up to the work of other teams. Projects span several geographical areas and regions in Canada, and collaboration is underway with rural women's organizations in Britain, Europe, Australia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and elsewhere. The goal is to assist rural women's organizations operating in the local, national and international policy fields in effective forms of change, including policy.

To this end, the Rural Women Making Change projects engage rural women working in rural women's organizations, politicians, policy makers and academics as researchers into the policy processes that affect rural women's lives – and to make change in them.

Not yet a full website, the Rural Women Making Change homepage is <http://www.rwmc.uoguelph.ca>.

The home of the program is the Centre for Families, Work & Well-Being at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. N1G2W1 [www.worklifecanada.ca](http://www.worklifecanada.ca)

— Susan Turner

# Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

## Special Issue: Institutional Ethnography

edited by

Peter Grahame, Dickinson College

### Call for Papers

This special issue of *JCE* will bring institutional ethnography (IE) to the attention of a wider community of ethnographic researchers. The general goal will be to gather and present work that is both strong as ethnography and effective in demonstrating what is distinctive about IE. Space will be limited to four (4) papers. We hope to have a good pool of submissions.

Papers for the special issue will be selected using the following criteria:

- (1) the paper clearly exemplifies the IE approach;
- (2) the paper is credible and interesting as an example of ethnographic work done in a field setting;
- (3) the paper directly addresses and considers problems of doing IE (e.g., beginning in experience, doing interviews, working with texts, mapping social relations, etc.).

The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2005.

Papers should be submitted to:

Peter R. Grahame  
1009 Kent Drive  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
USA

Inquiries about the special issue can be directed to Peter Grahame at the above address or at [pgrahame@comcast.net](mailto:pgrahame@comcast.net).