



## **Poverty, Class, Inequality Division**

### **Fall 2015 Newsletter**

Welcome back, PCID members! This is my first newsletter as your new chair, and there's lots to share. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

As you can see, there are lots of ways to get involved in the division. I'm looking forward to hearing from section members and to working with you.

Thanks for your participation.

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### **Meeting Wrap-Up:**

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's SSSP annual meeting in Chicago! It was a well-attended meeting and an overall success.

The Division met in Chicago, and despite some technical difficulties with my Skyping in, we had a productive meeting. Below are some of the highlights of our discussion:

1. **Paper Calls for Next Summer’s Meeting:** Each division is allowed three sole-sponsored sessions and seven co-sponsored sessions. After discussion with our members and with other divisions, we have the following lineup for next year’s paper sessions. Please encourage colleagues and students to send in abstracts to appropriate panels:

Panel Name	Co-Sponsored with	Chair
Poverty and Inequality	sole	Brooke Kelly, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Mobility and Inequality	sole	Alissa Klein, University of South Florida
Thematic Session: Across the U.S. and Beyond: Women and Intersections of Poverty and Inequality	sole	Yvonne M Luna, Northern Arizona University, Jennifer Wesely, University of North Florida
The Struggle for Space and the Right to Place: Gentrification, Housing Rights, and Public Space	Conflict, Social Action, and Change	Andi Dassopoulos, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Head Start for Higher Education: Addressing Familial Poverty	Educational Problems	Autumn Green, Endicott College, Sheila Katz, University of Houston
Labor Market Inequalities	Labor Studies	Sara Chaganti, Brandeis University
Inequality and the Life Course across the Globe	Youth, Aging, and Life Course	Alair MacLean, Washington State University
Families and Poverty	Family	Jennifer Sherman, Washington State University
Global Poverty	Global	Joyce Bialik, Hunter College

2. **Networking and Increasing Membership:** We discussed the following possibilities, and would love to have members help us enact some of these

options. If you have thoughts about or are interested in getting involved in any of the following, please contact me at [jennifer\\_sherman@wsu.edu](mailto:jennifer_sherman@wsu.edu):

- a. Start up a Facebook page. We agreed that this could be a great resource, and would love it if there is a member who would be willing to act as co-administrator with the division chair. Please let me know if you're interested in helping.
  - b. Faculty sponsorship of student members. This is a great opportunity to get more students involved in the division!
  - c. Setting up a networking event for next year such as small group dinners, where members sign up and are paired with other members to go out together. If you're interested in either taking part or helping to organize, let me know.
  - d. Creating a poster for distribution on department bulletin boards, possibly timed with a discounted/free student membership opportunity (made possible by the faculty sponsorship drive). We're looking for members with layout and design experience to help.
3. **Reception in Seattle Next Year:** We discussed co-sponsoring a reception with a larger division, such as Racial and Ethnic Minorities, where we use some of our budget to provide light refreshments. (Note that this may mean decreasing or eliminating the current \$250 cash prize for the student paper competition winner).
4. **Increasing Member Sharing:** Please email me (or post to Facebook page, once with have it going) with:
- a. funding opportunities
  - b. relevant conference information, calls for papers, publishing opportunities, etc.
  - c. jobs of interest
  - d. publications by members
  - e. recent books/articles of interest
  - f. syllabi for related courses
  - g. videos of interest

5. **Use of \$500 budget:** If there is anything left over, we will consider a monetary prize to accompany the paper award (currently this prize is \$250.)
  6. **Award Committees:** We need volunteers to be on the committee for the Michael Harrington award. If you are interested, please let me know.
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### **Member News:**

#### **New Book from member Victor Tan Chen, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University**

Chen, Victor Tan. 2015. *Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Years after the Great Recession, the economy is still weak, and an unprecedented number of workers have sunk into long spells of unemployment. *Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy* provides a vivid and moving account of the experiences of some of these men and women, through the example of a historically important group: autoworkers. Their well-paid jobs on the assembly lines built a strong middle class in the decades after World War II. But today, they find themselves beleaguered in a changed economy of greater inequality and risk, one that favors the well-educated—or well-connected.

Their declining fortunes in recent decades tell us something about what the white-collar workforce should expect to see in the years ahead, as job-killing technologies and the shipping of work overseas take away even more good jobs. *Cut Loose* offers a poignant look at how the long-term unemployed struggle in today's unfair economy to support their families, rebuild their lives, and overcome the shame and self-blame they deal with on a daily basis. It is also a call to action—a blueprint for a new kind of politics, one that offers a measure of grace in a society of ruthless advancement.

<http://victortanchen.com/>

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#### **New Books from Member Cedric de Leon, Associate Professor of Sociology, Providence College**

de Leon, Cedric. 2015. *The Origins of Right to Work: Antilabor Democracy in Nineteenth-Century Chicago*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

“Right to work” states weaken collective bargaining rights and limit the ability of unions to effectively advocate on behalf of workers. As more and more states consider enacting right-to-work laws, observers trace the contemporary attack on organized labor to the 1980s and the Reagan era. In *The Origins of Right to Work*, however, Cedric de Leon contends that this antagonism began a century earlier with the Northern victory in the U.S. Civil War, when the political establishment revised the English common-law doctrine of conspiracy to equate collective bargaining with the enslavement of free white men.

In doing so, de Leon connects past and present, raising critical questions that address pressing social issues. Drawing on the changing relationship between political parties and workers in nineteenth-century Chicago, de Leon concludes that if workers’ collective rights are to be preserved in a global economy, workers must chart a course of political independence and overcome long-standing racial and ethnic divisions.

<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100649710>

de Leon, Cedric, Manali Desai, and Cihan Tugal (eds). 2015. *Building Blocs: How Parties Organize Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Do political parties merely represent divisions in society? Until now, scholars and other observers have generally agreed that they do. But *Building Blocs* argues the reverse: that some political parties in fact shape divisions as they struggle to remake the social order. Drawing on the contributors' expertise in Indonesia, India, the United States, Canada, Egypt, and Turkey, this volume demonstrates further that the success and failure of parties to politicize social differences has dramatic consequences for democratic change, economic development, and other large-scale transformations.

This politicization of divisions, or "political articulation," is neither the product of a single charismatic leader nor the machinations of state power, but is instead a constant call and response between parties and would-be constituents. When articulation becomes inconsistent, as it has in Indonesia, partisan calls grow faint and the resulting vacuum creates the possibility for other forms of political expression. However, when political parties exercise their power of interpellation efficiently, they are able to silence certain interests such as those of secular constituents in Turkey. *Building Blocs* exposes political parties as the most influential agencies that structure social cleavages and invites further critical investigation of the related consequences.

<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=24999>

**New Book from Member Susan Greenbaum, Professor Emerita of Anthropology,  
University of South Florida**

Greenbaum, Susan. 2015. *Blaming the Poor: The Long Shadow of the Moynihan Report on Cruel Images about Poverty*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.

The report was written by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, late Senator from New York, then an assistant secretary in the Dept. of Labor -- a liberal Democrat in the Johnson Administration. An official government study, issued from deep inside the War on Poverty, seemingly indicted black culture as the leading cause of economic disparities. Although controversial at the time, its message has endured as an ideologically flexible trope for blaming poor people (especially non-whites) for structurally induced and greed driven conditions of poverty in the US. The conservative rant against poor people invariably includes feckless marital and sexual choices and badly parented delinquent children who fail as adults. Indeed, across a wide political spectrum Moynihan's report is frequently resuscitated and praised for its alleged wisdom and far-sightedness. On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, anticipating celebratory treatment of the venerable "statesman scholar," I have prepared a critical assessment of the origins, epistemology, politics, and implications of his thesis about race, family structure and economic success.

Seven brief chapters review the scholarship and politics behind this idea and examine contemporary impacts on policy and society based on my and colleagues' research on public housing demolitions, criminalization of poor people of color, and neoliberal programs designed to rehabilitate and re-enculturate poor individuals. The text is aimed at undergraduate students in social science courses about race, poverty, gender and/or policy. It also was written to appeal to scholars and general readers with an interest in these topics.

<http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Blaming-the-Poor,5478.aspx>

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**New Article from member Ranita Ray, Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Ray, Ranita. 2015. "Exchange and Intimacy in the Inner City: Rethinking Kinship Ties of the Urban Poor." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. Published online before print January 30, 2015.

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## **Upcoming Presentation from member William Cabin, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Columbia University**

“Blocking the Transmission of Evidence-based Research to Practice: The Case of Medicare Home Health,” October 8, 2015, University of Michigan Health System Social Work Research Conference in Ann Arbor, MI.

The presentation is based on the preliminary results of a survey of over 300 home care nurses and social workers in New York State. It addresses their education in evidence-based research, knowledge of 12 specific psycho-social interventions for persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers, ability to use these interventions in home health practice, and their perceptions of consequences of being able to use or not use the interventions.

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### **Other News:**

#### **Persistent Poverty in the South Project** <http://uncw.edu/povertyproject/>

At the 77th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) in Charlotte, North Carolina, Past President Leslie Hossfeld announced the SSS Persistent Poverty in the South Project. This project brings together researchers, students, practitioners, elected officials, and community organizers to examine persistent poverty in 11 states in the U.S. South. The goal is to create a learning community that shares and identifies key projects aimed to alleviate poverty in persistently poor regions through research and praxis. Research teams in 11 states will meet annually at the Southern Sociological Conference to share research, project outcomes, barriers and successes and work towards broader policy recommendations for tackling poverty in the U.S. South. Please consider joining us and these efforts. For more information contact Dr. Leslie Hossfeld at Hossfeld, at [lhossfeld@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:lhossfeld@soc.msstate.edu), Jill Waity at [waityj@uncw.edu](mailto:waityj@uncw.edu), or Brooke Kelly at [brooke.kelly@uncp.edu](mailto:brooke.kelly@uncp.edu).

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### **Job Opportunity:**

The Department of Sociology at Cornell University invites applications for a tenure-track or tenured position at the advanced assistant, associate, or full professor level. The start date of the position is July 1, 2016. Applicants must have a PhD and demonstrated excellence in scholarship, teaching, and collegial service.

Areas of research specialization are open, but we have a preference for candidates with strong quantitative skills.

The review of applications will begin Monday, October 5, 2015 and continue until the position is filled. All candidates should send a letter of application and curriculum vitae to [\[academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/5864\]](http://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/5864). Junior candidate should submit 2-3 writing samples. Letters of recommendation may be requested later in the process.

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We're an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities. We actively encourage applications of women, persons of color, and persons with disabilities. Qualifications: PhD required. Demonstrated excellence in scholarly research and teaching. Responsibilities: The successful candidate will contribute to Cornell Sociology's excellence in research and teaching. He or she will be required to maintain an active, vibrant, and intellectually rigorous research agenda that will make major contributions to, and shape the direction of the field. We expect that he or she will contribute to other social science initiatives on campus, where such connections are appropriate to his or her intellectual agenda. Consistent with Department and Graduate School objectives, the successful candidate will contribute to the high-quality training and professional development of graduate students in the Field of Sociology. He or she will contribute to the undergraduate education mission of the Department and College through advising and informal instruction as well as formal instruction. The successful candidate will be expected to take on a fair share of departmental and university service, as well as service to the broader profession.

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## **Call for Submissions – ConditionallyAccepted.com blog**

ConditionallyAccepted.com – an online space for marginalized scholars who are “conditionally accepted” in academia – invites guest blog posts (500-1,000 words) regarding inequality, discrimination, and harassment in and related to academia and higher education. The blog offers an unfolding electronic dialogue among marginalized scholars, wherein we share personal stories, advice, information, resources, as well as engage in scholarly debate. Voices from scholars of various backgrounds, disciplines, and career paths are encouraged to contribute. Anonymous and pseudonymous posts are welcome, as well.

Submissions should be emailed to [conditionallyaccepted@gmail.com](mailto:conditionallyaccepted@gmail.com). Please briefly describe how your proposed post fits into the blog's focus. You can see more information about our suggested guidelines for contributions at <http://conditionallyaccepted.com/contribute/> and particular ideas at <http://conditionallyaccepted.com/2015/01/21/call-for-submissions/>.