Happy end of winter. Yes, I am thinking positively. I realize some of our members in the north may still face a month or two of snow and ice but I am sending warm wishes for a speedy spring. I want to encourage each of you to shake out of that cloak of lethargy and prepare for an exciting meeting in New York. I hope each of you are experiencing positive changes in this new year. Unfortunately, that has not been the case for sexual politics in the United States. Here are some recent headlines that lead me to believe we have a lot of work ahead of us regarding the production and dissemination of knowledge in the sociological field of sexuality.

The chilly state of Michigan just became colder toward non-heterosexual state employees deeming all domestic partner benefits illegal. This is one more strike against Michigan businesses who already struggle to recruit and retain professional talent. In fact, this may become one more reason Michigan continues to be listed as one of the top “business losing” states in the nation. Perhaps they could learn a few things from the state of Washington who appears to be prepared to pass a bill that would allow domestic partners to inherit when there is no will, to give consent for health care if a partner is not competent, to make funeral arrangements and/or authorize organ and tissue donation. Domestic partnerships and marriage are hot topics in our field and many states are wrestling with related issues.

“The Higher Power of Lucky,” by Susan Patron, winner of this years Newbery Medal, represents another hot topic. Across the nation (yes, our nation) libraries, schools and book stores are refusing to carry the book because it makes use of the term “scrotum” while describing precisely where a boy’s dog received a snake bite. The controversy appears to be over the proper use of scientific and anatomically correct verbiage in children’s literature. One wonders if using a term such as “nutbag,” “ballsack,” “thingy,” or “down there,” might be considered less problematic for those who’s professional responsibilities include the intellectual development of our children. On the same note, at the John Jay High School open mic night, three students were sanctioned for saying the word “vagina” while performing excerpts of “The Vagina Monologues.” Author Eve Ensler is now personally supporting the girls by offering to visit the school district and discuss the matter with them. Perhaps she will consider changing the name of her show to “The pee pee monologues” (yes, I know they are not the same things, that’s kind of the point).

All humor aside, as a nation we continue to face political agendas that are wrought with confusion. On the one hand people want to keep each other safe, yet resist educating each other on sexual safety for fear that it will encourage promiscuity. According to Marty Klein’s new book, that is like saying seat belts in cars will encourage reckless driving.

Notes continued on Next Page....
Notes from the Chair

Our nation appears to confuse morality with knowledge. Worst yet our nation seeks to protect everyone rather than hold citizens accountable for their informed choices.

Since information is what social scientists produce I believe we have a responsibility to continue to be productive in sexuality research, even in the face of resistance. That resistance comes in many forms, administrative obstacles or threats, reduced funding opportunities and our own lethargy. I hope you will join me in the fight against personal lethargy, since that is one obstacle we can actually control. I am looking forward to hearing about the progressive and exciting research we are producing in spite of a lack of funding or administrative restrictions. Yes, you guessed it, this is the call to attend the SSSP annual meeting in New York. Our division is very active at every annual meeting, and 2007 will be no different. Register now and join me in the fight against lethargy.

Society for the Study of Social Problems
Research Matters:
Creating Knowledge, Policy and Justice
New York: Roosevelt Hotel Aug. 10-12

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Experiences of Sexual Minorities Questionnaire

As you may be aware, there is a dearth of research actually documenting the experiences of sexual minorities and how this influences their health in a Canadian context. This is unfortunate given the current social, legal, and political climate in Canada and other countries abroad. Fortunately, Melanie Morrison, along with her research assistant, Rebecca Quaale are currently engaged in a study exploring sexual minorities’ exposure to prejudice and discrimination and how this can affect health and well-being.

Since this initiative is new, their survey, at present, pertains to gay men and lesbian women. They will be developing additional surveys that pertain to transgender, intersex, bisexual, and queer identifying men and women. It is their sincerest intention to be inclusive; however, at this time, they have reliable and valid measures for those who identify as gay and lesbian.

They hope that they can count on your support! They invite ANY individual who identifies as gay or lesbian to participate in the study. The link to their questionnaire can be found at:

www.socialjusticeresearch.com

For questions, contact: Melanie A. Morrison, PhD & Co-Chair of the Canadian Psychological Association, Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues (SOGII), Department of Psychology, 9 Campus Drive, Arts Building, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sk. S7N 5A 5Phone: (306) 966-2564; Email: melanie.morrison@usask.ca

Rebecca Quaale, BA (Hons.), Research Assistant, Phone (lab) (306) 966-1773; email: req596@mail.usask.ca
Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities Division (SBPC)

2007 Slate of Sessions

THEMATIC SESSIONS

1) Sexual Politics and the State
   Organizer: Lisa Romanienko–Wroclaw University (Poland)
   lroman@ix.netcom.com

2) Sexuality on the Edge
   Organizer: Kathleen Asbury
   Community college of Philadelphia Rutgers University
   asburykathy@comcast.net

3) Teaching Sexuality Workshop
   Organizer: Dana Atwood Harvey
   University of Wisconsin Colleges, Sheboygan
   datwoodh@uwc.edu

4) Camouflaging Sexual Behavior & Families
   SBPC & Family Division
   Organizer: Cheryl Boudreau
   Grand Valley State University
   boudreac@gvsu.edu

5) Transgender Embodiment & Identity
   SBPC & Health, Health Policy and Health Services
   Organizer: Elroi Waszkiewicz
   Georgia State University
   elroiw@gmail.com

6) Inter-sextions: Race, Class and Sexuality
   SBPC, Race and Ethnic Minorities & Poverty, Class and Inequality
   Organizer: Juanita Diaz Cotto
   Binghamton University, SUNY
   companeras1994@yahoo.com

7) HIV & AIDS Research: Policy and Politics
   SBPC & Health, Health Policy and Health Services
   Organizer: Lloyd Klein
   Grambling State University
   creditcardman21@yahoo.com

8) Sexual Expression at Any Age
   SBPC & Youth, Aging and the Life Course
   Organizer: Sandra Schroer
   Muskingum College
   sschroer@Muskingum.edu

JOINT SESSIONS

Look for the preliminary titles of papers in the next newsletter!
BOOK REVIEWS

Praise for Girls in Trouble with the Law

“Girls in Trouble with the Law offers readers a brilliant window for reviewing the gender, race, and class politics of juvenile justice. Readers will be filled with outrage, and yet fueled by Schaffner’s passionate sense of possibility and vision for “what must be.”

-Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, The Graduate Center, CUNY.


Reviewed by, Scharie Tavcer Mount Royal College, Canada

“...This reader very much enjoyed the section on the causes of the problem and how government systems and laws often facilitate trafficking. This is a refreshing perspective and one which is much needed in order to fully understanding trafficking...”

“...In terms of strategies to combat trafficking and exploitation, it would be beneficial to strengthen our consideration of addressing cultural issues, patriarchal thinking and poverty in countries of origin, which are noted causal factors. This book supports our exploration of these necessities.”

*See the whole review in Global Crime 8(1):100-101. February 2007!
Recent Publications

New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education #112
Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues in Organizational Settings

This volume is designed for professionals interested in building safe and inclusive work and learning environments for adults related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. It explores sexual identity development in the workplace through the lens of transformational learning theory and opens new ways to think about career development. Readers will gain knowledge, skills, tools, and resources to:

- Identify sexual minority needs
- Cultivate networks and ally groups in work settings for those in the sexual minority
- Dismantle the lavender ceiling that prevents sexual minority mobility in organizations
- Interrogate heterosexual privilege and fight homophobia
- Design and implement nonharrassment and antidiscrimination policies
- Achieve domestic partner benefits
- Build best practices into organizational strategies

About the Issue Editor: Robert J. Hill is associate professor of adult education in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy at the University of Georgia, Athens.

Table of Contents

1. What’s It Like to Be Queer Here?
2. A Transformative Learning Perspective on Continuing Sexual Identity Development in the Workplace
4. Lesbians: Identifying, Facing, and Navigating the Double Bind of Sexual Orientations and Gender in Organizational Settings
5. The Quest for a Queer Inclusive Cultural Ethics: Setting Directions for Teachers’ Preservice and Continuing Professional Development
6. Difficult Dilemmas: The Meaning of Dynamics of Being Out in the Classroom
7. Using Policy to Drive Organizational Change
8. LGBTQ Issues in Organizational Settings: What HRD Professionals Need to Know and Do
9. Queer Challenges in Organizational Settings: Complexity, Paradox, and Contradiction

~December, 2006

*To purchase this Issue:
Call 877-762-2974

*To subscribe (full year, 4 issues):
Call 888-378-2537

Or Visit:
*www.josseybass.com/go/ndace
Recently a 14 year old girl known only as ‘Anna’ from Gdansk, Poland rejected the sexual advances of a young suitor. In retribution for her act of self-determination, Anna was tormented by the boy and four of his friends, who over-powered, disrobed, and humiliated her in a degradation ritual consisting of a simulated mock rape. The entire act of degradation took place over the course of twenty minutes in front of a class of witnesses, and was recorded on the boys’ cell phones for internet blog dissemination. Anna’s girl friends attempted to stop the mortifying spectacle, but they were beaten back. Though an actual rape did not have to take place, the intention of debilitating sexual terrorism was nonetheless brutally effective. Rather then return to school, Anna committed suicide in her parents’ home that evening. In a pathological gesture of her own obedience to patriarchal domination, her mother publicly absolved the boys of all culpability in an interview published the following day. Anna’s inability to discuss the incident with police, parents, teachers, or school psychologists, as well as her mother’s flagrant, submissive disregard for her own daughter’s life; are together indicative of the levels of emerging male privilege under the new market economy, the total elimination of women’s reproductive and other human rights in both public and private spheres, and profound sexual repression brought on by coercive institutions represented by church and state. Though no analysts interviewed by the media linked the two simultaneous events, it is important to note that on the very same day of Anna’s suicide, legislation was introduced on the floor of the Polish parliament by the Minister of Education’s ultra-conservative party, the League of Polish Families. Funded by affluent religious fundamentalists in the west, and despite the fact that Poland had already criminalized abortion nearly ten years ago, proposed constitutional changes would universally criminalize abortion in the case of rape, incest, or a clinical threat to the woman’s life or the fetus’s development. This was broadcast on the evening news the very day that Anna took her own life. By failing to fulfill her societal function as an apparatus of sexual subservience and docility thrust upon her at such an early age, and after enduring a vicious normative degradation ritual that was intended to publicly dismantle her and her female peers’ efforts at defiant self-determination; the gesture to end her own life tragically fulfills the Durkheimian criteria for a twisted, postmodern, Kafkaesque, altruistic suicide. Problems surrounding male privilege, female subservience, violent sexual terrorism, and coercive institutions are of course not limited to Poland. These events are indicative of the regressive socioeconomic, cultural, and political conditions that are having devastating effects on family, sexual, and other human rights around the world.

It is in the spirit of resistance and in memory of Anna that I would like to offer a response to Chairperson Sandra Schroer’s profound question regarding the ultimate sex research project for the future. My vision is an international, interdisciplinary, cross-cultural comparison of the role of coercive institutions in the perpetuation of sexual repression and other forms of violence against the human body. To that end, I respectfully invite both new and old members to join us in New York for my eerily prophetic panel entitled, “Sexual Politics and the State”. 
GRADUATE COURSE: THE SEX INDUSTRY

Ron Weitzer, George Washington University

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an in-depth examination of social, economic, and political dimensions of the sex industry. Types of “sex work” covered include prostitution, pornography, stripping, and commercial phone sex. Topics to be examined include: the structure of the sex industry (insofar as it is organized); how sex work reflects larger gender relations in society; how people become involved in sex work; how they manage the stigma attached to this work; differences between female and male sex work; victimization of workers; policy issues, including law enforcement, criminalization, legalization, decriminalization; organized campaigns by sex workers to change laws and public opinion; and the impact of new technologies (such as the Internet, video/DVD) on commercial sex. These issues will be studied primarily in the American context, but some of the readings are based on Britain, Holland, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. Alternative theoretical approaches will be considered, but the course is primarily organized around empirical research on the topic.

Because the course deals with a very controversial topic and most people hold strong opinions about sex work, I would like to ask everyone in the seminar to try to be open to opposing arguments and research findings that may challenge preconceptions, and also to demonstrate utmost respect toward other seminar members during class discussions. As you will see from some of my own writings, I have been trying to reorient the field away from rigid “pro” and “anti” positions toward sex work and have critiqued the ideological and politicized writings of some other academics. Instead, I advocate “evidence-based” theories, conclusions, and public policies.

Ron Weitzer, Professor
Sociology Department
George Washington University
Washington, DC 20052
http://www.gwu.edu/~soc/r_weitzer.html

NEW RESOURCE FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH IN THE SEX TRADE!

www.rethinkresources.net
Check this out as a teaching resource, send students to the site and ask them to compose a one-page response sheet.

Another interesting resource:
www.beyondmarriage.org.
We have great debates and discussions over both of these sites.

Submitted by Laurie Schaffner
Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo

Danielle received her Masters degree in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is completing dissertation research on spatio-temporal relations of gender and sexuality in the context of Bangkok, Thailand. Her areas of interest include gender, sexuality, the sociology of the body, immigration, Asian and Asian American studies, the sociology of development, and Southeast Asia with a particular emphasis in Thailand. She is co-editor, with Carl L. Bankston III, of Immigration in U.S. History: An Encyclopedia survey of U.S. Immigration and has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Kristen Barber

Kristen Barber is a Doctoral Student in the department of Sociology at the University of Southern California. There she is beginning dissertation research focusing on performances of masculinity and sexuality by men in a traditionally feminine context, the hair salon. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, embodiment, popular culture, and qualitative methods. She is published in the Handbook of the New Sexuality Studies. Prior to continuing her graduate studies at the University of Southern California, Barber earned her Masters degree in Sociology from Tulane University.

Erica Hunter

Erica Hunter is a graduate student in Women’s Studies and Sociology at the University at Albany. Her research interests focus on the intersection of gender and sexualities in families, marriage as a social institution, heterosexuality, fatherhood, and couple relationships. She is currently working on her dissertation, which examines how heterosexual couples use engagement and marital rituals as a way to symbolically construct their couple status.

Bob Hill

Bob Hill is an Associate Professor in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy, Program of Adult Education at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. He holds a Doctorate in Education from the Pennsylvania State University (1997). Areas of research and interest include, contemporary LGBTQ Issues and Queer Theory, having recently published research-based articles on social inclusion of transsexuals, and of sex workers; HIV/AIDS education; activism as the practice of adult and continuing education; and LGBTQ issues in organizational settings. He works extensively for gender justice and sexual orientation rights with UNESCO, and drafted and coordinated support for the first policy statement to include sexual minority rights in an International Council for Adult Education declaration. He also drafted and coordinated support for the first gay and lesbian antidiscrimination policy statement to appear in a UNESCO document on lifelong learning (published as “Recommitting to Adult Education and Learning,” 2003. See http://www.unesco.org/education/ue/pdf/recommitting.pdf). Dr. Hill is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Convergence: An International Journal for Adult Education. This journal explores lifelong education in international and comparative contexts to promote human development that enables people to participate more fully in determining their economic, social, political and cultural lives. His edited sourcebook, Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism: LGBTQ Issues in Organizational Settings was published in December 2006. In April 2007 he will become the recipient of the UGA, College of Education Outstanding Teaching Award. He lives in Atlanta with his artist companion, Jim and their dog, Andy.
I would like to send a warm and hearty thanks to all of the contributors of this spring issue. Again, I am delighted by the quality of the submissions. Let us continue to keep abreast of each others work, gain insightful teaching tips, learn about the professional opportunities that this division and our network has to offer, and really just get to know each other. I look forward to your contributions for the summer issue! Please send along biographies and pictures with your current publications, insights and ideas.

Thanks again,
Dana