

*SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, POLITICS, AND COMMUNITIES  
NEWSLETTER*

July, 2008

*Notes From the Chair*

A warm and sunny greeting to you all. I trust you are looking forward to our annual meeting in Boston. I want to invite each of you to the Sexual Behavior Politics & Communities (SBPC) division business meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 3, at 4:30 p.m.. During this meeting we will hand the baton to our next division chairperson, recruit a newsletter editor, discuss sessions for the 2009 meeting, draft resolutions and most important, get to know one another. This is a great opportunity for those of you who have wanted to become more involved in the division. I encourage you to attend this business meeting even if it is your first SSSP conference. We welcome the participation of students as well as veteran faculty. Furthermore, we happen to be very nice people.

If you have not already heard, the Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions 2008, was published by SSSP in June and is now accessible at [www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323). Serving as representatives for our division, Dana Atwood Harvey and I, wrote a chapter for the publication titled, "Abstinence Only Education: A Barrier to Healthy Sexual Development." It is just one of eleven articles that attempts to fuel public discourse on current social problems and encourages a more public sociology. The publication comes out once every four years and is distributed to mainstream media and political organizations. I encourage you to access the 2008 publication, and distribute the on-line link throughout your personal and professional networks. You may also distribute single page summaries or entire chapters, all of which are available at the above link.

Recently in the news, though many will never hear about it, the very first Congressional hearing on transgender equality was held. A Congressional hearing is one way members of Congress learn information on social issues in order to determine if Congressional action should be taken. In this particular case the hearing was held by the Health Education, Labor and Pensions subcommittee and was initiated by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the ACLU and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. A good resource for learning more about this Congressional hearing is <http://nctequality.blogspot.com/>. You can also read the testimony of some of the witnesses at <http://nctequality.org/hearing.html>.

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## Notes from the Chair



This is my last address to you as chair of the division so I want to thank you for the tremendous progress we have seen in division participation. First and foremost, we have had an outstanding newsletter editor. (Do not remove this part Dana). Dana Atwood-Harvey has brought creativity, detail and visual interest to the submissions that you have contributed and has compiled them into some of the best newsletters we have had in years. In fact, we have received such quality submissions that I feel compelled to thank each of you. Without your participation the newsletter has no news. What you may not be aware of is that in the last year we also established a small stipend for our newsletter editor, which we hope will ease the burden for future editors. We also continue

funding three student memberships each year. So, I encourage you to submit the names of students who need financial support in order to become members of SSSP. Two such memberships are still available in time for the 2008 annual meeting. Let us continue to support the future of our discipline.

Cheers,

Sandra E. Schroer

*The Sexual Behaviors, Politics and Communities division members (now over 350!) would like to offer a special thanks to our current chair, Sandra Schroer, for all her hard work and dedication to the advancement of this division. Here, here to a job well-done!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Agenda for Social Justice Solutions 2008*

#### *Now Available*

The society for the Study of Social Problems is pleased to announce the publication, *Agenda for Social Justice Solutions 2008*. It represents an effort by our professional association to nourish a more "public sociology" that will be easily accessible and useful to policy makers. It is also a way to give something back to the people and institutions that support our scholarly endeavors. We hope that you find it helpful in your challenging work of crafting successful solutions to contemporary social problems.

[www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323).

### *Social Problems*

#### *Now Available Online!*

We are pleased to announce that *Social Problems* journal is now available on our website at [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org) for all SSSP members. Our integration with UC Press is complete and we are thrilled to offer this new membership benefit. Please visit our website or follow our members-only link below for complimentary access to *Social Problems*. All issues from 2001 - current are available. Archived issues of *Social Problems* will be available in the fall.

### **Member Announcement**

Shari Dworkin, member and contributor, is leaving the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry and the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University as of July 31, 2008. She has accepted a faculty position in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at UCSF in San Francisco as of September 1, 2008. She will also be affiliated with the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at UCSF.

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
 58th ANNUAL MEETING

**CROSSING BORDERS:  
 ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP, GLOBALIZATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**



JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2008  
 BOSTON, MA



Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities Division (SBPC)  
 2008 Sessions

**THEMATIC SESSIONS**

**Workshop: Teaching Sexuality** (Session 5)

Organizer: Dana Atwood Harvey  
 Presider & Discussant: Sandra Schroer

**Papers:**

"Incorporating Media Analysis into a Sociology of Sexualities Course," Maura Kelly

"Performing Sexualities and Genders in the Classroom," Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo

**Sexuality on the Edge 1** (Session 76)

Organizer & Presider: Kathleen Asbury

**Papers:**

"Coming Out Experiences and Embodied Social Markers," Marni Alyson Kahn

"Sexual Identity, Sexual Behavior, and Romantic Attraction: A QCA Analysis," Sarah Ilene Strand

"What the Double Consciousness Leaves Out: Black Men-Being Black Enough, American Enough, and Masculine Enough," Kasim Ortiz

"Religion and Sexual Prejudice: The Role of Religious Fundamentalism and Religious Behavior in Shaping Attitudes toward Homosexuals," Robert R. Maddox



**Sexuality on the Edge 2** (Session 108)

Organizer & Presider: Kathleen Asbury

**Papers:**

"So, Who Feels Pretty," Amy Palder

"Cautious Affections, Slash and 'Celebrity Wrestling': Gay Men's and Straight Women's Wrestling Fiction on the Internet," Daniel Glenday

"Queer Up; Cowgirl Up; Gay/Straight Horse Riders Table Talk," Kathleen Asbury

**Crossing Borders of Gender and Sexuality** (Session 125)

Organizer & Discussant: Elroi Windsor

**Papers:**

Sexual Orientation at Work: Gay Men in Female Dominated Occupations," Danielle MacCarney

"Public Responses in Public Spaces: An Ethnomethodology of Social Responses to Transexualism," Taylor Holder and Paige Averett

"Crossing Bodily Boundaries: Transgendering and Transcendence in Virtual Worlds," Carrie Yang Costello

*Don't Forget the Business Meeting July 3 at 4:30!*

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
**58th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities Division (SBPC)**  
**2008 Sessions**

**JOINT SESSIONS**

**Sexual Expression at any Age** (Session 16)

SBPC & Youth, Aging, and the Life Course  
Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Sandra Schroer

**Papers:**

"Sexual Harassment or Boys Will Be Boys?" Kenneth J. Litwin, Heather Laube and Andrea Strzelecki

"Targeting Homosexuals: Does Age Play a role for Either Ex-gay or Anti-gay Organizations?" Cody Wedge

**Violence, Victimization and Sexual**

**Assault** (Session 29)

Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Law and Society & SBPC

Organizer: Melanie Carlson

Presider: Tracy L. Dietz

**Papers:**

"The Consequences of Violent Victimization for the Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence: A Longitudinal Analysis," Lisa Murphy

"Teen Sexual Victimization: An Exploration of Teens' Experiences and Responses to Unwanted Sexual Contact," Karen Weiss

"Interpersonal Violence and substance Use Among Sexual Minorities," Amy Hequembourg and Jennifer Piccolo

"The Effect of Racial and Ethnic Change on Inter- and Intra-Group Youth Violence in Los Angeles," Lyndsay N. Boggess

**Inter-sexions: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender: LGTBI Research** (Session 31)

Racial and Ethnic Minorities & SBPC

Organizer & Presider: Juanita Diaz Cotto

**Papers:**

"Queering Collective Identity: Intersexuality in LGBTIQ Community Organizing Against Intimate Partner Violence," Elizabeth B. Erbaugh

"The Continued Significance of Questions about Constructing Coherent Gay Selves of Color," Kendal Broad

"Exploring LGBT Community through Intersexuality: Preliminary Findings from One Non-Metropolitan Area," Courtney A. Cuthbertson and Jennifer S. Carrera

"'That's so Gay!' Attitudes Toward Homosexuality on the College Campus," Laurel Holland and Melinda Schott-Ceccacci

"Entre el dolor y el placer: Lesbian and Gay Narratives of Incest in Mexican Society," Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez

**The Politics of Marriage** (Session 45)

Family & SBPC

Organizer & Presider: Nancy Mezey

**Papers:**

"The Contested Meanings of and Politics of Marriage: Legalizing Same Sex Marriage," Rebekah M. Zinzavage

"Globalization, Technocratization, and Legitimation of the Other: Changing Images of Love and Marriage," Cheryl Boudreaux

"Open Marriage to All, and Then What?" Marietta Riska

"Benefits to Health in Marriage and Cohabitation: A State Level Analysis," Tara Hardinge

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
**58th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities Division (SBPC)**  
**2008 Sessions**

**JOINT SESSIONS CONTINUED...**

**HIV and AIDS Research: Policy and Politics**

(Session 62)

Health, Health Policy, and Health Services & SBPC

Organizer: Lloyd Klein

Presider: Shela Van Ness

Discussant: Judith Gordon

**Papers:**

"Construction of HIV/AIDS Risk and Transmission: The Case of Low-Income Minority Older Adults," Elijah Ward, Judith A. Levy, William Disch, and Jean J. Schensul

"Women Long Term Survivors of HIV: Living with Identities of Wellness and Illness," Donna B. Barnes and Audrey A. Thomas

"Narrowing the Gap: Participatory HIV Research and Intervention with Incarcerated Women," Jessica Fields and Isela Gonzalez

**Law and Sexuality** (Session 81)

Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Law and Society & SBPC

Organizer: Lloyd Klein

Presider: Cary Federman

Discussant Emily Horowitz

**Papers:**

"Outside the Law: The Same Sex Marriage Experience in San Francisco," Kimberly Richman

"Predicting the Support of Civil Unions and Same-Sex Marriages among Social Work Students," Eric Swank

"Public Perceptions of Punitiveness for Sex Offenses," Gini R. Deibert, Mark Stafford and Jessica Rager

"Legislating Safety: The Impact of Megan's Law and Community Notification," Lloyd Klein

**HIV/AIDS: Activism, Discrimination and Community Discourse** (Session 139)

Health, Health Policy, and Health Services & SBPC

Organizer & Presider: Lloyd Klein

Discussant: Stephen J. Morewitz

**Papers:**

"The Duty to Remember: Almost 20 Years of AIDS Activism," Gilbert Elbaz

"Institutional Discrimination in Federal Funding for HIV/AIDS," Christopher William Pell

"The Influence of Black Church Culture: How Black Church Culture Leaders Frame the HIV/AIDS Discourse," Sandra Barnes and Robert Peterson

**Also of Interest to Our Members....**

**Gender, Sexuality, and Identity** (Session 33)

Program Committee

Organizer: Wendy Simonds

Presider: Moon Charania

**Papers:**

"The Politics of Visibility: Sexual Minorities, Sexual Spaces," Corie Hammers and Elisabeth Sheff

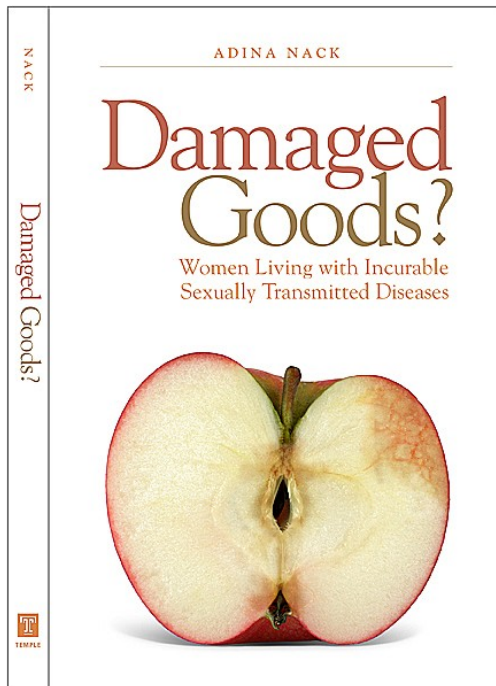
"Soy Un Hombre Gay: Identity Formation Among South American Gay Men," Klint Jaramillo

"Cultural Identity of Gujarati and American Women Who Create Profiles Online," Pangri Mehta

"'At Least I Am Not Sleeping with Anyone': Resisting the Stigma of Commercial Surrogacy in India," Amrita Pande

"Employees as Performers: An Interactionist Look at Strip Club Actors," Melissa F. Lavin

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



**Nack, Adina. 2008. *Damaged Goods? Women Living with Incurable Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.**

How do women living with genital herpes and/or HPV (*human papillomavirus*) infections see themselves as sexual beings, and what choices do they make about sexual health issues? In *Damaged Goods? Women Living with Incurable Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, Adina Nack, a medical sociologist who specializes in sexual health and social psychology, conducted in-depth interviews with 43 women about their identities and sexuality with regard to chronic illness. The result is a fascinating book about an issue that affects over 15 million Americans, but is all too little discussed, even as news circulates about HPV vaccines. *Damaged Goods* adds to our knowledge of how women are affected by living with chronic STDs and reveals the stages of their sexual self-transformation. From the anxiety of being diagnosed with an STD to issues of blame and shame, Nack—herself diagnosed with a cervical HPV infection—shows why these women, feeling that they are “damaged goods,” question future relationships, marriage, and their ability to have healthy children.

**Chapkis, Wendy and Richard J. Webb. 2008. *Dying to Get High: Marijuana as Medicine*. New York, New York University Press.**

In *Dying to Get High*, noted sociologist Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb investigate one community of seriously-ill patients fighting the federal government for the right to use physician-recommended marijuana. Based in Santa Cruz, California, the WO/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) is unique patient-caregiver cooperative providing marijuana free of charge to mostly terminally ill members. For a brief period in 2004, it even operated the only legal non-governmental medical marijuana garden in the country, protected by the federal courts against the DEA.

### Review

“How can a substance that is no mystery to half of all adults in the United States prompt such confusion and misrepresentation in the realms of law, medicine, and policy? Chapkis and Webb combine a careful historical analysis of debates over medical marijuana with a perceptive and sympathetic portrait of the activists who have sought to alleviate the suffering of people with AIDS and other life-threatening or chronic health conditions. Offering nuance in place of slogans, *Dying to Get High* tells an inspiring story of the tactics and philosophies of a little-understood health movement.” Steven Epstein, Author of *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*



# RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Nancy J. Mezey. 2008. *New Choices, New Families: How Lesbians Decide about Motherhood*. The Johns Hopkins University Press.**

How do lesbians decide to become mothers or remain child-free? Why do new families form at particular historical moments? These questions are at the heart of Nancy J. Mezey's *New Choices, New Families*. Researchers, politicians, and society at large continue to debate the changing American family, especially nontraditional families that emerge from divorce, remarriage, grandparents-as-parents, and adoption. This ongoing discussion also engages the controversy surrounding the parental rights of same-sex couples and their families. *New Choices, New Families* enters into this conversation. Mezey asks why lesbians are forming families at this particular historical moment and wonders how race, class, sexual identity, and family history factor into the decision-making process. Drawing heavily from personal interviews, Mezey's groundbreaking analysis gives voice to groups long underrepresented in similar studies—black, Latina, working class, and childfree lesbians. Some chapters examine how childhood experiences contribute to the desire to become a mother, while others consider the influence of women's partners and careers. *New Choices, New Families* provides thoughtful insights into questions about sexual identity, social and cultural expectations, and what and who constitute a family.

## *Reviews*

"A multiracial feminist analysis of how lesbians make choices about motherhood. This book should be required reading for anyone seriously interested in twenty-first century families."—Maxine Baca Zinn, Michigan State University

"Through her masterful analysis of how and why lesbian women choose to become mothers or remain childfree, Nancy Mezey makes an essential contribution to understanding the profound and irreversible forces now transforming family life. Must reading for anyone who wishes to understand the changing contours of motherhood for all women."—Kathleen Gerson, author of *Hard Choices: How Women Decide About Work, Career, and Motherhood*

**Shari L. Dworkin and Faye Linda Wachs (In Press). *Body Panic: Gender, Health, and the Selling of Fitness*. NYU Press.**

Are men and women 'equally sexually objectified' in postindustrial consumer culture? How is gender made and done over time through imagery and text in mainstream health and fitness magazines? How are race and sexuality inequality reinforced and challenged on and through media representations of the body? Dworkin and Wachs carry out ten years of content and textual analysis of numerous women's and men's mainstream health and fitness magazines to engage critical questions about health, gender, and sexuality. Instead of being focused centrally on women or men, their relational analysis of gender provides nuanced new critical insights of the ways in which women and men are differentially positioned at the juncture of structure and culture—and with what implications.

**Dworkin, S.L., Pinto, R., Hunt, J, Rabkin, B., Remien, R. (In Press). "Keeping the Spirit of Community Partnerships Alive in the Scale Up of HIV/AIDS Prevention: Critical Reflections on the Roll Out of DEBI (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions)." *American Journal of Community Psychology*.**

**Atwood-Harvey, Dana. 2007. "From Touchstone to Tombstone: Children's Experiences with the Abuse of their Beloved Pets." *Humanity and Society*, 31(4): 379-400.**

Through a qualitative content analysis of both personal and published accounts of abused children's (including some who have been sexually abused) experiences with their pets, I found that pets can provide a significant source of emotional support. However, the children's entanglement in their beloved pets victimization and the perpetrator's perversions of the child-animal bond can pose challenges to the crafting of the child's identity.

## MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS

### Wendy Chapkis



I am a Professor of Sociology and Women & Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine. Since the 1980s, my research has focused primarily on gender and sexuality; over the past decade, however, I found myself clip-

ping news items on the War on Drugs and reading with interest the political, legal, and scientific arguments surrounding the medicinal use of marijuana. I began seeing numerous connections between state responses to prostitution (my most recent area of study -- see for example my 1995 book, *Live Sex Acts*, published by Routledge) and anti-drug discourse. In the criminalization of both drugs and sex, the state claims for itself the right to police consensual adult behaviors and punish willing participants. I was struck by the fact that the United States has become increasingly isolated among advanced industrialized democratic nations in its insistence that prostitution and drug use are "vice crimes" that must be prohibited, rather than public health matters that might be regulated. This new area of interest culminated in the co-authored book -- *Dying to Get High: marijuana as medicine* (New York University Press 2008). Future research will continue to explore state policing of pleasure and consciousness.

I'm presenting work from the new book at the SSSP (session 123 on "Community Health and Substance Use") on Saturday Aug. 2nd from 12:30 to 2:10.

### Nancy J. Mezey

Nancy J. Mezey is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Sociology Program Coordinator in the Department of Political Science at Monmouth University. She received her PhD in Sociology with a focus on structural inequalities from Michigan State University in 2002. Her research and teaching interests are in families, sexualities, gender studies, and race-class-gender studies. Dr. Mezey also has experience working in the field of intimate partner violence and has studied family decision-making processes both in the U.S. and Africa.



### Adina Nack

Adina Nack is Associate Professor of Sociology at California Lutheran University and has been involved with sexual health education for more than a decade as an outreach worker, health educator, and researcher, as well as a professor of sexuality studies. She is a member of Ventura County's HIV/AIDS Coalition, conducted community-based research studies for them, and for several years has organized the county's World AIDS Day events.





**Division Contact Information**

Sandra Schroer, Division Chair  
Muskingum, College  
11 Garfield Ave  
New Concord, OH, 43762  
Phone: 740-862-8287  
Email: [sschroer@muskingum.edu](mailto:sschroer@muskingum.edu)

Dana Atwood-Harvey, Division Newsletter Editor  
University of Wisconsin Colleges-Sheboygan  
One University Drive  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin, 53081  
Phone: 920-459-6606  
Email: [datwoodh@uwc.edu](mailto:datwoodh@uwc.edu)

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## AWARDS

Jean Elson, Ph.D., was named the 2008 University of New Hampshire "Vagina Warrior" by the cast of the UNH "Vagina Monologues." Professor Elson was honored for "her tireless efforts in educating students and opening up our minds to the important issues surrounding women today."



*in the past: 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.*

*Thanks again,*

*Dana Atwood-Harvey*



*Editor: Dr. Dana Atwood-Harvey*

*I want to send warm thanks to those members who contributed to this issue. I hope you noted the many exciting division sessions scheduled for the upcoming conference in Boston. I will miss them this year as I am to play the role of matron of honor for my baby sister during that same weekend. I will see you next year in San-Francisco!*

*I continue to be amazed by the insightful and up to date research that many of our division members recently published. These works contribute to the advancement of sexuality research in general and our division specifically.*

*This year I will pass the torch of newsletter editor to another division member. I want to thank the members for the opportunity to be your editor and may be willing to resume the position in a couple of years. However, this year will be my first year as a tenured, associate professor and I intend to devote more time to research and writing. I am confident, given the devotion our members have to quality submissions, that the next editor will have as much fun as I did. As I said*