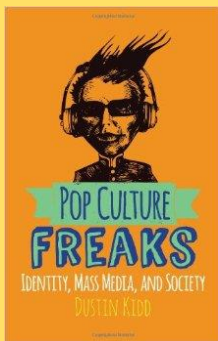




Society for the Study of Social Problems Sociology and Social Welfare Division

In this issue:

- Messages from the Outgoing and Incoming Division Chairs
- 2015 Conference Paper Sessions
- Graduate Student Paper Winner
- 2015 Conference Events
- JSSW Special Issue Calls for Papers
- Interesting Findings
- Book Review



*Newsletter Editor:
Kattalina Berriochoa,
University of
Massachusetts, Boston*

Greetings to members and friends of the Sociology and Social Welfare Division of SSSP!

Hope your spring semesters have come (or are coming) to a good close and that you are looking forward the SSSP summer conference August 21-23, 2015 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, IL. This year's conference theme "Removing the Mask, Lifting the Veil: Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century" promises to spark many interesting conversations about our scholarship as well as current events.

As this is my last newsletter as SSW Division Chair, I'd like to thank a few people who have been really helpful along the way. First, thank you to Kattalina Berriochoa and Karen Monaghan, Public Policy doctoral students at UMass Boston who have served as the current and former newsletter editors. I deeply appreciate their assistance in pulling together four division newsletters. Second, thank you to division

members who have served on division committees in the past two years: Richard Captuo, Sandra Fogel, Kasey Hendricks, Linda Houser, and Keith Kilty. Your service is an important part of achieving the work of the division.



Finally, I would like to introduce Linda Houser (Widener University), our new SSW Division Chair. You can see Linda's note below. Thank you to Linda for taking on this exciting role. Please join me in working with her over the next couple years to continue to strengthen our division!

I look forward to continued membership and involvement in Sociology and Social Welfare Division and SSSP!

Sincerely yours,
Heather MacIndoe, UMass Boston



As I begin my term as Division Chair following this summer's annual meeting, I am looking forward to engaging with you, both as individuals and as a group, to support the scholarship, service, and practice of the division and SSSP. Heather MacIndoe's leadership has made my involvement in the division a pleasure and source of great professional satisfaction, and I hope to continue in her path.

My research to date has covered a number of content areas including state-level employment policies, work-family integration in families affected by autism, the role of child care subsidies in welfare-to-work programs, and the relationship between food stamp receipt and health outcomes. My current research engages several related areas: perceptions of care quality among consumers of attendant care services, the employment experiences of women with breast cancer and their access to family and medical leave, and the relationship between employment leave access and use and maternal and infant health. I am an Associate Professor in the Center for Social Work Education at Widener University, and I direct our Ph.D. program in Social Work. The rapid approach of the spring graduation reminds me both of how many papers I have yet to grade and how fortunate I am to intersect with such engaging and engaged students.

I hope to see many familiar and new faces at the division meeting in August. Please do not hesitate to email me with questions, concerns, and updates. I am excited to begin this new role. --- Linda

Sociology and Social Welfare Paper Sessions – 2015 Conference

Session 7: Nonprofits and the Welfare State

Date: Friday, August 21 *Time:* 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM *Room:* Aegean

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Heather MacIndoe, University of Massachusetts

Session 29: The Impact of Social Welfare Policy on Race, Class, and Gender Disparities

Date: Friday, August 21 *Time:* 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM *Room:* Bering

Organizer & Presider: Joyce Bialik, Touro College Graduate School of Social Work

Session 42: Conflict and Social Welfare in the 21st Century: Neighborhoods, Cities, & Nations

Date: Friday, August 21 *Time:* 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM *Room:* Pacific 1

Organizer & Presider: Alissa Klein, University of South Florida

Session 61: Contemporary Welfare Developments in a Neoliberal Era: Building Danish-US Research Ties

Date: Saturday, August 22 *Time:* 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM *Room:* Bering

Organizers & Presiders: R.A. Dello Buono, Manhattan College & Mia Arp Fallov, Aalborg University

Session 78: Homelessness in the U.S.

Date: Saturday, August 22 *Time:* 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM *Room:* Pacific 3

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Beth Frankel Merenstein, Central Connecticut State University

Session 92: Chicago/Regional Spotlight: The Plight of the Urban Metropolis in the Midwest

Date: Saturday, August 22 *Time:* 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM *Room:* Caspian

Organizer: Kasey Henricks, American Bar Foundation and Loyola University, Chicago
Presider & Discussant: Louise Seamster, Duke University

Session 95: Personal, Institutional, & Professional Resistance: Gender, Race, & Poverty

Date: Saturday, August 22 *Time:* 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM *Room:* Pacific 3

Organizer: Sobia Shaheen Shaikh, School of Social Work, Memorial University

Presiders: Elizabeth Brule, York University & Sobia Shaheen Shaikh, Memorial University

Session 102: Social & Contextual Determinants of Health Care Access, Utilization, & Outcomes

Date: Saturday, August 22 *Time:* 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM *Room:* Baltic

Organizer & Presider: Shannon Monnat, Penn State University

Session 117: The Changing Nature of the Welfare State: Race, Class, and Gender

Date: Sunday, August 23 *Time:* 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM *Room:* Atlantic E

Organizer & Presider: Linda Houser, Widener University

Session 169: Social Welfare and Well-being

Date: Sunday, August 23 *Time:* 4:30 PM - 6:10 PM *Room:* Atlantic D

Organizer & Presider: Matthew P. Eddy, Minot State University

Sociology and
Social Welfare
Division

Incoming Division Chair

Linda Houser,
Widener University

houser.linda@gmail.com

2013-15 Division Chair

Heather MacIndoe,
UMass Boston

Heather.MacIndoe@umb.edu

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://www.sssp1.org>

Special Issue Calls for Papers

The Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)

Guest Editors: Michael A. Lewis, Ph.D., The Silberman School of Social Work
Hunter College & Richard K. Caputo, Ph.D., Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University

The financial crisis of 2007-2008 and its recessionary aftermath have, once again, raised the issue of whether a market economy can be relied upon to assure economic security. Although the market economy is dynamic and quite productive, the financial crisis has highlighted its instability and tendency to produce high unemployment, low wages, stagnant wages, greater income inequality or a combination. Many would argue that the social welfare system, with its myriad of safety net programs, is intended to address such conditions. Yet it has holes that have allowed many to still live in poverty, many more to live with a very realistic fear of falling into poverty, and an erosion of the middle class. This instability and tendency toward low wages, stagnant wages for middle class families, or no employment in a market economy, coupled with a social safety net system riddled with holes, suggests that it is time to think about new approaches to income and wealth distribution, not only for purposes of poverty prevention or even poverty reduction, but also for social justice. Are there fairer and more efficient ways to distribute the fruits of our individual and collective efforts to everyone's benefit?

One such program is the basic income guarantee (BIG), also called the guaranteed income. The idea is simple: replace most income support programs with a floor under everyone's income, structured so that no one is in poverty and everyone is better off financially if they earn more in the private market. We're issuing a call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (JSSW) to explore the merits of BIG and related proposals such as guaranteed jobs, stakeholder grants, asset accumulation policies, and living wage legislation. We're interested in proposals related to BIG because some have argued that the goals of BIG could be better realized by other approaches, such as government guaranteeing a job instead of an income. The special issue is intended to consider the economic, social, political, and philosophical questions about BIG and related policies. The papers will be written by social workers and academics in related disciplines. The special issue is intended to explore some of the following Topics:

- BIG, other related programs, and social justice
- BIG, other programs, and gender relations
- Financing BIG and related programs
- BIG, other programs, and the labor Market
- BIG, related programs, and civic engagement
- BIG, related programs, and the bargaining power of workers
- BIG, related programs, and the family
- The political feasibility of BIG and related programs

We invite authors to submit manuscripts not to exceed thirty double-spaced (12-pitch font) pages (including references) on any of the topics above as well as related topics. Please send MS Word manuscripts that adhere to the APA Manual, 6th edition style, electronically, as email attachments to: Michael A. Lewis, Professor, michael.a.lewis@hunter.cuny.edu. **Manuscripts received by September 30, 2015** will be considered by a special issue of JSSW with an anticipated publication date in June or September 2016.



Mind-Body Interventions in Social Work

Guest Editors: Yvonne A. Unrau, Ph.D. and Melinda McCormick, M.S.W. Western Michigan University School of Social Work

The *Journal of the Sociology and Social Welfare* (JSSW) announces a special issue dedicated to studies of mind-body interventions as applied to social problems to prevent adversity and promote wholeness and well-being among individuals, groups, organizations, or communities served by the social work profession. Mind-body interventions include a diverse group of practices such as controlled breathing practices, meditation, yoga and practices associated with spirituality;¹ and are considered one domain of practice of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM).¹ In this special issue, we explore usefulness and effectiveness of mind-body interventions as applied to groups of marginalized individuals in society including but not limited to individuals living with conditions of homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, poverty, incarceration and discrimination based on race or gender-identity orientation.

While all high-quality manuscripts focused on mind-body intervention research will be considered, we are particularly interested in papers that describe methods and key findings of mind-body intervention studies and discuss applications to social service practice and/or public policy. In addition, we are seeking papers that will contribute to scholarly contemplation regarding the use of mind-body approaches in the social welfare field to address issues of transformative healing and change among populations and communities marginalized by oppressive social conditions such as poverty, discrimination and violence.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following: completed efficacy studies that determine the specific effects of a mind-body intervention using experimental methods; completed outcomes, effectiveness and case studies that investigate the feasibility and usefulness in general populations or settings; systematic methods to develop/adapt existing mind-body interventions to new populations or settings; studies of implementation of mind-body interventions in community settings; methodological research on mind-body interventions, including advances in methods for measuring and analyzing fidelity and dosage data in community settings. Authors are invited to contact the guest editors to discuss ideas for submissions: yvonne.unrau@wmich.edu and melinda.m.mccormick@wmich.edu.

Submission Process

We invite authors to submit manuscripts not to exceed thirty double-spaced (12-pitch font) pages (including references and tables) on any of the topics above as well as related topics. Manuscripts received by August 8, 2015 will be considered by a special issue of JSSW with an anticipated publication date in 2016. Please send MS Word manuscripts that adhere to the APA Manual, 6th edition style, electronically, as email attachments to: melinda.m.mccormick@wmich.edu.

Manuscript Submission Deadline: August 8, 2015.

Interesting Findings

To what extent are children's opportunities for upward economic mobility shaped by the neighborhoods in which they grow up? Researchers Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren of Harvard University studied this question using data from more than five million children whose families moved across counties between 1996 and 2012. Their findings, which highlight the importance of place in determining an escape from poverty, effectively overturning those of Moving to Opportunity. Read the New York Times coverage here: <http://nyti.ms/1DYMuOI>.



*Book Review***Pop Culture Freaks: Identity, Mass Media, and Society by Dustin Kidd***Reviewed by Nia Reed, Sociology Department, Georgia State University*

Dustin Kidd offers an enlightening, informal analysis of how U.S. popular culture informs nearly every aspect of the lives of those who are plugged into various mass media outlets. Students will appreciate the effort taken to provide a laymen's (though scholarly) account of often complex economic, psychological, and sociological ideologies and concepts. Using major pop culture artifacts, such as the *Matrix* and *Harry Potter* series, the author illuminates the relationships between mass media and race, class, gender, ableism, sexuality, and body image (as well as intersections of the like). Kidd transforms "freak" from a derogatory term to a celebration of anyone or any group who defies racial, class, gender, disability, and heteronormative standards and hierarchies set by mass media and corporate matrices. This is done by identifying the privileges and oppressions of the *Matrix* (Kidd highlights current ideologies of social illusions and truths, just as the main character, *Neo*, had to address in the 1999 blockbuster film, the *Matrix*). Society operates within a commercial culture system that treat most of its members as outsiders, or freaks. Kidd acknowledges the unrealistic standards set for individuals by the mass media, and invites readers to embrace their "freak" status, as being a "freak" is essentially a collective identity that is shared by most, and only a few are the exception.

Throughout the book, Dustin Kidd references past scholars and their work like Patricia Hill Collins (1990, *Black Feminist Thought*-how black women are portrayed), Emile Durkheim (1951, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology-suicide* as more of a social than psychological issue), Michel Foucault (1976, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*-sexuality and the power heteronormative power hierarchy), and many more (i.e., Judith Butler, Georg Simmel, etc.). Kidd successfully applies each of these concepts to the "freak" theme, positing that these theorists explain how race, class, gender, sexuality, and ableism (and their intersects) allow most of society to be categorized as "freaks," but how the mass media will have the masses believe that the exceptional few are the norm. To add even more contextual support, the author provides a brief, but efficient look at the historical context of various mass media faculties (see Appendix 1 for Printing and Publishing; see Appendix 2 for the Music Industry; see Appendix 3 for Film, see Appendix 4 for Television; see Appendix 5 for the Internet).

The *Matrix* analogies successfully addresses the perils of consistent exposure to mass media (while plugged in), and *Harry Potter* addresses more mainstream, structural social problems, like race, class, and gender disparities. There are however, minimal flaws in Kidd's book. It may prove difficult for students to relate to some of the outdated analogies that are used throughout the book. The *Matrix*, for example, was a blockbuster film that many have heard of, even if they have not watched it, however, the theme of the *Matrix* loses its popular, relevant status with the passing of time, as it was released more than 15 years ago. Furthermore, dated sitcoms and songs were used to demonstrate race, gender, sexuality, and disability inequalities, potentially losing student readers to time stamped examples. Admittedly, this argument does not hold true for the *Harry Potter* series, as it is more recent and more of a global phenomenon than the *Matrix*, allowing for greater connectivity to the material, for students. In addition, Dustin Kidd occasionally introduces concepts or terms without providing clarity, or concrete definitions (i.e. *glocalization*).

Despite minor aforementioned issues, I recommend this book (paired with a reader) for sociology, film, psychology, history, or multicultural diversity courses. The author discusses structural, financial, social, and systemic practices of mass media corporations and how those practices exacerbate longstanding social problems, and how they create new ones. Furthermore, Kidd illustrates how film, television, the music industry, and the Internet have distinct patterns of inequalities towards various groups (LGBTQ, minorities, disabled, etc.). Finally, scholars and students alike can gain useful insight into the biopsychosocial impact of pop culture (via mass media outlets) on society.

Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014, 288 pp., ISBN: 978-0-813-34912-1. \$35.00