

Department of Sociology, Newsletter

Volume 7 number 1

Fall 2012

What are we reading?



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Summer book stories from sociology faculty and department members...



University
of Victoria

50
YEARS



University
of Victoria
Social Sciences

Summer stories...



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Stories about student achievements...

From the Chair:

The Department welcomes several new members this year. Seantel Anaïs joins us from Carleton University, where she completed her PhD in sociology last spring. Seantel specializes in security and legal studies. Simon Carroll completed his PhD in interdisciplinary studies at UVic. Simon will take on our Quantitative Methods course in the fall. We also welcome 4 PhD and 10 MA students to the department this fall.

We were very pleased to see the first graduation from our PhD program this year. Dan Grace, who was a member of the first cohort, successfully defended his dissertation in the summer. Congratulations, Dan!

I am also very pleased to announce that three of our undergraduate students were recently awarded the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award. Congratulations to Olivia Merritt, Olivia Guerra, and Bryan Benner!

The department continues to excel in teaching and research. I wish everyone the greatest success in the coming year.

University of Victoria,
Department of Sociology

What are we reading?

Barry Edmonston: My summer reading has been a bit heavy this year as I selected more serious books to carry with me for extensive Asian travels. I enjoyed V.G.Kiernan's *Colonial Empires and Armies, 1815-1960* because it was a wide-ranging discussion of Europe's empires, their ideological motives, impact, and demise in the colonial liberation movements. Now I'm in the middle of reading R.L. Fox's entertaining and enlightening *The Classic World*, which is a fascinating volume on the classic civilizations of Greece and Rome. It is one of the best-written, interesting books that I have read.

Cecilia Benoit: Esi Edugyan's *Half-Blood Blues*. Quite intriguing and well written. Esi Edugyan lives in the Victoria region. *Half-Blood Blues* narrates the life of Sidney (Sid) Griffiths, an aging former jazz musician who once lived in Germany during the Nazi period but now spends his final years in Baltimore. He remains troubled by the disappearance of his friend and bandmate Hieronymus Falk, a black German trumpeter arrested by the Nazis at the onset of WW2. Sid returns to Berlin for the premiere of a documentary about Hieronymus, and when there the story of his disappeared friend unfolds.

Steve Garlick: John Protevi (2009) *Political Affect: Connecting the Social and the Somatic*. University of Minnesota Press. One of the better recent works of social theory that takes up the concepts of affect and complexity in order to set out a nonreductive account of the relations between bodies and social systems. Of particular interest is a chapter on the 'political physiology' involved in the act of killing others.

Min Zhou: I read a well-researched biography, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China* (Harvard University Press), by Ezra Vogel. Ezra is a renowned expert on East Asia, and I was lucky to know him in person at Harvard. I know he has been studying China's reform leader Deng Xiaoping for many years and I could not wait to see his final product. The book offers a comprehensive and balanced portrait of Deng Xiaoping. It is particularly impressive to see how Ezra put tons of materials together into a cohesive book.

Mikael Jansson: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins gave me several hours of pleasure this summer as our daughter Annika and I discussed the characters and their behaviour. It is a recent "young adult" book about a heroine who is forced into a deadly game against her peers from the Districts for the viewing enjoyment of the people in the Capitol. During the course of the game we learn the strengths of those who appear weak and that the rules of the game can be changed by strong actors and collective action. The book also provides a commentary on the relationship between groups of citizens where one group consists of a great number of less well-off producers, and the other group is largely consuming --be it government officials, academics, city folks or high income nations. Much better than the movie version.

Bill Carroll: This summer I have enjoyed re-reading George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*. Written in the middle of the Spanish Civil War, the book contains a remarkable combination of close social observation and acute political analysis, shifting from one to the other, across its chapters. Orwell debunks all sorts of air-brushed images, whether of war or of the prospects for achieving a democratic left alternative to capitalist brutality. Another interesting read has been Nell Irvin Painter's *A History of White People*. This is an impressive historical account, focusing on the history of race, and whiteness, in the 'Western' world. The story is told through connected biographical sketches of the main authors of race thinking, extending back to antiquity but paying especially close attention to the United States of America. I found the account of the invention of an aesthetic of whiteness in the 1700s among the most revealing parts. Painter writes with literary flair that puts sociologists to shame.



What are we reading?

Peyman Vahabzadeh: Gianni Vattimo and Santiago Zabala, *Hermeneutic Communism* (Columbia University Press, 2011). In this interesting book, the living, foremost hermeneutic philosopher, Gianni Vattimo, and his colleague argue philosophically about the "communist" vocation of phenomenology and hermeneutics. The book tries to show how interpretation is about building community in which the relativism of hermeneutics, which Vattimo calls "weak thought" (it is "weak" because it is non-foundational in a positivist way) becomes the "thought of the weak" (a la Walter Benjamin). The book is fascinating in its approach and tries to find a new intellectual way to egalitarian politics.

Neena Chappell: I read the biography of Steve Jobs – the author didn't need 600 pages to say what he said but nevertheless a fascinating portrait. For those of us who embrace excellence, Jobs knew how to excel (his personality could have used a bit of work though)!

Sean Hier: Among the books I read this summer, *The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters* stands out. Anyone working in the university will benefit from reading this book. Those with a bit of exposure to administration will identify with many of the arguments. The book is especially, often comically, critical of strategic planning, administrative expansion, and the growing number of retreats. Also worth mentioning is Peter C. Newman's *When the Gods Changed: The Death of Liberal Canada*. This is one of several books about contemporary Canadian politics. It's probably best read alongside Lawrence Martin's *Harperland: The Politics of Control*. The main message coming from both books is depressing in the end.

Bill Little: I didn't have much time for reading for myself this summer but read a chapter a night of Suzanne Collin's *Hunger Games* to my son Samuel while camping. 27 chapters for 27 nights of summer vacation. I did read an old Cormac McCarthy from 1973, *Child of God*, where he seems to have already worked out all his Southern Gothic themes concerning the alienness of the earth, dispossession, peregrination, and violence. Also a collection of Haruki Murakami short stories *After the Quake*, loosely tied together by their connection to the Kobe earthquake in 1996. Murakami's theme: It's not until something disappears that life gets weird.

Dorothy Smith: I've been reading Stanislas Dehaene's *Reading the Brain: the Science and Evolution of a Human Invention*. It's for people like me who're ignorant about brains and neurology and it's very well written – clear and luminous with a brilliant use of metaphors to explicate complex processes, and yet carefully grounded in the current cognitive neuroscience in which he is a leading researcher. Dehaene argues that specialized functions for reading were not an evolutionary process, rather reading has worked up and adapted pre-existing sites and processes in the brain. I'm about a third of the way through a fairly fat book, with numbers of images of the brain. I have a bit of a hard time handling brain geography and maybe never will remember the names of different sites, but I find this account of how written words mean neurologically just fascinating (goes well with a glass of Kettle Valley pinot gris at the Oakwood pub).

Seantel Anais: This summer I read the collected works of W.G. Sebald. I enjoyed *On the Natural History of Destruction* (2003, trans. Anthea Bell. New York: Random House), his volume of lectures on literature and the air raids of the Second World War. Sebald's books weave seemingly disparate components of history, literature, war, and architecture into unsettling narratives. An elegant rendering of the destruction wrought by war, *On the Natural History of Destruction* is a powerful answer to the absence of the devastating Allied bombing raids on German cities and towns in the country's cultural memory. What equips Sebald to write such an historical account is his ability to transcend disciplinary boundaries: he is at once a historian, literary critic, scholar of European architecture, essayist, and social commentator. I appreciate his refusal to ignore the role played by non-human actors in his account of violence. Sebald offers an uncanny object-centered picture of the desolation of post-war Germany: warped windowpanes, grey cellar floors, battered shoes, white flags, and empty suitcases. For who can write a 'natural' history of destruction without acknowledging the unnatural landscapes it produces?



Summer Stories

Martha McMahon: I spent the summer visiting farmers' markets in Ireland and preparing a research project on local food. The farmers' markets in Ireland have been turned inside out in the last 10 years. I am interested in how Irish farmers' markets overcome the regulatory food safety environment. Ireland used to be like Canada in that EU and national regulations discouraged the sale of good food at a lot of local farmers' markets. It prevented the emergence of livelihood for farmers who were not tied into commodity agricultural production. Now the Irish Farmers' markets I visited seem awash with excellent cheeses many from unpasteurized milk and all sorts of food stuff not typically found in farmers markets around here. Many shoppers were not the middle class food conscious patrons that research on US and Canadian markets tell us are the major customer group (although local farmers challenge this account as too simplistic). Some of the traditional older farmers still supplied less than affluent shoppers with a range of different varieties of potatoes and mounds of cabbages and carrots, beets and the likes. It is not clear to me whether these farmers' selling basic Irish staples such as potatoes are making the kinds of livelihoods that are sustainable and how they might be understood in relation to theories of the new Food Movement central to the World Congress of Rural Sociology I attended.



Steve Garlick: Summer has been marked by the birth of my daughter, Louisa, July 28th.



Bill Carroll: In Buenos Aires, not far off the beaten track of the International Sociological Association Forum, August 2012.

Josephine MacIntosh: I spent my summer attempting to decipher the first chapter of a *Tabula Rasa*, titled "Logan". This first edition of the grandparent series—which many of you may already be familiar with—initially caught my attention last August. I waited with great anticipation for the release date in April, and am pleased to say this epic work, co-authored by my eldest daughter and her partner, has exceeded my expectations! "Logan" is a substantial, cheerful, and most engaging volume. As each page turns, the story becomes more fascinating and complex.



Mikael Jansson: The picture is of Annika and I on our tandem. For my birthday she gave me two tickets to the theatre in Chemainus and offered to ride there with me. The picture is taken as we are about to board the ferry from Mill Bay to Brentwood Bay.



Stories about students

From Dorothy Smith:

Dan Grace's doctoral dissertation, defended this spring, takes up concerns he shares with legal activists about the criminalization of HIV-AIDS sexual transmission; the latter had been incorporated into a Model Law promoted by the US which was very influential in West Africa where several countries had designed and passed legislation based on it. Grace explicates ethnographically the complex of transnational relations, mapping levels of relevant policy and legislative practices across and within the various countries and agencies involved, and making visible the complexities of making change.

Sheri Watkins's thesis, also completed in the spring, is a fine and original piece of work. She took up an important new area of institutional ethnography which explores the health care experiences of patients with chronic illnesses. Ethnographies of patients' healthwork (Eric Mykhalovskiy's term) opens up what patients' do and experience in the management of their illness and as work with, in, and for the health care system. Recognizing how patients are 'at work' (using the institutional ethnographic notion of work that extends it to anything people do, intend, gets down with effort, in particular times and places – think of waiting in an emergency room as work) and their experience thereof has much to offer ourselves, health staff and health care policies.

From Cecilia Benoit:

Camille Stengel (Sociology) successfully defended her Masters thesis focused on promoting collaborative healthcare for pregnant women dealing with substance use. She is off this fall to begin a PhD. at the University of Kent in the U.K.

Connie Carter's (Sociology) Ph.D. research examined meth, fear and government. She has a forthcoming co-authored book on the topic.

Andrew Ivsins (Sociology) recently received a prestigious a CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship to support his doctoral research examining the social-structural production of drug use-related health risk among street-involved non-injection illicit drug users. He has papers under review that draw from his Masters thesis.

From Neena Chappell:

Undergraduate student – Olivia Merritt, entering 4th year sociology in the fall – now there's a student who excels, whether it's at sociology or athletics! She received a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate award and is being sponsored for a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford.

From Kevin Walby:

Undergraduate student – Alex Luscombe, He received a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate award, the Alan Hedley Honours Thesis Award, and is being sponsored for a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford.

From Helga Hallgrimsdottir:

One of our graduating BA students Veronica Zapotoczny presented a paper at the CSA meetings (Representations of Fybromalgia in late 20th century women's magazines) and received a CSA travel grant to go to the conference.

Faculty Publications

Anaïs, Seantel (2012) 'Genealogy and CDA in Conversation: Texts, Discourse, Critique'. *Critical Discourse Studies* (forthcoming).

Anaïs, Seantel (2012) 'Objects of Research/Objects of Security: Analyzing Non-Lethal Weapons'. In Mark Salter (ed.) *Designing Critical Inquiry: Methods in New Security Studies*. Routledge – (forthcoming).

McCarthy, B., Benoit, C., Jansson, M. (In press). 'Regulating Sex Work: Heterogeneity in Legal Strategies for Controlling Prostitution'. Forthcoming in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*.

Phillips, R. & Benoit, C. (In press). 'Exploring Courtesy Stigma Among Frontline Care Providers Serving Sex Workers'. Forthcoming in *Health Policy*.

Hallgrimsdottir, Helga Kristin, Cecilia Benoit, and Rachel Phillips. (2012) 'The Mother-Citizen and the Working Girl: First-wave feminist citizenship claims in Canada and discursive opportunities for 21st century child-care policy'. Forthcoming in *The Canadian Review of Sociology*.

Phillips, Rachel, Cecilia Benoit, Helga Kristin Hallgrimsdottir, and Kate Vallance. (2012) 'Courtesy stigma: a hidden health concern among front-line service providers to sex workers'. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 34: 1-16

Carroll, B. (2012) 'Global, Transnational, Regional, National: The Need for Nuance in Theorizing Global Capitalism'. *Critical Sociology* 38: 365-71.

Carroll, B. (2011) 'Transnational Class Formation? Globalization and the Canadian Corporate Network'. *Journal of World-Systems Research* 17: 379-402, with Jerome Klassen as co-author.

Chappell, N.L. & Funk, L.M. (2012). Social Capital and Health Inequalities. *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life Research*, forthcoming.

Charalambous, A., Chappell, N.L., Katajisto, J., & Suhonen, R. (2012). 'The Conceptualization and Measurement of Individualized Care'. *Geriatric Nursing*, 33(1): 17-27.

Garlick, Steve (2012) 'Masculinity, Pornography, and the History of Masturbation'. *Sexuality and Culture* 16 (3): 306-20.

Garlick, Steve (2011) 'Complexity, Masculinity, and Critical Theory: Revisiting Marcuse on Technology, Eros, and Nature'. *Critical Sociology*

Lett, Dan, Sean P. Hier, and Kevin Walby (2013) 'Policy Legitimacy, Rhetorical Politics, and the Evaluation of City-Street Video Surveillance Monitoring Programs in Canada'. *Canadian Review of Sociology*

Hier, Sean P. (2012) 'Accessing Information on Streetscape Video Surveillance in Canada'. In K. Walby and M. Larsen's *Brokering Access*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

Hier, Sean P. and Seantel Anaïs (2012) 'Risk Society and Current Sociology'. *Current Sociology* 60: 1-3.

Faculty Publications

Koehn, S., Neysmith, S., Kobayashi, K., & Khamisa, H. (2012) 'Revealing the Shape of Knowledge using an Intersectionality Lens: Results of a Scoping review on the Health and Health Care of Ethnocultural Minority Older Adults'. *Ageing and Society* (forthcoming).

Cloutier-Fisher, D., Kobayashi, K., and Smith, A.P. (2011) 'The Subjective Dimension of Social Isolation: a Qualitative Investigation of Older Adults' Experiences in Small Social Support Networks'. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 25/4: 407-414.

Smith, A., & Seantel Anaïs. (2012) 'Self-Induced Water Intoxication in a Psychiatric Asylum: a Case Study of Diagnostic Categorization and Regulation'. *Deviant Behavior*, 33/4: 324-338.

Vahabzadeh, P. (2012) *Exilic Meditations: Essays on a Displaced Life*. London: H&S Media.

Walby, Kevin and Seantel Anaïs. 'Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC), Structures of Secrecy, and Ministerial Authorization after September 11'. *Canadian Journal of Law and Society* (forthcoming).

Monaghan, J. and K. Walby. (2012) "... They Attacked the City": Security Intelligence, the Sociology of Protest Policing, and the Anarchist Threat at the 2010 Toronto G20 Summit'. *Current Sociology*, 60/5: 653-671.

Wu, Z. Christoph M. Schimmele, and Feng Hou. Forthcoming. 'Self-Perceived Integration of Immigrants and Their Children'. *Canadian Journal of Sociology* (forthcoming).

Wei Guo, Zheng Wu, Yue Qiu, Gong Chen, and Xiaoying Zheng. (2012) 'The Timing of Sexual Debut among Chinese Youth'. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 38(4).

Zhou, Min. (2012) 'Participation in International Human Rights NGOs: The Effect of Democracy and State Capacity'. *Social Science Research* 41(5): 1254-1274.

Zhou, Min and Chan-ung Park. (2012) 'The Cohesion Effect of Structural Equivalence on Global Bilateral Trade, 1948-2000'. *International Sociology* 27(4): 502-523.

Faculty Research Funding

Cecilia Benoit. 2012-2014 (\$200,000) CIHR Operating Grant: Population Health Intervention Research. “Population Health Interventions to End Homelessness” (with Hwang, S. (PI), Aubry, T., Dunn, J., Farrell, S., Hoch, J., Hubley, A., Hulchanski, J., Klodawsky, F., Maclaurin, B., Palepu, A., Shapcott, M., Stergiopoulos, V. & Worthington, C. (Co-Is)

Helga Hallgrimsdottir 2012-2014 SSHRC Insight Development Grant “The ICESAVE dispute: grassroots activism, participatory governance, and the mobilization of resistance in Iceland, 2008-2011” (with Emmanuel M.D. Brunet-Jailly)

Margaret Penning 2012-2015 Partnerships for Health System Improvement Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) “Transitions and Trajectories in Late Life Care: Patterns and Predictors” (with Denise Cloutier-Fisher (Geography), Stuart MacDonald (Psychology), and Francis Lau (Health Information Science))

Kevin Walby. 2012-2014 (\$74,000) SSHRC Insight Development Grant “Penal Tourism and Popular Cultures of Punishment in Four Canadian Provinces” (Justin Piché, lead applicant)

Min Zhou. 2012-2013. UVic Internal Research Grant “Civil Society and China-Japanese Relations”

City Walks:

The City Talks Field Trip

Friday, September 14, 2012: Noon to 1:15 pm

Five urbanists from UVic lead a field trip downtown to investigate Victoria as a city space. Deborah Curran (Law) will explore how the regulation of the urban space has changed. Gerry Ferguson (Law) will uncover Trounce Alley’s sordid past as the City’s centre of crime and prostitution. Richard Pickard (English) will talk about novels that represent Victoria inaccurately and imprecisely. Jordan Stanger-Ross (History) will take a historic view of the evolution of downtown. Kevin Walby (Sociology) will discuss security, risk and liability management by municipal corporations.

This walking tour launches the 2012-2013 The City Talks public lectures in downtown Victoria. See <http://thecitytalks.ca> for more information about this monthly series.

Companion Animals



Sean Hier: My daughter named our new dog Charlotte. Charlotte is a rescue sled dog from Whistler. She had never lived indoors when we found her. Charlotte has since taken over all furniture in the house. She enjoys chasing swallows and outrunning whippets (and making sure that they know it) at the park.



Dorothy Smith: attached photo of Mischa waiting to go for a walk.



Singh Bolaria: Isabella Bolaria-Joly taking grandpa Singh and Grand dog Freddy for a nice summer walk.



Peyman Vahabzadeh: This is a picture of my goldfish companion, Esmat. She is one-year old, enjoying the swim in her organically-grown algae filled abode. She is a rather quiet pet!

Josephine MacIntosh: His name is Salem and he's 14. We adopted him at about a week old when we took in his stray Mom and her batch of kittens.





Remember to see:

Timothy Pachirat
**27 September
2012**

The Department, along with Social Justice Studies, CSPT, and the Faculties of Law and Social Sciences, will host Timothy Pachirat on **27 September 2012**. Timothy will talk about his book, *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight*. He will also hold a methods seminar on ethnography for students. His book touches on a variety of issues—immigration, work relations, gender relations, human-animal relations, qualitative method, surveillance, and industrial food production and oversight (to name a few).

DSB C116 on Thursday September 27th 4:00-6:00pm.

Incoming Pre-PhD and PhD Students

Pre-PhD students:

Dustin Zielke: Social movements; radical chic/radical splintering.

Edwin Hodge: CSPT; examine the influence of extremist organizations in the United States (militia/racialist) on more mainstream populist movements such as the 'Tea Party'.

Robert Duncan: Sociology/Urban protest camping as symbolic activity.

PhDs:

Sean Browning: Health and illness; social gerontology; economic sociology; social networks; social inequality; structural inequalities in health over the life course.

Nicolas Graham: Global Political Economy; contemporary social theory; urban studies.

Matthew Johnston: Current and former prisoners in Canada who self-identify or present as transgendered construct their gendered identity; Sexuality within and outside of the prison.

Nicola Walker: Sociology of work and organizations; policing.



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Thanks to Carole, Zoe, and Ronna for keeping the

BOSS!



BOSS membership is open to any and all students taking an undergraduate-level sociology class during the year. Executives are elected at the Annual General Meeting and regular meetings are open to all members.

boss.uvic@gmail.com

The Bureau of Sociology Students (BOSS) is a collective of students from the Sociology Department at the University of Victoria. As a student-run organization governed by UVSS policy, our aim is to promote the study of sociology, to foster a sense of community on campus and, to create a positive and inclusive environment for sociology students by promoting both social and academic experiences. BOSS coordinates a number of events throughout the year, including movie nights, study groups, and information sessions, mixers and pub crawls, and organizes group attendance at lectures and information sessions.

Incoming MA Students

MA's:

Albrecht Berg: Social movements; solidarity; utopian imaginaries; oppositional groups, especially in the post-soviet realm.

Mushira Khan: Immigration; acculturation; health; aging; social theory; mixed methods.

Gaelle Nicolussi-Rossi: Globalization; social inequality; immigration.

Rudolf Scherban: Sociology; global issues and social evolutionary processes.

Robert Scott: Classical and Contemporary Theory; Race and Ethnic relations; Law and Society.

Kimberly Smith: Settler colonialism; decolonization; anglo-settler responsibility; harm reduction work; anarchism; social movements.

Naomi Zaretsky: Sex industry; race; ethnicity; gender; sexuality; intersections of privilege and oppression.



If you have ideas about content for the next newsletter, please let us know!



Sociology!

The Department will host three professional development seminars in the Fall 2012 term. The schedule for the seminars is as follows:

Tuesday September 11th, 9:30am-11:00am in COR A128 – Led by Dr. Ken Hatt. The focus is “Why Sociology, Why Now?” Topics include: the values and challenges of being a sociologist, prospects for employment, and possible contributions to social change

Tuesday September 18th, 9:30am-11:00am in COR A128 – Led by Dr. Kevin Walby. Topic: Proposal preparation.

Tuesday September 25th, 9:30am-11:00am in COR A128 – Led by Dr. Kevin Walby. Topic: Academic writing and thesis preparation.

50th Anniversary!!!



Compiled by Kevin Walby

Graphics by Dan Lett

Please let us know if you have recommendations for the next issue of the newsletter...