Another term is coming to a close which is a suitable time to review the various departmental activities since fall. It’s been another busy and productive year, with new graduate students, staff and faculty settling in and calling the department “home”.

The Spring edition of the newsletter profiles faculty research, with a spotlight on Karen Kobayashi’s current research project, in addition to the departmental listing of recent publications and conference presentations. It also highlights two exceptional instructors in the department, and features various graduate and undergraduate activities and awards. Last month the first-ever transgender archives symposium was held at UVic. A report on this conference, successfully organized by Aaron Devor, can be found on page 3.

Each term students have the opportunity to evaluate their instructors and the course design through the Course Experience Survey. Many instructors receive strong evaluations; this fall, Dan Lett and Andrew Wender received the highest scores in the department. I spoke with these enthusiastic teachers to find out what they enjoy about teaching, their pedagogical methods and their strategies to engage students in the course material. For any course to be successful, a great deal of time, effort and coordination is required, from instructors and teaching assistants, and this is especially true for Sociology 100, with its large class sizes. Look for a summary of the TA program and the changes implemented in Soc100 on page 5.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Garry Gray, the new hire for the Crime position. Gary is currently a fellow at Edmond J. Safra Center of Ethics, Harvard University. This newest departmental member will be featured in the September newsletter. Until then, I hope everyone finds time to read, write, research and rejuvenate this summer!  

Ruth Kampen, Editor
Profile on Faculty Research —Karen Kobayashi

Karen has been a member of the department for just under 11 years. She is an Associate Professor and current Graduate Advisor, as well as a Research Affiliate with the Centre on Aging.

Karen is a social gerontologist who uses a life course perspective to explore the intersections of structural, cultural, and individual factors/experiences affecting health and aging in Canada. Her research has been funded by CIHR, SSHRC, MSFHR, and the BC Ministry of Health. Karen is currently the co-PI on a 3-year MSFHR funded study which is evaluating the impact of a new care delivery model that was implemented in residential care facilities in the Fraser Health Authority (FHA). This collaborative research project brings together UVic researchers and health care practitioners and administrators from the FHA. UVic Sociology MA graduates, Ruth Kampen and Amy Cox, are team members on this project.

The Care Delivery Model Evaluation (ACaDeME) study used a mixed methods approach to investigate how, if at all, the quality of care within residential facilities was affected by the implementation of the new model (which focused on changing the staff mix ratios, increasing direct care hours and standardizing a funding methodology). Quantitative and qualitative data was gathered from the three study sites. In addition, aggregate data was analyzed from all the residential care facilities in the health authority. Pre and post implementation quantitative data included RAI quality of care indicators, human resources data and satisfaction survey data.

Focus group and one-on-one interviews were conducted at two points in time (summer 2012 and 2013) with residential care leadership team members, direct care staff, allied staff, residents and family members to understand how these changes were experienced by the various stakeholders.

The preliminary findings suggest some discrepancies between the quantitative and qualitative data. Although the quantitative data analysis suggests that the care delivery model did not negatively affect the overall care of residents, analysis of the interview data indicates that there were some significant issues that may have been related to the implementation; namely, problems with communication, teamwork, and leadership were identified.

Given that the ACaDeME project is nearing completion, the team has recently been actively engaged in KTE activities. To date, findings have been shared at various academic and applied research meetings, including the Leadership Program for Physicians and Leaders in Long Term Care for the Centre for Healthy Aging at Providence, the Canadian Association on Gerontology ASEM, the Gerontological Society of America ASEM, and, closer to home, at the Centre on Aging for IdeaFest. In early April, the team will present at the Gerontological Nursing Association of BC conference and in late May in a session on the Sociology of Care at the CSA meetings.

Visiting Scholar in the Department

Emily Huddart Kennedy is a visiting professor in the department. She is an environmental sociologist, whose area of expertise is in citizen engagement with environmental issues. To this end, she has studied pro-environmental behaviour, sustainable consumption, downshifting, and carbon footprints. Currently, Emily is in the midst of a project to examine political activity in everyday life through a case study of local food movements in Edmonton, Toronto, and Victoria. She is located in Cecilia Benoit’s office, A304, and welcomes anyone to drop by and visit, or send her an email to arrange a time to meet (huddartk@uvic.ca). Although Emily was originally planning to stay at UVic for a year, she will be leaving in August for a position in the department of Sociology at Washington State University—Congratulations Emily!

Congratulations to Min Zhou for receiving the Best Scholarly Publication by an International Scholar Award, Global and Transnational Sociology Section, from the American Sociological Association (Aug 2013).
Moving Trans* History Forward Symposium

On March 21-23 scholars, activists and community leaders from across North America and Europe came together in Victoria for the first-ever conference on collecting, preserving, and accessing the records of trans history. Aaron Devor has spent much time and energy over the past several years pulling together the world’s largest trans archives, housed at UVic. Aaron and a small team organized the well-attended conference.

Saturday evening’s keynote address by Dr. Susan Stryker was open to the public. Stryker was the catalyst behind the new program in transgender studies being developed at the University of Arizona, as well as one of the co-founders of the new journal, Transgender Studies Quarterly.

Three other “experts in their fields” were invited keynote speakers, including Lt.-Col. Jennifer Pritzker, a transgender philanthropist and retired US Army officer; Viviane Namaste, the author of three books on trans studies and Concordia University professor; and Dallas Denny, an “accidental activist” and pioneer in the trans rights movement.

Among others, Michael Waldman, head librarian at NY’s Baruch College, stressed the important tasks that archivists have in shaping the recording of history; how and what materials and information are organized relate to ideology. Devor confirms that one of the challenges in building archives is scope – who is and isn’t included. He wanted the collection to be as broad in scope as possible.

Other notable speakers included Ms Bob Davis from City College, San Francisco and Dr. Sara Davidmann from London’s University of the Arts. Davis discussed how researchers and archivists might identify archival images of trans people based only on visual clues. Dr. Davidmann shared a personal project of modifying old family photos of an uncle who she later discovered to be trans. Through various techniques, she reframed her uncle “as the person he was rather than the person the family wanted him to be.” This project highlighted how family photos can be used to “erase people and stories.”

Devor’s hope for the symposium was to link people who have been working, often in relative isolation, on various trans issues. Based on the enthusiastic response to the event, he was successful, and another conference is planned for 2016.

For more information:
http://dailyxtra.com/vancouver/news/victoria-hosts-first-conference-archiving-trans-history and
http://transgenderarchives.uvic.ca

Research Funding


$2.85 M. “Gender, Migration and the Work of Care: Comparative Perspectives,” Co-Investigator, Susan McDaniel. SSHRC Partnership Grant. (2013-2018)

Min Zhou has received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant (2013-2015) for “Involvement of Grassroots Organizations in the 2012 Anti-Japanese Movement in China”. This research investigates how Chinese protests against Japan were mobilized swiftly and what mobilization strategies were employed. This project will not only contribute to our understanding of the multilayered quality of Sino-Japanese relations and China’s changing social fabric, but also offers insights into new forms of social movements in the context of globalization. As part of this project, Min plans to conduct a social survey on Chinese college students this summer with the assistance of Hanning Wang (current MA student).
Andrew Wender

Andrew teaches Sociology 310: Religion in Society in our department as well as third and fourth year courses in the Political Science and History departments. Clearly, he is very passionate about education, enthusiastically beginning our interview by stating, "I absolutely adore teaching... it's exciting, engaging and worthwhile." Andrew believes teaching forces instructors to make their arguments clear, engaging and accessible and this practise has a reciprocal effect on writing. He is pleased that within academia there is space for those who wish to dedicate most of their time to teaching, which he has been doing since the mid-2000s. In 2011 his teaching skills were recognized with the Gillian Sherwin Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. That being said, he is also actively engaged in research and writing, publishing approximately an article a year.

Andrew describes his teaching style as dialogic and encourages thoughtful discussion in his class. He challenges students to engage with the world, to think critically about big theoretical questions, and to understand that there are a multitude of perspectives and understandings. But in this multiplicity he brings student back to the personal, to how the theorizing links to intimate examples. His hope is that his teaching promotes student engagement and connection.

Following his dialogical teaching style, Andrew prefers to integrate pictures and relevant news stories as discussion points or "props" (even more effective if the classroom has a document camera), rather than power point slides. He's quick to not disparage power point or those who use it, but states that each instructor should use methods "most appropriate to their personality."

This year Andrew supervised his first Sociology Honours student, Renee Rogers, who he stated exemplifies the high calibre of students at UVic. This positive experience helped him feel more a part of this department. From his strong course evaluations, it is clear Andrew loves to teach and his students are engaged in his classroom.

As of May 1, he will be an Assistant Teaching Professor based in Political Science and History with further affiliations in the Religious Studies Program and Sociology. Congratulations Andrew on your new position!

Dan Lett

Dan has been a sessional instructor in the department for several years, teaching Sociology 202, 309, 320, 390 and 412. His favourite course is Modern Theory, as he enjoys exploring theoretical concepts the best. He finds that the best way to engage students in the subject matter is to begin the lecture with a relatable story and to make the assignments relevant. With respect to lesson planning, he has a clear outline of the material he intends to cover for the lecture, but he allows specific examples to emerge from current events the day or two before the lecture. These relevant examples will then guide how the discussion takes shape. However, Dan cautions against making too many assumptions regarding students’ awareness of current affairs and history: “in a recent class, less than half the students could identify Julian Assange from a photo, and few had heard of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. I find popular culture references to be a safer bet.”

Dan uses Power Point in his lectures, but more as a guide with only limited text, supplemented by plenty of images and media clips. He also enjoys drawing cartoons to illustrate various points. His goal is to move away from Power Point slides completely and just be able to lecture and engage students in lively discussion. He works to maintain student attention and engagement by moving back and forth between lecture, discussion, illustrations and media clips, each in 10-15 minute segments.

For his third and fourth year courses Dan has found great success in providing optional weekly discussion group sessions outside of class and office hours. Doodle is used to determine the best time to meet; students who attend can ask clarification questions and/or further engage with the material from that week. Dan noted that in his 309 class about 50% of students took advantage of these sessions, and 25% is common in other courses. Dan also provides a Paper Writing Guide which he has developed over the years to outline his expectations on style and substance for students’ final paper. Another successful strategy that encourages students to think about their final paper before the end of
Dan Lett (cont)

term is allotting part of their grade to a final paper outline. This forces students to develop their general argument and select references up to 4 weeks before the paper is due.

Dan is pleased that he has received consistently positive student evaluations, even for courses with dense content (namely 412). He loves to teach and is inspired by students who are excited and enthusiastic about the course material. He sees his primary role as an educator as imparting the “habits of thinking” and the skills required to analyze, synthesize and digest course material. He hopes students gain a “vocabulary to interrogate the weirdness of life” through his courses.

Teaching Assistant Program

This academic year has been one of some fairly significant changes for the teaching assistant program in the department of sociology. The changes began with the arrival of Bruce Ravelli, the new teaching instructor for intro sociology. He immediately saw the potential of the department’s tutorial program, and with the help and input of the teaching assistant consultant, Edwin Hodge, and the tutorial coordinator, Edward White, began to reorganize the program. Bruce and “the Eds” decided that the tutorial curriculum would work best as a complementary experience to the course lectures, and so the assignment and tutorial session structure was redesigned to reflect that. In keeping with Bruce’s vision for the program, a number of other changes were made as well.

Mandatory attendance was scrapped in favour of a model, which assumed that if students were being given something of value in the tutorials, they’d show up whether they ‘had’ to or not. The end result was two semesters worth of high attendance in tutorials! This high attendance was largely the result of the department’s team of capable and enthusiastic teaching assistants, whose hard work ensured that their students were receiving the very best experiences in their tutorials.

By the end of this semester, the teaching assistant team – graders and tutorial leaders alike – will have graded thousands of exams and assignments, committed themselves to thousands more combined labour hours, and worked with most of the faculty of this department to bring students a top-tier education experience at UVic. For those teaching assistants who were responsible for tutorials each week, they have also come into contact with hundreds of first-year students, many of whom will have taken valuable lessons with them from their tutorials.

Great work teaching assistants! You’ll be a tough act to follow next year!

~ Edwin Hodge

Sociology 100 Update

This year has been a lot of work but well worth it. Working with some wonderful and dedicated graduate students has been a pleasure – they were able to connect with students in their tutorials in ways that I could not in a large lecture hall. I have also been inspired by our Intro students who keep attending lectures, asking great questions, and constantly reminding me how fortunate I am to be a teacher. However, my lasting impression of this year will be the benefits we gained from being so transparent with our students.

As everyone knows, there were lots of changes made to Intro this past year. And, even though we needed to make a few “adjustments” over the year we remained committed to making changes that were transparent and clearly communicated to our students. At every point in this process the Intro students let us know when they had concerns, were receptive to the changes we implemented, and really appreciated that we were doing our best.

I want to end by thanking the TAs for their hard work and professionalism this year and especially the “Eds” who were always there when I needed them.

~ Bruce Ravelli
Graduate Student News - Congratulations to Recent Grads!

PhD Students:
Christoph Schimmele, December 2013
Supervisor: Zheng Wu
Racial Status and Mental Health Among Canadian Adults

Mary Claire Kennedy, August 2013
Supervisor: Cecilia Benoit
Social support as a predictor of substance use, mental health and mental well-being among street-involved youth: A longitudinal examination

MA Students:
Nadia Ouellet, December 2013
Supervisor: Zheng Wu
Post-Widowhood Repartnering Among Older Canadians

Amy Hudson (nee Morriseau), April 2014
Supervisor: Margaret Penning
Contextualizing the Health of Low Income Mothers: Employability, Assistance, Gender and Citizenship

Bridget McGowan, December 2013
Supervisor: Andre Smith
The Responsibilization of Aging Under Neoliberal Health Regimes: A Case Study of Masters Athleticism

Deborah Dergousoff, a former UVIC graduate (BA and MA), and current Sessional Instructor in the Sociology Dept at UVIC, successfully defended her PhD dissertation at Simon Fraser University (Dept of Sociology/Anthropology) on January 24, 2014. Her study, entitled An Institutional Ethnography of Women Entrepreneurs and Post-Soviet Rural Economies in Kyrgyzstan, examined how initiatives developed by international non-governmental organizations come to organize processes of economic and social 'development' in Jerge-Tal, a village located in a remote mountainous region of Kyrgyzstan. Beginning with an account of how people's work processes are drawn into and coordinated by a set of relations that, whether intentional or not, preclude dialogic interchanges across a sequence of interrelated activities, her dissertation examined links between her own academic work, the institutions and work practices of development workers (both local and international), the goals and practices of different levels of governance, and the efforts of women entrepreneurs in local sites where ‘development’ takes place.

Sean Browning won the Social Science Master’s Student Poster Award at the Canadian Association on Gerontology, for his poster, Economic and Social Capital in Middle and Later Life: Implications for Subjective Health

The department is excited to announce that the following current students have been accepted into our graduate program for the Fall:

James Watkins (MA)
Will be working with Zheng Wu

Veronica Robertson (MA)
Will be working with Sean Hier

Mushira Khan (PhD)
Will be working with Karen Kobayashi

Mike Lang (PhD)
Will be working with Bill Carroll

Recent Grad Employment News:

Christoph Schimmele currently holds a post-doc funded by the Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster as part of their “Big Picture Synthesis” series. The funded project is entitled "Ethnic Identity among the Children of Immigrants."

Nadia Ouellet is a research associate with CARBC, working with Cecilia Benoit and Mikael Jansson on their team grant on Contexts of Vulnerabilities, Resiliencies and Care Among People in the Sex Industry, funded by CIHR. With the Justice Minister promising to introduce new prostitution legislation before December, the team is working hard to publicize the study’s findings as soon as possible. For an update on the project: http://www.understandingsexwork.com/
Undergraduate Student News

Third and fourth year social sciences students who have been awarded scholarships in 2013/14 were celebrated at the Annual Rising Stars event in January, hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Numerous department staff and faculty members also attended the event.

Congratulations to all the Sociology undergraduate rising stars!

Tara Chang-Swanson
Gabrielle Gelderman
Jededia Hrycyk
Kendra Pompert
Lyanna Renaud
Veronica Robertson
Bradley van Dyck
Isabel Vera
Renee Rogers

SS Co-op Student of the Year Award: Mariam Ghani

BOSS Update

Sociology undergrad course union the Bureau of Sociology Students (BOSS) has had a strong year, showing growth in the size and involvement of our executive committee.

Dedicated to enhancing the experiences of sociology students at the University of Victoria, BOSS aims to provide fun and affordable social events as well as useful, informative academic events. This year we raised funds for our course union hosting two successful Social Nights spearheaded by Special Events Coordinator Kabir Arneja. The events were in night clubs, both of which were quite successful, the second one earning us over $300. In addition, we had a skating event at Oak Bay Rec Centre this past October, which was a lot of fun.

We also hosted academic events including Grad Info Night presented by Dr. Karen Kobayashi and Dr. Don Fetherston (providing information on grad school application as well as on possible careers paths one can pursue with a sociology degree), organised in tandem by Faculty Liaison Megha Bharadwa and Academic Coordinator Madeleine Perkins.

This year saw changes to BOSS’ executive Committee. President Golda Lewin decided to step down and take the winter semester off, with then Vice President James Rafter being elected in January to fill the position of President and Sonia Brar becoming Vice President. With the December graduation of Treasurer Rowen Christie, Stephanie Shulman was elected as his replacement. The BOSS constitution was also amended, creating the position of Social Media Director, with Adrian Wheeler being elected to the new position.

We are primarily a student-led and organized group with an office in COR A369 where undergrad students can drop in. We also have weekly meetings for Executive members and anyone who wishes to come. This semester they have been Thursdays at 4pm in COR A129.

We look forward to more students participating in our Fall events. All are welcome!

~Submitted by BOSS Executive

(From left) Brad van Dyck, Mariam Ghani, Renee Rogers, Isabela Vera & Tara Chang-Swanson enjoy food and refreshments at the event.
Undergrad Students Present their Research at the JCURA Research Fair

Every year Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards are given to undergraduate students who are conducting research. This year, four of our students, enrolled in the Honour’s program, received this award. As part of the award, students present their research findings in a poster session at the JCURA research fair, along with dozens of other budding researchers from all across campus. This year the fair was held on March 5. The level of the poster presentations was very impressive!

Lyanna Renaud

My research is looking at Canadian Immigration policies in the context of citizenship. Through discourse analysis, I explore the various ways in which citizenship is defined and how these definitions relate to—and possibly influence—policy. The successful integration of immigrants into Canadian society is a crucial and pivotal aspect of immigration which can be better understood by detangling divergent understandings of citizenship.

Lyanna’s Honour’s thesis supervisor is Helga Hallgrimsdottir

Renee Rogers

“In my research I explore the relationship between religious censorship and young adult literature. With a particular focus on popular book series, I will examine issues of religious censorship in the reception of books such as Harry Potter, The Chronicles of Narnia, His Dark Materials, and Twilight. I will also explore religious themes within the books, and compare interpretations made by different scholars. Ultimately with this project I hope to provide a thorough analysis of reasons behind religious censorship, such as some Christian groups’ assertion that Harry Potter’s focus on magic will lead children to the occult. I am hopeful that this research will contribute to our understanding of the role of religion in contemporary society. It has been a common argument among sociologists that the world is becoming increasingly secular; however, many contemporary studies have countered arguments of secularization with examples of religion remaining significant. I will argue that continued religious opposition to book series strengthens the argument that religious issues remain prominent in modern life. I expect my research to enhance theories that support the prevailing importance of religion and to shed light on the influential and often controversial role religion maintains in society. As literary censorship is not unique to one religion, I will examine the censorship attempts of multiple religious groups, and compare and contrast them within the framework of religion. The theme of secularization will be prominent in my research, as will themes of cultural differences and religious freedoms.”

Renee’s supervisor is Andrew Wender
Brad van Dyck

“For many, vehicular mobility is the modus operandi for sustaining one’s community integration (and more generally one’s agency) well into late adulthood. Such mobility, if jeopardized by the prospect of a driver licence revocation resulting from the onset of physiological decline that accompanies later-life, is often met with fear or even hostility among older adults. This fear is often exacerbated by the endemic uncertainty surrounding the protocol for licence revocation, where gradual physiological decline, rather than discrete morbidity, is the justification for revocation. The fear of licence revocation (and perceived losses of agency) many seniors face within this revocation “grey area” may discourage or delay seniors from seeking driver assistance services; consequently, risk-mitigating services, training, and rehabilitation oriented toward seniors (such as UVic’s Candrive program) may be underutilized and the full potential for harm prevention may thus be rendered untapped. A mixed methodology with strong emphasis on qualitative inquiry will be employed to extract narratives from administrators in this field; these narratives will serve as a means to assess the relative efficacies of post-licence mobility strategies and elucidate any perceived shortcomings within the existing policy framework. A further bipartite approach to data collection consisting of post- and pre-licence revocation senior cohorts will allow the narratives of the former to better inform (and affirm) new seniors entering the mobility transition process. The foremost goal of the research is to thus mitigate the detrimental effect that fears of licence revocation have on timely usage of driver risk-mitigation and transition services.”

Brad’s supervisor is Neena Chappell

Isabela Vera

“I propose conducting a literature review examining the effects of urbanization on the social capital of members of the Dalit caste in modern-day India. A phenomenological approach to the literature will be taken in order to understand the Dalit experience of migration in relation to the larger social and economic context of India urbanization; thus far this transition has been largely shaped by aspects of neoliberalism, perpetuating the transfer of caste inequalities into more modern forms of class inequalities. The project will explore the changing shape of the caste’s social capital through the lens of Bourdieu’s integrated theories of habitus, symbolic violence, capital and field in light of significant structural changes to India society, with particular focus on the rising trend of rural to urban migration into major cities such as Mumbai and Delhi. The aim of the project is gain insight into whether these urban metropolises become a cultural melting pot capable of breaking down traditional caste-based inequalities for Dalits, or if the economic and political structure of this changing urban landscape serves to generate new forms of discrimination and exclusion not previously faced in rural environments.”

Isabela’s supervisor is Andre Smith

Honours Student Presentations

Honours students presented their Honours thesis projects on March 25. All five students did an exceptional job explaining their study findings in front of a supportive audience of faculty, parents, and fellow students. This was a great opportunity for students to hone their presentation skills. Students interested in the Honours Program should contact Andre Smith, the Honours Advisor (apsmith@uvic.ca).
Recent Publications

Faculty, adjunct professor, sessional instructor and (former) graduate student names are highlighted


Presentations (Conference Papers/Invited/Guest Speaker/Posters)


McDaniel, Susan A. The Work of Care: More than Demand and Demographic Aging, Gender, Migration and the Work of Care project conference, University of Toronto, 28 February–2 March, Toronto, 2014.


#### Summer Session Courses

The following courses are being offered this summer:

100A: Introduction to Sociology: Culture and Socialization  *(May 12-June 4)*, Bruce Ravelli
100B: Introduction to Sociology: Institutions and Social Change  *(June 5-June 27)*, Don Fetherston
103: Canadian Society  *(June 5-June 27)*, Don Fetherston
215: Class and Inequality  *(May 12-June 27)*, Michaelangelo Anastasiou
306: Crime and Deviance  *(July 3–Aug 20)*, Blair Wilkinson
310: Religion in Society  *(July 3—Aug 20)*, David Huxtable
320: Mass Media and Popular Culture  *(July 3—Aug 20)*, William Little
327: Inequalities in Health and Health Care  *(May 12—June 27)*, Neena Chappell
335: Racialization and Ethnicity  *(June 5—June 27)*, Singh Bolaria
345: Sociology of Mental Health  *(July 3—Aug 20)*, Simon Carroll
389: Sociology of Death, Dying and the Body  *(July 28–Aug 20)*, Singh Bolaria
412: Sociological Explanations  *(May 12—June 27)*, Dan Lett
419: Globalization and Sustainability  *(May 12—June 27)*, Josephine MacIntosh

All the best to Michaelangelo and Blair (PhD students) who will both be teaching a summer course in the department for the first time!