Spring 2012 Newsletter

Get ready for another issue of the departmental newsletter! This is the place to find out about what is new and exciting in Sociology. We run a newsletter every fall and spring term. In the Fall 2011 issue, we had stories about faculty awards, faculty and graduate student publications, and graduate student community contributions. In this issue, we focus on the great work of our undergraduate students, faculty travel stories, and more. As always, if you have any feedback or suggestions, do not hesitate to be in communication.

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Chair’ s Column

I hope that everyone had a productive and enjoyable year. We will see a few changes in the coming months.

Andre Smith will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (with tenure) in July. Congratulations, Andre! Andre has worked extremely hard in the classroom and on his many publications over the past several years.

After decades of service, Richard Ogmundson will retire in July. Best wishes, Rick.

The Department said goodbye to Daniel Fridman, who is taking up a position in Texas.

We welcome Seantel Anaïs. Seantel comes to us from Carleton University, where she recently completed her doctorate.
Project Profile

Dr. Karen M. Kobayashi was awarded a three-year (2011-2014) Innovation for Evaluation Research Grant by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The $225,000 grant was matched by the Fraser Health Authority for a total of $450,000 in funding for the project. Dr. Kobayashi is leading a research team that is using a mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) research design to investigate how the Residential Program Care Delivery Model (i.e., changing the nursing staff mix, funding methodology, direct care hours) affects the “quality of care” that is delivered (by staff) and received (by residents and their family members) in residential care facilities operated by the Fraser Health Authority in British Columbia. Members of the interdisciplinary research team include Dr. Denise Cloutier-Fisher (Geography-UVIC), Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (Nursing-UVIC), Heather Cook, Executive Director of Residential Care and Assisted Living for the Fraser Health Authority, and Gina Gaspard, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Residential Care and Assisted Living for the Fraser Health Authority. The study has had two project coordinators since its inception. They are Lois Stewart, PhD candidate in Sociology, and currently, Ruth Kampen, MA (Sociology). The site coordinator, Dee Taylor, is a PhD candidate in Health Services Research at the University of Calgary and works out of the Fraser Health Authority offices in Surrey.

Rick Ogmundson retires this year

Professor Ogmundson received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1972. After earning tenure at the University of Manitoba, he joined UVIC in 1977. Professor Ogmundon was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1996. Among his many scholarly contributions, Professor Ogmundson actively contributed to debates about political participation, elite power, and social structure in Canada. He contributed to some of the most important debates in Canadian sociology pertaining to the class and ethnic origins of Canadian elites, significantly influencing the direction of political sociology. Professor Ogmundson taught and trained generations of students to think critically about social problems and social structure. He lived and worked through a variety of intellectual trends and movements, yet remained true to the spirit of intellectual inquiry: criticism, contrarian thinking, and debate. We wish him well.
Congratulations, Kristine!

Kristine Votova successfully defended her PhD dissertation in January. In July 2012, she will begin a two-year CIHR funded Postdoctoral Fellowship at UBC, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics. Influenced by sociologists Cockerham and Scambler, for the dissertation she developed a medical pluralism paradigm to frame her analysis of national survey data and to theorize how social structure and agency interact to shape health needs. Working through what she calls ‘aspirational health consumerism’, individuals shape and are shaped by decisions to use health services within or across conventional, complementary and public health care systems. In keeping with medicalization theorists, she concluded that medicalization has indeed transformed since the 1960s, but adds that medicalization today is less about passive resistance to medical dominance and more about aspiring to ‘do’ health through medical pluralism. For the post-doc, her mixed-methods research will examine drug ‘benefit’ in early Alzheimer's patients. She will use both a therapeutic and policy lens to better understand the shift toward assessment-based drug coverage in pharmacotherapy. In the meantime, Kristine is the project manager for a national multi-site study on police use of force and medical outcomes. This epidemiologic study is the first of its kind in Canada to quantify prospectively use of force encounters and to link restraint modalities with use of health services. Results will inform a national framework for standardized reporting of and transparency in use of force encounters.

Cornett is 50.

The Cornett Building officially opened in 1967 and has been home to the social sciences for over 40 years. Originally named the Social Sciences Complex, it was renamed the Cornett Building in honour of Thomas Warren Cornett, an outstanding history professor who drowned in 1924 in Shawnigan Lake. Over the years the Faculty of Social Sciences expanded and a second building, Social Sciences & Mathematics Building, was officially opened June 23, 2008. The departments of political science, geography and the school of environmental studies moved into the new space the same year. Today, Cornett is home to the departments of psychology, sociology and anthropology.
Bill Carroll wins Outstanding Community Outreach Award

Bill Carroll has won the Outstanding Community Outreach award. As stated in the nomination letter, “Bill has a long history of involvement with community organizations and activists in Victoria, culminating in his efforts to make engagement with the community a central element of the interdisciplinary Social Justice Studies Program (SJS). Bill’s efforts have brought tremendous benefits to students and faculty members at UVic, and to a variety of community organizations and campaigns.” The Outstanding Community Outreach award is just one of the Faculty of Social Sciences Excellence Awards inaugurated in 1998. The award series recognizes excellence in teaching, research, community outreach and meritorious staff service in the Social Sciences. The specific criteria for the award include: strong record of collaboration with the community; degree of participation of community members in the research process; promotion of positive change in the community; impact of research outcomes of the community outreach on policies and procedures supporting the community; communication of the research results (e.g., reports, workshops, conferences, scholarly papers); and/or research publications that directly benefit the community (e.g., guide books, and other educational material).

In my view, strong, mutually sustaining relations between the University and the various communities that surround and support it are a necessity in our complex and troubled world. We established the Social Justice Studies program in part with that in mind, both in terms of curriculum and in extra-curricular initiatives that complement the programs academic side. UVic SJS connects in many ways with civil society groups and organizations, and promotes public dialogue with the intent of strengthening a culture of participatory democracy. Our annual lecture, given in the fall, is a major event that in each of the program’s first three years has drawn a large, diverse crowd from both on and off campus. Our Conversations with Activists series, which began in January 2010, brings leading social justice activists to campus, in public forums that include our students (enrolled in SJS 200 and 400B), faculty members, and many community members. Our fourth-year Practicum (SJS 400B) enables students to cap their program through experiential learning in the field, in cooperation with an activist mentor, in a civil society group. From the start, SJS has had an active Community Advisory Council, with extensive connections into many grassroots communities, has provided crucial counsel and support in program development and in our civic engagement initiatives. This term (Jan-April 2012) we are organizing or co-organizing more than a dozen major public events – conferences, forums, panel discussions, lectures – on a wide range of social justice issues. In most cases, our civic engagement events are co-organized with one or more community groups, affording opportunities to bring university-based and community-based constituencies together. This year, SJS work-study assistants have helped take SJS to a new level particularly in our social media capacity including a YouTube channel and presence on Facebook and Twitter. In all these ways, UVic Social Justice Studies has, in its first three years, made important contributions to civic engagement and building university-community relations.

Congratulations, Bill!
Dorothy Smith

Dorothy Smith has made some of the most important contributions to sociology. Her writings on feminism, organizations, education, and Marx have been recognized by the American Sociological Association (Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award 1999), the Canadian Sociological Association (Outstanding Contribution Award 1990), and by the universities where she spent much of her career: the University of British Columbia and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Since 1994 when she became adjunct professor in sociology at UVic, Dorothy has made countless contributions to training and learning. She has enriched the department with her novel insights and helped to create yet another generation of critical scholars in Canada. Dorothy’s tireless efforts to teach about institutional ethnography and feminist epistemologies have benefited students in our department and across the university. Indeed, students from across Canada come to attend Dorothy’s seminars and teaching sessions. She is a world-renowned sociologist, and we have been lucky to benefit from her teachings and writings. She has achieved something that very few sociologists ever do – she has changed the discipline while personally touching so many of us with her generosity and kindness. Dorothy has enriched our lives and our work. We wish to recognize all her contributions to the department and to sociology as a whole.

BOSS – Bureau Of Sociology Students

The UVic Bureau of Sociology Students is a group of students who are dedicated to providing fun, exciting, and engaging events for the undergraduate population at UVic. We also work in conjunction with the University of Victoria Student's Society to make sure that the voice of sociology is present in all matters pertaining to the overall student body. Over the past two years we have put on many fun events in an effort to build a more connected community on campus. These have included group discussions, movie nights, social gatherings, pub nights, and luncheon-style meet and greets. This semester we have even more great events that we can't wait to host. We plan to team up with Psychos, the undergraduate psychology course union, in order to put on an Ology-Olympics, which will be a fun set of competitive events taking place throughout the second half of the term. We also plan to host an end of year party to wrap up the term and give everyone a little break before the stress of the exam season. These events are still in their planning stages, so make sure to follow us on our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/UVic.BOSS in order to get the latest information on what were up to. Everyone who is majoring in sociology, or just taking one or two classes, is welcome to come join us at these many events. Sociology students are also welcome to take part in our weekly meetings, which we are holding throughout the term. If you are interested in joining us for our meetings, or if you have any additional questions please feel free to email us at boss.uvic@gmail.com.
Research Travels…

Cecilia Benoit and Mikael Jansson were in Uganda and Kenya recently, conducting research for the National Institutes of Health funded project, *A Kenya Free of AIDS: Harnessing Interdisciplinary Science for HIV Prevention*, which they are collaborating on with Helga Hallgrimsdottir and Eric Roth (Anthropology). Cecilia and Mikael conducted fieldwork in one of the largest slums in the world (Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya), and also got to take a side trip on their tandem bike, travelling through small towns and open countryside. The most common response from the amazing people they met along the way (shouted from the roadside when Cecilia and Mikael rode by or when they stopped for tea in a food stall) was “two-in-one; mama/papa!” Given that tandem bikes are nowhere to be seen in Uganda and Kenya, and life expectancy is approximately 55 years, the response made a lot of sense to the bikers!

Neena Chappell travelled to an event called the Symposium on the Future Ageing Society, Sau Po Centre on Ageing, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, December 2011. She delivered the keynote. She writes “Canadians seem to either love or hate Hong Kong; I’m in the former category. It’s vibrancy contrasts with the quiet and untouched countryside with unspoiled beaches less than an hour from the city. Shopping is always a must and this time the weather obliged by being unseasonably cold so, having packed only clothes for warmer weather, survival demanded the purchase of new items! Even better, the pollution that drifted over from industrial cities in mainland China and was caught in the mountains of Hong Kong has improved tremendously.”

Neena also travelled to an event called the 1st International Symposium on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, French National Foundation on Alzheimer’s Disease, Paris, February 2012. She delivered the keynote. She writes “Sarkozy put $1.6B over 5 years into research on Alzheimer’s and related dementias. Feb. 1 (at his request) marked the 4 year anniversary. However, it was dominated by geneticists and neurologists; the few social scientists involved talked largely about how ‘lonely’ they are at the Foundation. Sarkozy hosted a champagne reception at the Palais d’Elysees. The palace of course is stunning and was heavily guarded at various check points but that may have been because the president was there. Paris itself was in an unusual cold snap but the food, architecture, and ambience seems to persist whatever the weather (and 70% off sales everywhere). The trip back was one not to be repeated – plane delayed 23 hours – we were told it was due to a generator that wouldn’t start due to the cold weather (-8). This was an Air Canada plane that flies in -40 but they didn’t seem to appreciate what we were saying! As typically happens in such situations (spending hours in a very cold airport; being shuttled late at night to an airport hotel, up at 4:30a.m. for an early flight back that didn’t leave until noon, etc.), you bond with select other passengers who you otherwise have nothing in common with – that part makes it all worthwhile.”
Kevin Walby: My partner Seantel and I spend all our affection on Darwin. This little dog loves walking around the Fernwood Springridge Common.

Neena Chappell: Luna, from L.A. Boxer rescue. She had been severely abused. She now knows the joy of running freely with other dogs, tail wagging, barking away. She has an incredibly loving disposition.

Sean Hier: Sara Hier (March 1998 – February 2012). Sara was featured on the first Pet Page. On the day she passed away she was as grumpy as the day I found her.

Bill Carroll: My family has a cat named Cookie. He spends much of his time on my desk, between keyboard and monitor. Cookie has an unflinching commitment to his adopted human family.

Margaret Penning: Here is a picture of our dog ‘Gillian’ (age 3 1/2 - Portugese Water Dog).
Congratulations to Andrew Wender for earning the Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Andrew teaches Religion in Society for the Department.

NEGOTIATION NEWS: Douglas Baer is the Faculty Association’s Chief Negotiator in the current round of salary negotiations, which started on April 4. Sociology Department faculty member Helga Hallgrimsdottir is also a member of the Faculty Association’s 6-person Negotiating team. This year, for the first time, “Framework Agreement” negotiations – which basically involve non-monetary items in the agreement between the Faculty Association and the University – and salary negotiations are being conducted at a single negotiating table. Usually, the Framework Agreement comes up for re-negotiation once every four years, while salary settlements typically (though not always) last for 2 years. The Faculty Association at the University of Victoria is not unionized, though the Framework Agreement looks very much like many contracts found at unionized universities (the majority of Canadian universities is unionized), with grievance processes, and an arbitration mechanism to settle most disputes. The present round of negotiations is scheduled to run until June 30. The Faculty Association seeks to obtain reasonable salary increases such as those currently in place at other Canadian universities at the same time as the provincial government is “mandating” universities to fight off wage increases. The Association has indicated, in its “Bargaining Bulletins,” that it is concerned about the fact that faculty salaries at the University of Victoria are considerably behind those at other, comparable Canadian universities (with “comparability” defined as those institutions the Board of Governors uses in making the comparisons it uses to pay the University’s President).

Recent Graduates

Alanna MacLellan-Mansell (MA) – July 2011
Katelin Bowes (MA) – August 2011
Diane Barlee (MA) – August 2011
Nicolas Graham (MA) – August 2011
Esther Lee (MA) – August 2011
Lisa Poole (MA) – August 2011
Ashley Pullman (MA) – August 2011

Michelle Bass (PhD) – May 2011
Kristine Votova (PhD) – January 2012
Daniel Grace (PhD) – April 2012
Connie Carter (PhD) – April 2012
Christopher Dodge (MA) – April 2011
Robin Tunnicliffe (MA/INTD) – April 2011
Craig Ashbourne (MA) – April 2012
Sheri Watkins (MA) – April 2012
Camille Stengel (MA) – April 2012
Mario Torres is studying Latin American social movement history in the later 20th century. He started his research in April 2010, examining the transformation of Guatemala’s UNRG guerrillas into civil society activists after a long process of peace talks that resulted in the 1996 peace accord. The predecessors of UNRG had engaged in guerrilla uprising since 1963. Mario is interested in exploring how individuals who gave up friends, family, comfort, and even their name deal with the disappearance, and transformation, of the movement. How does this shift affect personal lives of over 4000 former Guatemalan guerrillas? Mario focuses on the lives of the actors situated in the historical context through a qualitative inquiry.

Mario has already applied to several law schools in Canada and the USA, as well as a couple of MA programs in Latin American Studies in the US. He’s casual about where he goes next (he did get in to Columbia’s Latin American Studies MA program), but he ultimately wishes to become a human rights lawyer. He is one of our Department's rising stars embarking on the path of future success.


Devor, Aaron et al. (2011) World Professional Association for Transgender Health *Standards of Care* Committee. *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People* (7th Version).


Koehn, S., Neysmith, S., and K.M. Kobayashi (forthcoming) 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*.

PUBLICATIONS...


Barb Merrick: I am focusing on the virtual world of Second Life, specifically on users’ perceptions of masculine gender identity within this virtual realm. I am using ethnographic and phenomenological methods to pursue research questions regarding gender performances. The motivation behind my research is the relative lack of research in this area and a desire to engage with widely varying participant experiences within virtual worlds. I believe that this project will contribute to a small but growing body of sociological knowledge on the social relevance of Second Life, as well as other rapidly expanding virtual spaces.

Sophia MacKenzie: The purpose of my research is to study how providing at-home-care to older adult family members (grandparents) affects grandchildren. This research strives to fill a gap in the current literature, which fails to examine the effects of home care on non-primary caregivers. When grandchildren are included in the caregiving literature they tend to be adults and primary caregivers. This project uses a phenomenological approach to understand the lived realities of 4 young adults (between the ages of 21-30) who had had a grandparent live with them while participants were under the age of 18. Participants have provided a retrospective account of their experience, which I will examine through grounded theory and the life course perspective.

Adam Finch: I am using Karl Marx’s theory of ideology and George Lakoff’s cognitive linguistic theory of unconscious moral frameworks to develop an explicitly critical (re: emancipatory) strategy for framing, frame analysis, and cultural critique. I set out to accomplish three things: (1) defend Marxism from indictments of ‘economic determinism’; (2) draw out the explicitly critical methodological implications of the ‘dual nature’ of Marx’s theory of ideology (the positive and negative aspects of ideology that correspond to the Base-superstructure dialectic); and (3) explicate the merits of this methodological framework by showing how it (a) is already implicitly used by many critical theorists, and (b) can inform research strategies.

Alex Luscombe: My research focuses on the surveillance-related practices of two Canadian security intelligence agencies: Canadian Security Intelligence Services (CSIS) and Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC). While the former agency is responsible for countering domestic threats to security, the latter’s mandate is restricted to the interception and analysis of foreign communications in the form of signals intelligence. My project will draw on three data sources: government documents, newspaper articles, and academic literature. The overall purpose is to addresses weaknesses in the surveillance studies literature. Many surveillance scholars can no longer agree on basic definitions, yielding a range of non-cumulative, often incommensurable meta-theoretical discussions. The project thus seeks to advance the literature by clarifying some of the ongoing issues and debates, bridging the gap between the security intelligence and surveillance studies literature while further developing definitions of surveillance and related concepts.
GRAD STUDENTS at WORK

Rebecca Morris won the graduate student poster competition (cash prize and certificate) at the Centre on Aging’s Applied Research Colloquium. The poster is based on her MA thesis work. She is planning to defend in 2012.


THANKS TO CAROLE, ZOE, AND RONNA FOR ALL OF THEIR WORK! AND THANKS TO DAN LETT FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK ON OUR NEW DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE!!!! HE ALSO DID IMPORTANT WORK TO ENSURE THAT IDEAFEST GOT OFF THE GROUND.

NEXT ISSUE: FALL 2012

Please let us know if you have recommendations for the next issue of the newsletter…have a good summer!

Edited by Kevin Walby and Min Zhou