

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SWS: Striving towards greater inclusiveness

By Denise A. Segura

This is a year with many opportunities to support diversity and greater inclusiveness in our organization and in the ASA. First of all, I wish to salute long-time SWS member and ASA President Evelyn Nakano Glenn. One look at her wonderful program demonstrates how the politics of inclusion make a difference in crafting the agenda!

As the 2009-10 SWS President I have striven to support the work of SWSers involved in expanding the intellectual and political work of our organization. The Winter meetings in Santa Barbara explored antiracist feminist agendas in

immigration, the increasing criminalization of youth of color, contestations over conventional heteronormative sex and marriage, and workplace discrimination. Many of the committee meetings and a number of roundtables expressed the hope that inclusion of scholars of color in the leadership of SWS will continue to grow, and were concerned that few members of the Council or Committee chairs are women of color, which are issues we could thoughtfully engage.

The need for SWS to advance our dialogue on race and power in the organization is urgent and there will be a number of opportunities to do so during this year's Summer Meetings, August 13-16, 2010 at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. The conference begins early, at 8:30 am on Friday, August 13, with the opportunity for SWSers to support

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Student Concerns Committee in Atlanta

The Student Concerns Committee (SCC) is partnering with the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) to sponsor a student roundtable session during the 2010 SWS summer meeting in Atlanta. The ABS-SWS roundtables will take place on Friday, August 13th between 8:30 – 10:00 A.M. at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel. Roundtable topics include "Global Perspectives: Methods, Mobilizations, and Institutions; African Americans and Education: Race, Strategy, and Diversity; and Family, Gender, and Sexuality."

The SCC will also sponsor a Student Happy Hour on Saturday, August 14th at 8:30 P.M. All ABS- or SWS-affiliated students are welcome to attend! Students registered for the SWS meeting will receive a drink ticket for themselves and one for bringing in someone new. This year's Student Happy Hour will take place at Drinkshop (45 Ivan Allen Boulevard).

Don't forget the SCC's summer committee meeting on Saturday, August 14th at 12:30 P.M. Any questions about student events at the SWS summer meeting should be directed to Rachel Allison at rallis2@uic.edu.

For the full SWS Summer Meeting Program, please visit www.socwomen.org/meetings.php



SWS elections are coming up in October. In Atlanta, look for the Call for Nominations to see what positions—officers, committee members and chairs—are up, and how to forward names to the Nominations committee.

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Beijing +15: The 54th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

March 2010, United Nations
Headquarters, New York

by Susan Lee, Helen Raisz, Astrid Eich-
Krohm, Barret Katuna, Liliana Cisneros

Beijing +15! What a shadow of its former self! Those of us who attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 raised our voices then along with 40,000 women singing "Gotta Keep On Moving Forward, Never Turning Back." Fifteen years later, it is sad to see that despite our good intentions, we have been turned backward, partly by the UN bureaucracy. The alphabet soup of UN entities dealing with women – CSW, DAW, INSTRAW, UNIFEM, OSAGI – has been

so fragmented and under-funded that progress often seems infinitesimally slow. However, bureaucracy cannot stifle the energy of the 2,000 women from around the world who did show up in March 2010. Just seeing them in their glorious native dress was a feast for the eyes.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO) accredited to the UN, SWS has the opportunity to attend the annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) where countries deliberate on the situation of women worldwide. In March 2010, SWS was represented by a broad delegation: five of our official representatives (Susan Lee, Pat Ould, Diana Papademos, Barret Katuna, Astrid Eich-Krohm), other interested SWS members (Helen Raisz, Jan Fritz, Liliana Cisneros, Shang-Luan Yan), and Pat Ould's students at Salem State College (Kathryn Eisnor, Sabrina Garcelon, Shanna Langevin, Rebecca Loeb, Laurie Rich, Meghan St. Jean, Antoinette Scibelli, Stefanie Sousa, Lindsey Tigges). Several SWS members also

attended the pre-conference, the NGO Global Forum for Women, held two days before the CSW.

These international meetings are an excellent venue for researchers to meet scholars, activists, and government officials from around the world. In the many sessions offered, women meet to discuss, learn, transmit knowledge, and strategize about current issues critical to the well-being of women and girls. The frequent casual encounters are great glimpses into women's lives across the world. For instance, Liliana Cisneros met two government officials from the European Union while waiting in line to enter the room where Hillary Clinton was going to deliver her speech. Those informal conversations were a serendipity experience and very useful as the insights of government insiders rarely end up in publications. Another advantage of attending the CSW is to put a face and a voice to the names of famous feminist leaders and scholars such as Gita Sen,

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SWS Now Sponsors Two ASA MFPs

by Jessica Holden Sherwood

It is my pleasure to introduce Lisa Williams as the newest SWS MFP.

With approval of the membership at the 2010 winter meeting, SWS has raised its contribution to the ASA MFP – Minority Fellowship Program. We now sponsor two graduate students through this program, a multi-year career development experience. MFP has a record of stunning success, supporting over 400 sociology Ph.D.s of color including some SWS luminaries.

Rebecca Romo is continuing as



SWS MFP from the prior academic year, and for 2010-'11 Lisa Williams joins her. Lisa Williams was born and raised in Los Angeles and after two years, has yet to adjust to the freezing winters and humid summers in Columbus, OH. As a doctoral student at Ohio State University (OSU), she is developing expertise in racial and gender stratification with focuses on workplace discrimination and educational achievement. Her master's thesis, which received the OSU Department of Sociology 2010 Clyde W. Franklin Award, investigates the implications of gender and racial composition for the emergence of general incivility, sexual harassment, and racial discrimination in the workplace. Her thesis also considers whether human resource structures, such as an Equal Employment Opportunity office and diversity training, reduce the

likelihood of workplace discrimination. Currently, with Vincent Roscigno, Lisa is examining the bureaucratic justifications employers give for discrimination toward women, minority, and older workers. Additionally, she and Claudia Buchmann are conducting comparative research on racial inequalities in educational outcomes in a range of societies.

In April, Lisa was also awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is grateful for the support of her graduate and undergraduate faculty mentors and the McNair Scholars Program at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona where she received her bachelor's degree in sociology.

Please join me (including at the Atlanta meeting) in welcoming both Lisa Williams and Rebecca Romo to SWS.

Events, Tents, and Assemblies: Promoting Gender Justice at the US Social Forum

by Marina Karides

Editor's note: Marina Karides is a member of SWS and of the USSF Gender Justice Working Group. She wrote the below in advance of attending the US Social Forum last month.

The US Social Forum, held in Detroit in June 2010, highlights the city's economic troubles following its long history of capitalist greed that used Detroit workers as cheaply as possible and then left them high and dry for even cheaper labor in the Global South.

And the Global South is where the social forum process originates. In 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil the first World Social Forum (WSF) was held and continued there for 2002 and 2003. In 2004 the forum went to Mumbai, India 2004 and then back to Porto Alegre in 2005, and a multi-sited forum was held in 2006 (Bamako, Mali, Caracas, Venezuela, and Karachi, Pakistan). The two most recent forums were in Nairobi, Kenya in 2007 and Belem, Brazil in 2009. The upcoming World Social Forum will be held in Dakar, Senegal at the end of January 2011. If you can make it, it is an event like none other and a great follow-up to the US Social Forum which, like other national and regional forums happening around the world, was spawned from the World Social Forum to further deepen the connections of oppressions among folks in the Global South and North.

Feminist Activism at the Forum

From the beginning of the forum process, feminist activists and organizations

have played a large part in promoting gender justice at the forum. Latin American feminist organizations such as World March of Women, Articulacion de Mujeres Marcosur, Articulacion Feminista Marcosur, and transnational International Gender and Trade Network among many others noted early that gender issues, women's rights, and women were being marginalized in the social forum process. The social forums are an open space, one with a commitment to addressing all inequalities and injustice evenly; it serves as a location not only for organizations, groups, and activists to collaborate, coordinate, and share information with each other but also a place to protest and bring to attending activists' attention the inequality and injustice that are happening in our midst.

This is exactly what the Feminist Dialogues (FD)--formed under a tree in Porto Alegre, Brazil 2003--did when they had enough of women's issues, gender justice, and feminist analysis being neglected in the programming of the WSF. They highlighted through marches, events, and assemblies that: women have been in short representation as panelists, they had been absent from important decision-making sites of the WSF, and there was limited recognition in most events on how neo-liberalism (the increased concentration of power and decision-making in the hands of the international financial/business elite, at the expense of ordinary people) relies on patriarchy.

Gender Justice at the USSF

The Gender Justice Working Group (GJWG) of the Second US Social Forum has picked up the baton from the Women's Working Group of the First US Social Forum in pursuing and ensuring gender justice, women's issues such as reproductive rights, and representation by a broad range of genders.

First, the GJWG sponsors—with the support of SWS—a Gender Justice tent located among others in the USSF Village near COBO Hall in downtown Detroit. The tent is available for all gender, sexuality, feminist or women-centered organizations to display their materials. We will also be hosting a gender justice happy hour during the lunch period on June 23, 24, 25 with cultural performances. An important use of the tent is to provide space for impromptu or follow up meetings by activists and organizations that have found grounds for further collaboration.

The GJWG is also creating a program of all gender, feminist, and women-centered events at the forum. Some of the events are workshops, others are testimonies and presentations, and some are strategy-making sessions. There are close to 1000 events being held at the Second USSF in Detroit along with a cultural program. To check out the multitude of issues that are being discussed throughout, please visit the Gender-Justice related program here: http://docs.google.com/View?id=df2znpfb_0drp2brc8

Finally, there is the Gender Justice People's Movement Assembly. The social forums are seeking to get their progressive politics into more direct actions through the People's Movement Assemblies. There will be about 50 separate assemblies, Gender Justice being one of them, which will filter to a larger single People's Movement Assembly that will coordinate actions nationally and internationally.

Adapted and reprinted from <http://www.feministing.com/archives/021467.html> with permission of the author.

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Gertrude Mongella, Margot Wallström, and Mary Robinson.

The official part of Beijing +15 was the plenary sessions held by the member state delegates to the CSW in one of the large UN conference rooms. On the floor of the conference room, member states each have a desk, arranged in concentric half-circles, with a microphone and earphones for simultaneous translation into the six official UN languages. The balcony overlooking the floor is usually packed with NGO representatives. The first week of the 54th session featured reports by each member state about the status of women in their country. States highlighted their progress since Beijing, though many admitted there was much work remaining until the Beijing promises are realized. The Commission also received official reports, such as one by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. The second part of the 54th session dealt with the outcome document assessing global progress towards the Beijing goals. The draft document was discussed paragraph by paragraph and every country could suggest changes. The result was lengthy “wordsmithing,” in Helen’s view, as delegates refined the document language. However, it was good to hear women from Syria and Cuba having their say along with the great powers.

Accredited NGOs may submit official statements on the CSW theme that are distributed to the member states. SWS submitted a statement this year that addressed the vulnerability of women in situations of war and the need to improve the status of girls to strengthen women’s position in society (the SWS statement was printed in the Winter 2009 Network News). The NGO statements were posted on the CSW website and were provided in hard copy on tables outside the main conference room. Susan and Barret, who participated in drafting the SWS statement, were pleased to find

it on the table along with the others. It was especially meaningful to see translations of our statement in French, Arabic, and Chinese as well as the other UN languages. Our message as scholar activists truly had an international influence.

A special feature of the CSW this year was the openness of the United States delegation, under a new administration, to the NGO community. The U.S. Mission held several events that we attended, including a briefing with Ambassador Melanne Verveer, the head of the US Mission at the UN, a reception with Ambassador Susan Rice, the US Ambassador to the UN, and an invitation-only event with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (Pat Ould represented SWS). These official events were an opportunity for NGO delegates to voice their concerns to our governmental representatives and to hear their perspective on the issues critical to women. A key issue for the US Mission is the women’s treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), signed by President Carter but never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Ambassador Verveer expressed her fervent hope that CEDAW can be ratified in 2010 and asked the American NGOs to contact their Senators about the treaty.

In preparation for briefings with the U.S. Mission, American NGO representatives attended the U.S. Caucus to share our views. Susan and Barret expressed concern for women from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who suffer from rape in rampant civil conflict in eastern DRC. We encouraged the U.S. to intensify efforts to address women’s rights abuses in eastern Congo as well as facilitate the U.S. social welfare system for DRC women with asylum status.

Astrid attended the European Caucus to discuss a declaration by the European NGO representatives. An issue that stood out was the lack of representation and incorporation of women from

Eastern Europe. For example, the Caucus organizer asked if there were any Russian women in the room. Women from Ukraine responded that it would be better to ask if there were any women from Eastern European countries. They alerted the audience that their problems are very different compared to women from Western Europe. Many Eastern European countries still experience Russian interference with their country’s laws and regulations. Members of the European Caucus worried that CSW 54 would not accomplish anything substantial because the official declaration had been written before the conference started. The Caucus pointed out that new challenges such as climate change, economic crisis, food shortages, and funding cuts had not been taken into account. See www.womenlobby.org for more information about the European Women’s Lobby, a leading advocate for women in Europe.

In addition to official events in the UN conference center and the national UN missions, NGOs offer parallel events in the Church Center across the street from UN headquarters. These side events are often much more lively and passionate than the staid official events across the street. We were amazed by the display of women power from around the world working together. Astrid attended an event by Oxfam Britain who presented their program, “Raising Her Voice,” training poor women in political participation. Oxfam works in seventeen countries and had brought women from Guatemala, Honduras, and Pakistan to the CSW. The women raised many issues, including male opposition to women’s political participation, persistent poverty that leads to migration of women without their children, “femicide” due simply to being a woman, tribal laws that oppress women despite state laws protecting them, and the burdensome legacy of dictatorship. It was

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wonderful and sad at the same time to listen to these women's stories but also very encouraging. More is available at the Oxfam website: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/issues/gender/introduction.html>.

Another remarkable side event was held by the Women Peacemakers Program that trains men to be trainers for "Overcoming Violence – Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace." Two trainers and the organizer spoke at the session and it was highly impressive. The group realized that they needed men as allies to change the situation of women in poor countries but wanted to ensure that men would work with the women and not take over the program. The speakers introduced Ten Recommendations for engaging men in the work of women's organizations such as reflecting on motives for bringing men in, defining strategies clearly, being aware of the balance of power, and the masculinity/dominance trap. The group will host a second training session this spring and then post experiences and specifics about the program on their website <<http://www.ifor.org/WPP/>>.

The CSW gathering also highlighted differences among women. Just as in Beijing 1995, when Maureen Reagan was the spokesperson for the U.S., the anti-pro-choicers were out in force. They were handing out flyers as Helen was in line to get her pass on March 8, International Women's Day, and had the floor of the main conference room for most of the day. Somehow reproductive freedom, which Helen considers a Fifth Freedom to go along with FDR's Four, is neglected out of consideration for the Holy See among other parties.

A passionate moment of difference took place at the NGO World Forum for Women, when veiled official Iranian delegates promoted the benefits of veiling and French delegates responded heatedly. A timely plea for peace came from Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, the executive director of the Population Fund and a native of Saudi Arabia, who emphasized the importance of considering the diversity of cultural values and religious beliefs. For her, the use of the veil did not necessarily indicate absolute submission or a violation of human rights. She highlighted the diversity of thought and action within Islam and the important role that

Islamic women are playing to confront discrimination within their own culture.

Barret gave the SWS representatives a building tour and introduction to the NGO section at the UN. Barret served as a United Nations intern for the Department of Public Information (DPI) in the NGO section in 2005. Over the course of her six-month internship, she learned the inner workings of the UN partnership with civil society. She felt privileged to be back as an SWS UN representative and showed us the DPI/NGO Resource Centre with its Internet access and free publications.

We all felt honored to represent SWS at the United Nations and realized once again the multitude of tasks ahead for us as scholar activists in our future engagement with the UN. We plan to submit an SWS statement for the 2011 CSW meeting whose theme is "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work." If you would like to be part of drafting the statement, please contact (Susan Lee susanlee@bu.edu.)

Teaching Family Violence with *The First Thing and the Last*, a novel by Allan G. Johnson

Austin, TX: Plain View Press, 2010

by Kathryn Feltey

Family Violence, and related courses, can be very challenging to teach, especially when it comes to guiding students to practice *verstehen* as they learn about violence against women in intimate

relationships. Students often respond with disbelief, asking in various ways, "Why does she stay?" Of course, the empirical literature is an important tool in helping students to understand why this is often the first question asked (Dunn 2005) and what factors contribute to leave taking (Koepsell, Kernic, and Holt 2006). But, many students still cling to the idea that individuals are free actors, able to act in ways to prevent negative outcomes in their own lives. This is of course part of the larger challenge in teaching sociology – having students learn and put into practice the *sociological imagination*.

One method for getting students inside the lived experience of domestic violence is to assign novels, which provides students with data (narrative) to analyze. In this process of discovery they are "making new connections and uncovering truths about social life" by entering into the world of fictional characters and taking their standpoint (Cosby 1997, p.228). I have assigned a variety of novels over the years so that students could explore the lived experiences battered women, including *Waverly Place* by Susan Brownmiller (now out of print), *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen, and the classic *The*

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feminist racial-ethnic research at the ABS-SWS Student Roundtables which will be held at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Later that day, the Sister-to-Sister committee under the leadership of Marcia Hernandez and Ronni Tichenor, will host an afternoon mixer from 2:30-4:30 that will provide an informal setting to discuss diversity and inclusion in SWS.

After the Sister-to-Sister discussion, the Career Development committee will present "Critique Me," a hands-on workshop to assist SWSers who wish to develop more effective strategies for the academic job market. Advice on the cover letter, CV, and teaching portfolio will also be provided. Whether you are about ready to take the plunge into the academic job market or are considering a change, this is the session for you! So join Career Development at 4:30 pm on Friday!

One of the most important ways to become part of SWS is to participate in one (or more) of the diverse committees of the organization. In both the Summer and Winter meetings, a significant portion of SWS business is undertaken in committees. I remember when I first joined SWS many years ago, I was rather intimidated by the committee structure. There were many choices and my time was limited which is probably true for many of you. However, each committee revolves around a particular issue and depending on the interest of the members, develops specific agendas. Some of the committees do "Fact Sheets" on important contemporary topics, e.g., health care. Others offer awards and fellowships. Depending on what the agenda comprises, the committee might request funding from the SWS Executive Office and Council. Saturday is full of committee meetings (which are also spread throughout the 3 days) which I encourage you to consider attending. Please consult the program to see which committee meetings are open to all members!

On Saturday evening at 8:00 pm, SWS is co-sponsoring with ASA a memorial session to Alice Rossi, the first President of SWS. The memorial will be at the Hilton Grand Ballroom B. Also on Saturday evening, the Student Concerns Committee will host a "Student Happy Hour." SWS student members receive details and a drink ticket when they register and check-in at the SWS registration desk.

On Sunday August 15, we have a number of sessions beginning at 8:30 am when the Publications Committee presents "Open Access, New Technologies and the Future of Scholarly Publication: Issues for Authors, Instructors, Publishers, and Librarians." Since forms of publication are changing, gaining access to new means for disseminating scholarly work will be important to consider and evaluate. Right after this session, the Media Team will present "Building Coverage of Your Research," to discuss how to market one's research in the Academy as well as to the mainstream press.

This year SWS is pleased to announce that Dr. Carolle Charles will be our Featured Lecturer. Dr. Charles' lecture is "On Doing Politics Differently: the Haitian Women Feminist Organizations and Their Complex Relationship to the Haitian State;" please see the article below for details. I want to thank the International Committee for facilitating Dr. Charles' participation!

At 4:30 pm on Sunday, SWS will not hold any sessions or meetings to support ASA President Evelyn Nakano Glenn's awards ceremony and presidential address at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. I urge all SWSers to attend this important event.

After Evelyn Nakano Glenn's presidential address, I invite all of you to SWS's annual awards banquet at the French American Brasserie restaurant. Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm with the banquet beginning at 7:00 p.m. A ticket is required so please reserve ahead of time!

Monday, August 16, is the final day of the SWS program. The day begins at 8:30 am with a co-sponsored session with the ASA LGBTQ Caucus, the ASA Sexualities Section, and the ASA Sex & Gender Section, "Being LGBT in the Academy." In this session faculty will discuss their experiences in tenure track jobs at diverse institutions and some of the challenges in light of the findings of the recent report from the ASA Status Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender scholars in academic employment.

One of the most important sessions in the SWS program is the Business Meeting (10:30-12:15 pm). At this meeting, SWS members will receive an update from the President (me), the Executive Officer Jessica Holden Sherwood, Treasurer Laura Kramer, Gender & Society Editor Dana Britton, and SWS committees who have reports or new resolutions to propose.

Following the Business Meeting, Sister-to-Sister will present their second session, "Making SWS Ours" on Monday, August 16th from 2:30-4:30. The goal for this session is to provide an opportunity for SWS members and officers to discuss the various ways in which SWS can move towards being a more inclusive organization. I will be participating in the Monday session and urge all SWSers to join the discussion.

The final session for the SWS program at 4:30 pm, "Feminist Change in the Academy" has been organized by the Committee on Academic Justice. This session will share some key lessons learned by facilitating or witnessing feminist changes in academic structures and practices. All in all, the program explores diverse possibilities for greater inclusion in the academy in general and SWS in particular.

I want to thank Jessica Holden Sherwood and the Executive Office for all their help in putting this program together and all the wonderful committee chairs and members for facilitating sessions. See you in Atlanta!

Fact Sheet: Women and Wealth in the United States

Distributed by Sociologists for Women in Society, Spring 2010

Prepared by Mariko Lin Chang, PhD*

What is Wealth and Why Does it Matter?

Income has conventionally been used by sociologists as the primary indicator of people's economic status. But wealth, or net worth, is a much more comprehensive measure of financial resources. Wealth is the value of one's assets minus debts. Common assets include money in savings or checking accounts, stocks, bonds, retirement accounts, businesses, and the market value of one's home. Common debts include home mortgages, credit card debt, and loans.

Wealth has several important benefits that income does not: it can generate income (dividends, rent, etc.), it can be passed down from generation to generation, it can be used as collateral for loans that increase assets directly (such as to purchase property or businesses) or indirectly (such as by enhancing educational opportunities that increase earnings and future wealth), and it provides economic resources when income is cut or disrupted due to illness, divorce, unemployment, or emergencies. Furthermore, as this fact sheet will show, the gender wealth ratio reveals economic inequalities that are masked by gender income ratios.

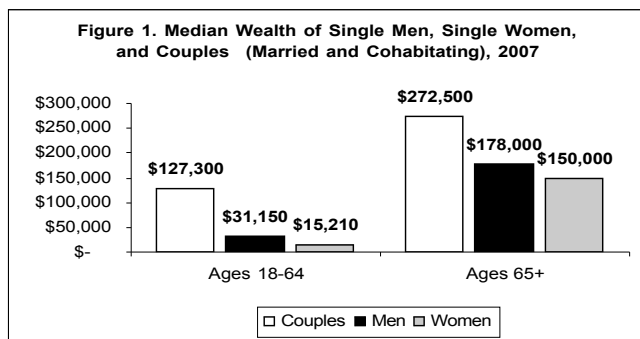
While historical inequities in class-based and race-based opportunities to build wealth are transmitted across generations through inheritance,¹ gender differences in inheritance currently play a more minor role (if any) in the gender wealth gap observed in the United States today.² The women's wealth gap in the U.S. is primarily a result of the gendered division of labor, gendered power dynamics within the household, gender inequalities in the labor market, and the corresponding institutionalized rewards based on these gender differences that make it easier for men to build wealth.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to document the magnitude of the women's wealth gap, demonstrate the importance of wealth for understanding women's economic status, and discuss the likely causes of the women's wealth gap.

Sources of Wealth Data

One reason income has been the conventional indicator of financial status is that it is easy to measure and data on wealth is more scarce. But large datasets that include data on wealth are now more common and include: Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX), Health and Retirement Study (HRS), National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), and Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). Each survey has its own strengths and weaknesses,³ but only the SCF was designed specifically to measure wealth and is considered the most accurate source of information about the *magnitude* of wealth inequality because it oversamples high-income households who are likely to own the most wealth but are less likely to be included in random samples because they comprise such a small percentage of the population.⁴ The data in this fact sheet are derived from the 2007 SCF.⁵ This fact sheet uses the same definition of wealth employed by the Federal Reserve Board⁶ except that the value of vehicles is not included here.⁷

A Substantial Wealth Gap Exists Between Single Women and Single Men

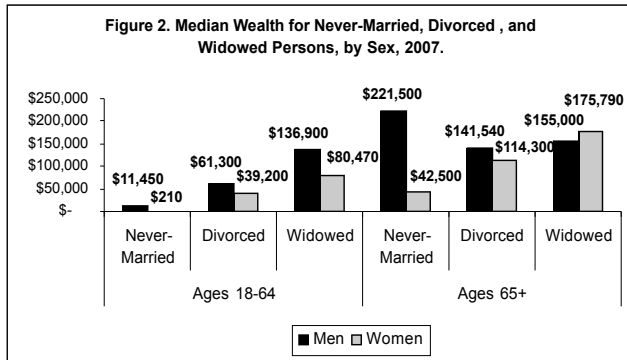


- Couple households (married and cohabiting)⁸ have the highest median wealth and single women have the lowest.
- The median wealth for single women between the ages of 18 and 64 is \$15,210, only 49% of the median wealth of their single male counterparts.
- Single women ages 65 and older have 84% of the median wealth of single men ages 65 and older. The higher gender wealth ratio for older persons may be a result of the larger percentage of widows in this age group (married couples are generally wealthier and upon the death of a spouse marital assets are usually inherited by the surviving spouse).⁹
- The women's wealth gap is not a relic of prior generations. Single women under age 35 have a median wealth of zero (data

not shown) whereas their male counterparts have a median wealth of \$3,800.¹⁰

* Mariko Lin Chang is a former Associate Professor of Sociology at Harvard University and a member of the Insight Center for Community Economic Development's Experts of Color Network.

The Gender Wealth Gap Varies Considerably for People Who are Never-Married, Divorced, and Widowed



- Women who have never married have lower median wealth than single women who were ever married (i.e., divorced or widowed).
- The median wealth for never-married women younger than 65 is \$210, which is only 2% of the median wealth of their male counterparts. Never-married women ages 65 and older have 19% of the wealth of never-married men.
- Divorced women under age 65 have 64% of the wealth of their male counterparts. Divorced women ages 65 and older have 81% of the wealth of their male counterparts.
- Widowed women under age 65 have 59% of the wealth of their male counterparts. But widowed women ages 65 and over have a higher median wealth than widowed men. Nevertheless, not all widows fare well financially: close to 1 in 5 widows live in poverty, whereas 11% of widowed men and 5% of married

couples live in poverty.¹¹

The Gender Wealth Ratio Reveals Economic Inequities that are Masked by Gender Income Ratios

Table 1. Gender Income and Wealth Ratios for Full-Time Workers Ages 18-64, 2007.¹²

Household Type		Median Income	Gender Ratio	Median Wealth	Gender Ratio
Never-Married	Women	\$31,246	100%	\$1,550	8%
	Men	\$31,238		\$20,000	
Divorced	Women	\$38,046	87%	\$63,150	95%
	Men	\$43,621		\$66,300	
Widowed	Women	\$36,016	73%	\$147,950	n/a
	Men	\$49,051		†	
Married	Women	\$37,986	72%		
	Men	\$52,706			

† Unweighted sample size is too small; fewer than 10 widowed men under age 65.

- Wealth inequality is not only more extreme than income inequality, but reveals disparities that are hidden when income is the indicator of economic status. For instance, never-married women working full-time closed the income gap in 2007; however, they owned only 8% of the wealth of never-married men.
- Married women have the largest income gap, but if one assumes married couples have equal ownership of marital assets, then they experience no wealth gap. (But see section below that discusses the sharing of wealth gap by married couples.)
- At every income level, men have more wealth than women.¹³

Single Women of Color¹⁴ and Women with Children are More Likely to Have Little or No Wealth

The legacy of historical policies and practices that prevented people of color from building wealth still impact people of color today through inheritance. Women of color face the compounding negative wealth effects of being both a woman and a person of color.

- Single black and Hispanic women ages 18-64 have a median wealth of \$100 and \$120, respectively, which is less than 1% of the wealth of their same-race single male counterparts (with a median wealth of \$7,900 and \$9,730 respectively).¹⁵
- Nearly half of all single black and Hispanic women under age 65 have zero, or negative wealth (negative wealth occurs when the value of assets is lower than the value of debts). In contrast 23% of single white women, 33% of single black men and 38% of single Hispanic men have zero or negative wealth.¹⁶
- Women of color are disproportionately targeted by subprime lenders.¹⁷

Mothers face tremendous obstacles to building wealth, including the motherhood wage penalty, inadequate child support, and reduced access to the types of benefits (such as employer-sponsored retirement plans) that help people build wealth.

- Single women with children in the household have a median wealth of \$1,000, which is less than 3% of the median wealth of single men with children in the household (\$35,300).¹⁸
- 22% of single men and 42% of single women with children living in the household have zero or negative wealth.¹⁹ Women of color fare even worse: 52% of black and 57% of Hispanic women with children in the household have zero or negative wealth.
- Because of gender differences in responsibilities for caregiving, women are more likely than men to work part-time or to leave the labor force, thus reducing their income trajectories and limiting their retirement wealth.

Gender, Wealth, and Married Households

- Nine states are community property states, in which all assets acquired during marriage are equally co-owned by spouses.²⁰
- In developing countries, married women have more bargaining power if they have their own source of wealth.²¹

- Gendered power differentials and women's economic dependency often limit women's control over financial resources and make it more difficult for women to leave relationships.²²
- Men are likely to enter marriage with greater financial resources (due to gender wage gap and because women are more likely to marry men who are older than they are and have had more years to build wealth before marriage), which contributes to women's economic dependency and gender differences in marital power.
- Married and cohabitating couples do not always control or share financial resources equally.²³ Couples sometimes keep their incomes and finances separate and devise strategies for meeting household expenses.²⁴
- Due to gendered perceptions of financial expertise, men often make major saving and investment decisions.

Why Do Women Have Less Wealth than Men?

The gender income gap no doubt contributes to the wealth gap, but even if women and men had the same incomes, women would have less wealth for several reasons:

- Single women are more likely than single men to have the financial burden of custodial parenthood.
- Women lack wealth-building fringe benefits (such as employer-sponsored retirement plans) because they are more likely to work in jobs (such as service occupations) that are least likely to provide fringe benefits and because women are more likely to work part-time and such benefits are often denied to part-time workers.²⁵
- Because women bear a greater responsibility for caregiving than men, they are more likely to work part-time and to leave the labor force, reducing their earnings and retirement assets.
- Women generally experience steeper economic declines than men when they divorce.²⁶
- Even with similar credit profiles, women are 32% more likely to receive subprime mortgages than men, typically adding \$85,000 to \$186,000 more in interest over the life of the loan.²⁷

Consequences of the Women's Wealth Gap

- Women experience greater economic vulnerability than men. Women have less wealth to support themselves in retirement and to help them weather economic, familial, and medical crises.
- Children receive fewer financial resources and educational opportunities. Women are more likely to use economic resources to benefit children.²⁸ In addition, children of single mothers with assets have higher educational achievement, even when controlling for other important factors that predict children's educational attainment.²⁹
- Women have less bargaining power in marriage.
- Women's financial dependency makes it more difficult for them to leave abusive relationships.
- Because black and Hispanic women are less likely to marry and more likely to be single parents than white women, *the racial wealth gap cannot close unless the gender wealth gap closes.*

Sample of Organizations that Focus on Asset-Building Policies

Assets Alliance (assetsalliance.org), Corporation for Enterprise Development (cfed.org), Demos (demos.org), Insight Center for Community Economic Development (insightccd.org), Institute on Assets and Social Policy, Brandeis University (iasp.brandeis.edu), Institute for Women's Policy Research (iwpr.org), National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (nalcab.org), National Council of La Raza (nclr.org), National Women's Law Center (nwlcc.org), New America Foundation (newamerica.net), United for a Fair Economy (faireconomy.org), Woodstock Institute (woodstockinst.org), Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (wiserwomen.org)

Suggested Readings on Women and Wealth

- Chang, M. L. 2010. *Shortchanged: Why women have less wealth and what can be done about it*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Chang, M. L. "Lifting as we Climb: Women of Color, Wealth, and America's Future." Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Spring 2010.
- Conley, D. and M. Ryvicker. 2004. "The Price of Female Hardship: Gender, Inheritance, and Wealth Accumulation in the United States." *Journal of Income Distribution* 13:41-56.
- Deere, C. D. and C. R. Doss. 2007. *Women and the Distribution of Wealth: Feminist Economics*. NY: Routledge.
- Edlund, L. and W. Kopczuk. 2009. "Women, Wealth, and Mobility." *American Economic Review* 99:146-178.
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- Joyce, J. A. 2007. *Women, Marriage and Wealth*. NY: Gordian Knot Books.
- Warren, T., K. Rowlingson, and C. Whyley. 2001. "Female Finances: Gender Wage Gaps, Gender Asset Gaps." *Work, Employment and Society* 15:465-488.

Teaching Resource: Rose, S. J. 2007. *Social Stratification in the United States: The American Profile Poster, Revised and Updated Edition*. NY: Free Press. (Focuses on income but poster also provides a striking representation of wealth inequality.)

Additional Information: Website containing fact sheets and other information about wealth inequality, including differences across demographic groups and details on the types of assets and debts owned: www.mariko-chang.com/wealthdata

- ¹ Elmelech, Y. 2008. *Transmitting Inequality*. MD: Rowman Littlefield; Gordon Nembhard, J. and N. Chiteji. (Eds). 2006. *Wealth Accumulation and Communities of Color in the United States*. MI: University of Michigan Press; Hao, L. 2007. *Color Lines, Country Lines*. NY: Russell Sage Foundation; Keister, L. 2005. *Getting Rich*. NY: Cambridge University Press; Lui, M., B. Robles, B. Leondar-Wright, R. Brewer, and R. Adamson, with United for a Fair Economy. 2006. *The Color of Wealth*. NY: The New Press; Oliver, M. L. and T. M. Shapiro. 2006. *Black Wealth/White Wealth*. (10th Anniversary Edition). NY: Routledge; Shapiro, T. M. 2004. *The Hidden Cost of Being African American*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- ² Conley, D. and M. Ryvicker. 2004. "The Price of Female Hardship: Gender, Inheritance, and Wealth Accumulation in the United States." *Journal of Income Distribution* 13:41-56.
- ³ Leigh, W. A. 2006. "Wealth Measurement: Issues for People of Color in the United States." Chapter 1 in J. Gordon Nembhard and N. Chiteji. (Eds.) *Wealth Accumulation and Communities of Color in the United States: Current Issues*. MI: University of Michigan Press.
- ⁴ However the SCF may underestimate the number of households with zero net worth. For information on how the SCF compares with other household surveys of wealth, see: Citro, C. F. and J. K. Scholz. (Eds.) 2009. *Reengineering the Survey of Income and Program Participation*. Washington D.C., The National Academies Press; Curtin, R. F., T. Juster, and J. Morgan. 1989. "Survey Estimates of Wealth: An Assessment of Quality." Pp. 473-551 in R. Lipsey and H.S. Tice (Eds.) *The Measurement of Savings, Investment, and Wealth*. IL: University of Chicago Press; Di, Z. X. 2001. *The Role of Housing as a Component of Household Wealth*. MA: Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University; Oliver, M. L. and T. M. Shapiro. 2006. *Black Wealth/White Wealth* (10th Anniversary Edition). NY: Routledge; Wolff, E. N. 2002. *Top Heavy*. NY: The New Press.
- ⁵ The SCF is a triennial national survey sponsored by the Federal Reserve Board: www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/oss/oss2/2007/scf2007home.html. I excluded 18 households in which the respondent was separated, but assets were shared or owned primarily by one's spouse. (Other separated individuals with distinguishable assets were included in the "divorced" category.) With this restriction, the final sample included 4400 households, or "primary economic units," of which 2984 were married or cohabitating, 878 were single women, and 538 were single men.
- ⁶ See the 2007 SCF Codebook for details pertaining to the calculation of wealth: www.federalreserve.gov/PUBS/oss/oss2/2007/codebk2007.txt
- ⁷ Unlike other assets, vehicles (with few exceptions) do not hold their value or provide the opportunity for interest or capital gains.
- ⁸ The design of the SCF makes it difficult to separate the assets of couple households, whether married or cohabitating. I combined married and cohabitating couples here for simplicity since the focus is on the wealth gap for non-couple households. However, it is important to note that married couples are generally much wealthier than cohabitating couples. To classify couples into an age group, the age of the older spouse or partner was used.
- ⁹ However, the death of a spouse is often accompanied by large out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred prior to death, which drain savings. McGarry, K. and R. F. Schoeni. 2005. "Widow(er) Poverty and Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenditures near the End of Life." *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 60:S160-S168.
- ¹⁰ Author's calculations of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances.
- ¹¹ www.ssa.gov/history/pdf/sswomen.pdf
- ¹² Income data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Data on wealth is from author's calculations of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances. The "Divorced" category contains separated individuals with distinguishable assets for the data on wealth whereas the data on income contain only divorced people.
- ¹³ Chang, M. L. 2010. *Shortchanged: Why women have less wealth and what can be done about it*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- ¹⁴ The SCF data combines Asians and other races into a single category. For this reason, only data on blacks and Hispanics are presented here.
- ¹⁵ Chang, M.L. "Lifting as we Climb: Women of Color, Wealth, and America's Future." Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Spring 2010. www.insightcced.org/uploads/CRWG/LiftingAsWeClimb-InsightCenter-Spring2010.pdf
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Fishbein, A. J. and P. Woodall. December 2006. "Women are Prime Targets for Subprime Lending: Women are Disproportionately Represented in High-Cost Mortgage Market." Washington, D.C.: Consumer Federation of America; National Council of Negro Women. "Income is No Shield, Part III-Assessing the Double Burden: Examining Racial and Gender Disparities in Mortgage Lending." June 2009.
- ¹⁸ Author's calculations of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances.
- ¹⁹ Author's calculations of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances.
- ²⁰ The nine community property states are: Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. In addition, the Alaska Community Property Law (passed in 1998) gives couples the option to designate that assets are held as community property. Assets owned prior to marriage and inheritances received during marriage are sometimes excluded from the definition of community property.
- ²¹ Brown, P. H. 2009. "Dowry and Intrahousehold Bargaining: Evidence from China." *Journal of Human Resources*, 44:25-46; Doss, C. 2006. "The Effects of Intrahousehold Property Ownership on Expenditure Patterns in Ghana." *Journal of African Economies*: 15:149-180; Quisumbing, A. R. and J. A. Maluccio. 2003. "Resources at Marriage and Intrahousehold Allocation: Evidence from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and South Africa." *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* 65:283-327.
- ²² Bittman, M., P. England, L. Sayer, N. Folbre and G. Matheson. 2003. "When Does Gender Trump Money? Bargaining and Time in Household Work." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:186-214; Brines, J. 1994. "Economic Dependency, Gender, and the Division of Labor at Home." *American Journal of Sociology* 100:652-688; England, P. and B. S. Kilbourne. 1990. "Markets, Marriage and Other Mates: The Problem of Power." Chapter 6 in R. Friedland and A. Robertson. (Eds.). *Beyond the Marketplace*. NY: Aldine de Gruyter; Sorensen, A. and S. McLanahan. 1987. "Married Women's Economic Dependency, 1940-1980." *American Journal of Sociology* 93:659-687.
- ²³ Blumstein, P. and P. Schwartz. 1985. *American Couples*. NY: Pocket Books; Burgoyne, C. B. 1990. "Money in Marriage: How Patterns of Allocation Both Reflect and Conceal Power." *Sociological Review* 634-665; Hertz, R. 1986. *More Equal than Others*. CA: University of California Press; Pahl, J. 1983. "The Allocation of Money and the Structuring of Inequality Within Marriage." *The Sociological Review* 31:237-262; Tichenor, V. J. 2005. *Earning More and Getting Less*. NJ: Rutgers University Press; Zelizer, V. 1997. *The Social Meaning of Money*. NJ: Princeton University Press.
- ²⁴ Chang, M. L. 2010. *Shortchanged: Why women have less wealth and what can be done about it*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ For a review see: Holden, K. C. and P. J. Smock. 1991. "The Economic Costs of Marital Dissolution: Why Do Women Bear a Disproportionate Cost?" *Annual Review of Sociology* 17:51-78
- ²⁷ Fishbein, A. J. and P. Woodall. December 2006. "Women are Prime Targets for Subprime Lending: Women are Disproportionately Represented in High-Cost Mortgage Market." Washington, D.C.: Consumer Federation of America.
- ²⁸ Kenney, C. T. 2008. "Father Doesn't Know Best? Parents' Control of Money and Children's Food Insecurity." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70: 654-669.
- ²⁹ Zhan, M. and M. Sherraden. 2003. "Assets, Expectations, and Children's Educational Achievement in Female-Headed Households." *Social Service Review* 77: 191-211.

SWS Featured Lecture: Women in International Development

Sunday Aug 15, 12:30pm,

Marriott Marquis M-302

Invited Lecturer: Carolle Charles



Carolle Charles is a feminist activist scholar at Baruch College. Her lecture is *"On Doing Politics Differently: the Haitian Women*

Feminist Organizations and Their Complex

Relationship to the Haitian State."

Dr. Charles is a founding member of the Haitian Dialogue, a conflict resolution project of the American Services Committee of New York. She has strong transnational ties with women's organizations in Haiti, and recently finished a report on the experiences of CONAP, an umbrella organization of 11 feminist and women organizations in Haiti.

Dr. Charles's present scholarly work focuses on three interconnected areas of research: Labor Migration and Transnational Pattern of Migrants' Identities; the Dynamic of Race, Culture, and History; and Gender and Empowerment. Her work is contributing to the ongoing debate on

feminist studies that attempts to redefine the very meaning of feminism.

Dr. Charles is a 2000-2001 Fulbright recipient for Haiti. She has served on the editorial board of the journals *Gender and Society*; *Identity*, a journal of Transnationalism; and *Wadabaguei*, a journal of Caribbean studies. She is also a member of many scholarly organizations, including the American Sociological Association (ASA), the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and the Haitian Studies Association (HAS). Presently she is an elected council in the executive board of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) and the Haitian Studies Association (HAS).

tweet tweet!

Members of SWS are all over old media and new media. Here are some of Jessica Sherwood's tweets from June 2010—very short updates, available at www.twitter.com/socwomen. You can also see there the people that follow socwomen, and the feminist people and organizations that Jessica follows.

Going to ISA? (Int'l #Sociology Assn) Cool stuff in RC-32, the Women & Society Research Cmte, and I just learned its co-presidents ... RC-32 co-presidents are #SWS membs Esther Chow and Margaret Abraham, who is also the ASA rep to ISA. We are legion.

Five-year impact factor: the #SWS journal *Gender & Society* is NUMBER ONE among women's studies journals! woohoo! <http://gas.sagepub.com>

The #SWS achievements keep rolling! RT @womeninhighered Congrats Prof. Jacquelyn Litt! #Rutgers New #Dean of Douglass <http://ow.ly/22Pp9>

(continued on page 11)

Dr. Denise Copelton & Dr. Joan Spade Selected as *Gender & Society* Book Review Co-editors

Denise Copelton and Joan Spade, both of the College at Brockport, State University of New York, have been selected as the new book review editors for *Gender & Society*. Their three-year term began on June 1, 2010.

The new e-mail address for the book review office is: GSbooks@brockport.edu

Books for review can be sent to:
Gender & Society Book Review Office
Department of Sociology
The College at Brockport, State University of New York
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420

SWS Opposes "Papers, Please" in Arizona

An ad-hoc Consortium of Professional and Academic Associations formed recently to condemn Arizona's immigration law (SB 1070) and related state policies such as the prohibition against Ethnic Studies programs (HB 2281), calling for these laws to be rescinded.

SWS is among the signing organizations.

As the group notes on its website:* these laws are inherently unjust, and their application threatens to inflame anti-immigrant sentiments. We call upon the governor, legislators, and people of Arizona to work diligently and swiftly to repeal these laws.

*<http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/resources/blogcomments.php?qwerty=80>

(First Thing continued from page 5)

Color Purple by Alice Walker. Always on the look-out for novels on the topic written from a feminist/sociological perspective, imagine my delight in discovering that sociologist Allan Johnson (*The Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy and Privilege, Power and Difference*) was writing a novel about a battered woman! Once I read the book (in just a couple of days; I literally could not put it down), I added it to my required reading list for Family Violence.

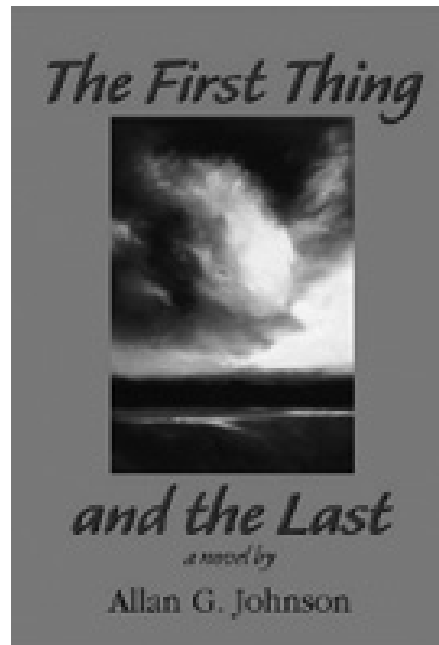
In *The First Thing and the Last*, there is no lead-in or build-up to the circumstances of Katherine's life married to David. On the second page, Katherine's daydream of being thrown into the air by her father as a child and safely caught on her descent quickly shifts:

Once again she is thrown into the air, but this time it is not a dream, and no one waits to catch her, which she realizes as her ears fill again with David's enraged grunt of exertion from throwing her across the kitchen, and she sees the wall by the sink just as her shoulder and the side of her head slam into it, breaking the glass on the Monet water lilies print they bought together at the Harvard coop one rainy afternoon.

This sentence alone provides students with the opportunity to identify themes that have shaped Katherine's life – from trust of her father to betrayal of her husband. As the story unfolds, the horrors of David's violence are interwoven with vignettes from Katherine's childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood – revealing the processes of socialization and the socio-cultural framing of her expectations, hopes, and dreams. It becomes apparent after the first incidence of abuse that Katherine needs “to believe that her life had not gone all wrong, that it had to be true”

that David's apology was genuine, that he really was sorry, that he had not meant to hurt her.

In short order, after marriage and the birth of their son, Ethan, the battering results in lethal violence. As a detective from the police department questions her about the events of the fatal night, she realizes that “He does not understand. He thinks the world is a rational place where protection orders protect. He assumes a woman can be



beaten only if she stays and that once she leaves, safety is available if only she will ask.” The underlying beliefs and assumptions about the world as rational when it comes to domestic violence are unpacked through Katherine's journey from young poet to battered woman to bereaved wife and mother to a world that for many will not seem real – represented in the novel as the rural haven of Lucy Dudley's Vermont home and a community of healing and recovery.

In fact, the majority of the novel takes place at Lucy's home, focusing on Katherine's isolation, despair, lost identities, and, finally, resurfacing as she rediscovers buried parts of her self and forges a new identity and way of being in the

world. Importantly, she does not accomplish this alone, but with the guidance of other survivors, including Lucy and her son Michael, a Vietnam veteran who has nightmares about the war and the torture he endured as a POW. Their stories are woven together within the context of a larger community that includes safe space, healing touch, and time to make whole what has been broken in body and spirit.

The First Thing and the Last is sure to answer the questions our students ask from “Why does she stay?” to “How does someone survive that kind of abuse and tragedy?” More importantly, it will give students the data they need to explore the connection between individual experiences, social structure, and agency in understanding the lives of battered women.

For more information on *The First Thing and the Last* and the author, Allan Johnson, go to: <http://www.agjohnson.us/books/firstthing>. You can also join the Facebook Group at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=125141340854710&v=wall>

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- Koepsell, J.K.; Kernic, Mary A.; and Holt, Victoria L. 2006. Factors That Influence Battered Women to Leave Their Abusive Relationships. *Violence and Victims* 21:131-147.

SWS Members' News

AWARDS

Sharon Jank recently received a Graduate Research Fellowship Program grant from the National Science Foundation. Sharon is a second year sociology Ph.D. student at Stanford University interested in studying gender inequality in the workplace context. Sharon plans to use the three year long fellowship to complete her dissertation on the relationship between pay-for-performance compensation and inequality.

Shobha Gurung was selected as one of the Service-Learning Fellows for the 2009-10 academic year at Southern Utah University. This was to recognize her dedication to Service-Learning and Civic Engagement-Based teaching. <http://suu.edu/ad/pr/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=797>

For their article "Toward An Intersectionality Just Out Of Reach: Confronting Challenges to Intersectional Practice," Rachel E. Luft and Jane Ward, are the recipients of the Outstanding Author Contribution Award for *Advances in Gender Research*. Rachel E. Luft is an assistant professor of Sociology and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of New Orleans and Jane Ward is an assistant professor of Women's Studies at UC Riverside.

The award will be presented at the American Sociological Association 2010 annual meetings in Atlanta, Georgia. *Advances in Gender Research*, edited by Marcia Texler Segal and Vasilikie Demos is published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

Taylor, Verta, Katrina Kimport, Nella VanDyke, and Ellen Andersen's paper, "Culture and Mobilization: Tactical Repertoires, Same-Sex Weddings, and the Impact on Gay Activism" (*American*

Sociological Review 74: 865-890) has been selected as winner of the Best Published Article on Collective Behavior and Social Movements published in 2009 by the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

Debra Guckenheimer is being awarded the Race, Class, and Gender section's graduate student paper award for her paper "Unity and Invisible Identities: Toward an Intersectional Analysis of Israeli Society" that she wrote for a class with Denise Segura. Debra will start as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Bowdoin College this Fall.



JOBS

Jennifer Reich received tenure at the University of Denver.

Kris De Welde was promoted to Associate Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Robyn Lewis Brown received her Ph.D. from Florida State University, and in the Fall will join the faculty at DePaul University.



BOOKS



New Blood offers a fresh interdisciplinary look at feminism-in-flux. For over three decades, menstrual activists have questioned the safety and necessity of feminine care products

while contesting menstruation as a deeply entrenched taboo. Chris Bobel shows how a little-known yet enduring force in the feminist health, environmental, and consumer rights movements lays bare

(continued on page 10)

SWS Network News

Published and distributed by Sociologists for Women in Society, an international organization of more than 1,000 social scientists, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, sociology practitioners and independent scholars who share a dedication to social equality.

Editor Jessica Holden Sherwood
Designer Debra Yoo

Sociologists for Women in Society

President Denise Segura
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Publications Linda Grant
. Kathrin Zippel
Social Action Jodie Lawston
Nominations Shirley Hill
Sister to Sister Marcia Hernandez
. Ronni Tichenor
Gender & Society Editor Dana Britton
Book Review Editor Martha McCaughey

Material for publication (including advertisements) should be submitted to SWS at the below email/address.

Deadlines for submission:
Summer-May 15
Fall-September 15
Winter-November 15
Spring-March 15

Fee schedule for advertisements (invoices will be sent after announcements appear):
Full page-\$200
Half-page-\$100
Quarter-page or less-\$50
Job announcements-\$25

Change of Address? Members, please log on at www.socwomen.org/members to update your address

SWS Executive Office
URI Sociology, 10 Chafee Rd.
Kingston, RI 02881
Office: 401.874.9510
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swseo@socwomen.org

(Members' News continued from page 9)



tensions between second- and third-wave feminisms and reveals a complicated story of continuity and change within the women's movement.

Through her critical ethnographic lens, Bobel focuses on debates central to feminist thought (including the utility of the category "gender") and challenges to building an inclusive feminist movement. Filled with personal narratives, playful visuals, and original humor, *New Blood* reveals middle-aged progressives communing in Red Tents, urban punks and artists "culture jamming" commercial menstrual products in their zines and sketch comedy, queer anarchists practicing DIY health care, African American health educators espousing "holistic womb health," and hopeful mothers refusing to pass on the shame to their pubescent daughters.

With verve and conviction, Bobel illuminates today's feminism-on-the-ground—indisputably vibrant, contentious, and ever-dynamic.

http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/New_Blood.html

Strip Club: Gender, Power, and Sex Work, by Kim Price-Glynn, is part of the NYU Press series "Intersections: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Genders and Sexualities" edited by Michael Kimmel and Suzanna Walters.

Stripper chic is in these days: you can watch celebrities "stripperize" on Oprah or do it yourself at your local gym, but this popular face of stripping hides another side of the industry, one that is far less glamorous. In *Strip Club*, Kim Price-Glynn takes us behind the scenes at The Lion's Den, a rundown club where women are compelled to strip out of economic need rather than as a means of liberation, and a place where strippers' stories often reflect drudgery and

dismay. *Strip Club* reveals the intimate working lives of not just the women up on stage, but also the patrons and other workers who make the place run: the owner-manager, bartenders, deejays, doormen, bouncers, housemoms, and cocktail waitresses.

Price-Glynn spent fourteen months at The Lion's Den working as a cocktail waitress. Her uncommonly deep access reveals a conflict-ridden workplace fueled by competing interests and agendas and stereotypical ideas about women, men, sexuality, race, labor, and economic value. Full of rich insights into the world of a single club, Price-Glynn argues that the club environment reproduces gender inequalities through the everyday interactions of customers and workers as well as the broader organizational structure and culture of the modern day workplace. Taking a novel approach to this controversial and often misunderstood industry, Price-Glynn draws a fascinating portrait of life and work inside the strip club.

JOB POSTINGS

Willamette University. Assistant Professor, Sociology

Willamette University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor beginning August 2011. We seek candidates with combined teaching and research interests in Sociology who do comparative work on racialized groups (particularly Native American, Latino/a, and/or Asian American) with expertise in environmental sociology, sociology of education, or public/social policy. Teaching responsibilities include five courses annually. The candidate will support the Sociology Department's core curriculum and the general

education program, as well as offer some core courses in her/his areas of specialization that contribute to both Sociology and the American Ethnic Studies program. Promise of teaching excellence required. PhD preferably completed by August 2011. Believing that diversity contributes to academic excellence and to rich and rewarding communities, Willamette University is committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We seek candidates, particularly those from historically under-represented groups, whose work furthers diversity and who bring to campus varied experiences, perspectives and backgrounds. The University is near the Portland metropolitan area, the Pacific Ocean, and the Cascade Mountains.

St. Norbert College Tenure Track Position

St. Norbert College. Fall 2011. Department of Sociology seeks a Ph.D. or ABD for tenure track assistant professor position. We seek a Sociology Ph.D. or ABD with a strong background in quantitative research methods and statistics and expertise in Socialization, Children and Youth, Family, Work and Labor Markets, and/or Aging/Gerontology.

Commitment to excellence in teaching social science undergraduates in a congenial sociology-anthropology department with significant numbers of majors and a commitment to the General Education Program is essential. Normal teaching load is three classes per semester.

SNC is a thriving Catholic, liberal arts college, embracing the Norbertine

(tweet tweet continued from page 7)

Reason We Need Women in Tech: vibrators! New post @msmagazine by #SWS memb Kris DeWelde: <http://bit.ly/asLF7P>

Proud 2C #SWS membs @ the Award 4 Public Understanding of Soc & other #ASA2010 awards: http://asanet.org/about/awards/2010_recipients.cfm

Excellent, feminist mentoring in action <http://blog.case.edu/case-news/2010/05/03/diekhoff2010>—Congrats on the award #SWS memb Sue Hinze.

The Pres-elect and VP-elect of the Southern Sociological Society are both #SWS members (Rubin & Calasanti)—congrats to the SSS!

Congrats to #SWS memb Sarah Sobieraj for her exceptional teaching award: http://tuftsjournal.tufts.edu/2010/05_2/briefs/04/

Book: Making Their Place: #Feminism after Socialism in Eastern #Germany by #SWS memb Katja M. Guenther <http://amzn.com/0804770727>

Handbook of #Gender and #Healthcare <http://amzn.com/0230230318> coming from Palgrave, incl chapter by #SWS memb Chloe Bird.

“What’s the big deal about men earning less?” <http://girlwpen.com/?p=1893> by #SWS memb Virginia Rutter about Gender&Society research/artcl.

You don’t have to just “Shut Up & Write” this summer. IHE article by #SWS memb Kerry Ann Rockquemore: <http://bit.ly/c0Juzq>

RT @adinanack Check out new post @msmagazine by @socwomen member on “Female Viagra” <http://tiny.cc/z5u2f>

#SWS memb quoted #happydance RT @judymartin8 MT @GoInfluence: Guyland

author said men adding care like wmn added career <http://su.pr/2ZmqJ4>

Less Than 60 Seconds of Airtime for Women’s Sports: <http://bit.ly/91YLGV> via @msmagazine #SWS memb Messner’s research on sports+TV+gender.

New post by #SWS memb Mindy Fried—<http://bit.ly/cz7sgr>—on unemployment (+ race, gender, depression, policy).

New book #intersectionality—The Managed Hand by Kang, from her #SWS award-winning diss. www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520262607

Unrealistic ideals + inflex work + devolu caring = Shadow Mothers, nu bk by #SWS memb C Macdonald <http://bit.ly/aDwTuP>

Women athletes’ presence on TV hits a 20-yr low, says new research by #SWS members Messner & Cooky: www.usc.edu/dept/cfr/html/home.htm

Chapters

SWS has several local and regional chapters, run autonomously by local volunteers. For a list of chapters, and information on how to start your own, click here: <http://www.socwomen.org/index.php?ss=30>

TALLAHASSEE:

The Tallahassee chapter is gearing up for another year of events, including discussions of gendered violence (led by Patricia Yancey Martin), gender and aging (led by Anne Barrett), and the effects of homophobia on female athletes (spurred by the film Training Rules).

Last semester (Spring 2010) started off with a reception for Barrie Thorne, who was FSU Sociology’s first colloquium speaker of the year, and a discussion of research on education by FSU graduate students Melissa Bamford, Patrick McGrady and Tara Stamm.

Our last meeting focused on gender inequalities in health care the recent health care reforms, was extremely well attended, and included an informative presentation and discussion led by Jill Quadagno.

Many of our members will be attending the summer meetings in nearby Atlanta – we look forward to seeing you there! Find out more about our chapter

and our meetings at: www.sociology.fsu.edu/sws

SWS-WEST

The SWS West breakfast at the 2010 Oakland PSA was a great success. 17 people convened for breakfast at 7 a.m.! The breakfast was a nice mix of long-time and newer members. The Chapter awarded a new membership to an attendee who is passing it on to a student. Despite the early hour, attendees agreed to do the same thing next year at the same time, and three members volunteered to coordinate the 2011 breakfast.

vision of community. We welcome candidates from all faith traditions who can contribute to the College's mission. Please visit the website at www.snc.edu/mission. The College features General Education, Honors, and Faculty Development Programs, and extensive overseas study opportunities. SNC is selective in admission with a stable enrollment of over 2000 students. Electronic applications are encouraged. Please send curriculum vitae/resume, cover letter, three recommendation letters (or names of three references with contact information and email addresses) to: Cindy Iwen@snc.edu. These application materials should be addressed to Dr. Kevin Quinn, Associate Dean, Social Sciences Division, St. Norbert College, 100 Grant Street, De Pere, WI 54115. Review of applications to begin October 1; position open until filled. SNC is an E.O.E.

St. Norbert College Visiting Instructor or Visiting Assistant Professor

St. Norbert College. Department of Sociology seeks applications by an ABD or Ph.D. for a one-year replacement position for academic year 2010-2011. This is a one-year position with a competitive salary, and may also include summer teaching opportunities.

We seek candidates to teach a selection from the following courses: Introduction to Sociology, Lifespan-Human Development, Introduction to Statistics, Contemporary Theory, and a course/s in candidate's area of expertise. Commitment to excellence in teaching sociology undergraduates in a congenial sociology department with significant numbers of majors is essential.

SNC is a thriving Catholic, liberal arts college, embracing the Norbertine vision of community. We welcome candidates from all faith traditions who can contribute to the College's mission. Please visit the website at www.snc.edu/mission. The College features General Education, Honors, and Faculty Development Programs, and extensive overseas study opportunities. SNC is selective in admission with a stable enrollment of over 2000 students. Electronic applications are encouraged. Please send curriculum vitae/resume, cover letter, three recommendation letters (or names of three references with contact information and email addresses) to: Cindy Iwen@snc.edu. These application materials should be addressed to Dr. Kevin Quinn, Associate Dean, Social Sciences Division, St. Norbert College, 100 Grant Street, De Pere, WI 54115. Review of applications to begin June 15; position open until filled. SNC is an E.O.E.



Sociologists for Women in Society
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Kingston, RI 02881

To update address or contact information with SWS please log on at:
www.socwomen.org/members and click "Update Contact Information"