

# sexualitiesnews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION **SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES SECTION**



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## The Chair

There has never been a more important historical moment for those of us engaged in research, teaching, activism, and public policy initiatives pertaining to sexuality. I expect that we have been sobered by the enshrinement on November 2, 2004 of discrimination against gays and lesbians in 11 new state constitutions that now ban same-sex marriage. For those of us who are lesbian or gay, it is difficult not to feel like walking targets after the Republican Party made use of moral action teams protesting same-sex marriage at public polling places to help win Bush's presidential victory. The campaign to restore traditional values is, of course, much more than a debate about same-sex marriage. It also manifests in a variety of ways: restrictions tantamount to censorship of federal research on sexuality, the use of federal funding to promote traditional marriage as a solution to poverty, the passage of laws preventing gays from becoming adoptive parents, the denial in several states of infertility treatment for lesbians and single women, the campaign to legalize abortion, the spread of federally funded abstinence-only sex education programs that promote heteronormativity by teaching young people that abortion leads to sterility and suicide and that half of gay male teenagers in the U.S. test positive for the HIV virus—and this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is difficult not to be alarmed by the turning back of so many hard-won victories on behalf of sexual freedom and the resounding defeat of other progressive social policies. But this is not a time for despair and fear.

Many have spent our lives and academic careers teaching about and researching sexuality, even though our work frequently has been mar-

ginalized, ridiculed, and at times even attacked by colleagues, students, and the general public. In a moment like this, I find it helpful to turn to the scholarship on social movements, my other lifelong passion, reminding me that potentially significant social movements will generate opposition. The use of social movement forms and tactics to oppose or reverse changes advocated or won by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movements is often a sign of the movements' success. The recently released movie *Kinsey* chronicles Alfred Kinsey's struggle to obtain support for and public acceptance of his landmark research on human sexuality, only to watch his entire research enterprise collapse as a result of vitriolic personal attacks on him and his work during the McCarthy era. These are similar times, and it is important that we continue to take the risks associated with researching, teaching, and engaging in public policy work and everyday activism to destabilize heteronormativity and promote sexual freedom. In the early 1970s when I began to come to terms with my sexual identity as a lesbian, I discovered Kinsey's work on my own and in it I found validation for my sexual desires and experiences; of course, it was never mentioned in any class that I took. We should take heart that it is nearly impossible for students today to get through college without encountering some of the bountiful garden of ideas that has blossomed from the seeds sown by several decades of sexuality research. Recent polls report that young people are more receptive to diverse sexualities than earlier generations, and I am firmly convinced that this is, at least in part, because of the work that all of us do.

**Verta Taylor**

*Chair, Sexualities Section*



## Submit

### HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Send in your essays, announcements, comments, reviews, letters, reviews, artworks, and photos for the next issue of *SexualitiesNews* to: Dr. Peter Chua, pchua@sjsu.edu, Dept. of Sociology, One Washington Square (0122), San José State University, San José, CA 95912-0122, 408-924-5322 (fax).

### KEY DATES

**January 18, 2005**  
Open paper submission dateline for the upcoming ASA meeting

**July 1, 2005**  
Submission dateline for the Summer 2005 issue of *SexualitiesNews*

**August 13-16, 2005**  
100th Annual Meeting of the ASA at Philadelphia, PA



## This Section

In the last decade [1990s] or so, the study of sexuality has emerged as a vibrant interdisciplinary field of social analysis. For many years, sexuality was approached as an individual, biological or psychological phenomena. Today, the idea of sexuality as a social fact or construction is the point of departure for much of the most exciting scholarship in the area...

Sections are an important mechanism for getting out information about our specialty area... Section status also affords a variety of institutional supports from the ASA, including funding for information dissemination and a guaranteed number of paper sessions at the annual conference.

In short, we believe it is in the best interests of the discipline of sociology to advance the sociological study of sexuality. One way to promote this goal is to support the... "Sociology of Sexualities" as an ASA section and to encourage you to **join**... when you renew your membership in the ASA.

*Steve Seidman, Gil Zicklin, and Mark Hager*

## The Purpose

This Section encourages, enhances and fosters research, teaching and other professional activities in the sociology of sexuality, for the development of sociology and the benefit of society, through organized meetings, conferences, newsletters, publications, awards, and other means deemed appropriate by the Section Council.

It seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in sociology, the sociology of sexualities, and allied disciplines.



## Join Us

### Call For Papers: "Rethorizing Homophobias: Understandings, Uses, and Future Possibilities"

The concept of homophobia was first developed as a psychological concept implying discomfort, hatred, or fear of one's or others' homosexuality. It has largely been a response to discrimination, used in defense of gay men and lesbians (although others, including bi and trans people, are sometimes included under the umbrella of homophobia's reach). It is a conceptual tool and a discursive resource for individuals and collectivities to name and respond to their oppression. We have found, however, that in many instances homophobia has become a taken-for-granted term that is often deployed without adequate critical attention to its meanings and consequent effects. Perhaps one of the best examples is when homophobia becomes a signifier of multiple meanings and instead of explaining a social reality, its naming imposes a judgment that reduces opportunities for analysis.

We solicit papers that develop sociological analyses of the unintended consequences of various deployments of homophobia: in relationship to gender and sexuality; in the ways that homophobia is at times associated with groups based on race/ethnicity, class, and urban/regional backgrounds; and in its relation-

ship to theoretical analyses of multiple axes of power. In doing so, we hope to more complexly theorize the meanings and uses of homophobia as a potentially progressive/liberatory tool.

We are organizing two conference sessions—one at ASA and one at SSSP—that examine the uses and misuses of homophobia. The ASA session will be one of the Sexualities Section Roundtables. (Please submit directly to that session and note that your paper is for the "Rethinking Homophobias" table). The SSSP session is slated as a program committee sponsored Thematic Session. We invite paper submissions to one or both of these sessions. Submissions deadlines are **Jan. 15, 2005** (ASA) and **Jan. 31, 2005** (SSSP). Further information is available at [www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org) and [www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org).

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: **Karl Bryant**, Soc. Dept., Univ. of CA, Ellison Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9430, [keb2@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:keb2@umail.ucsb.edu), and **Salvador Vidal-Ortiz**, PO Box 20180, Greeley Square Station, New York, NY 10001-0002, [svidal-ortiz@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:svidal-ortiz@gc.cuny.edu).

### Calling For Teaching Materials on HIV/AIDS in Sociology!

The American Sociological Association Teaching Resources Center invites submissions to its revised Instructional Materials for Teaching the Sociology of HIV/AIDS.

This edition will bring together up to date materials for courses that focus primarily on HIV/AIDS (e.g., AIDS and Society, AIDS from a Global Perspective) as well as a variety of courses that integrate HIV/AIDS studies throughout the curriculum (e.g., Social Problems, Sociology of Sexuality, Medical Sociology).

Materials may include but are not limited to: syllabi, power point presentations, handouts, exercises, assignments, course projects, bibliographies, essays on HIV/AIDS studies and pedagogy, film suggestions, or any other written material relevant to the inclusion of HIV/AIDS-related

issues in teaching sociology.

To inquire, contact the editors:

**Carrie**

**E. Foote-Ardah** ([foote@iupui.edu](mailto:foote@iupui.edu), 317-278-8454) and **Eric R. Wright**. Submissions are due **March 15, 2005**.

Please forward electronic copies in MS Word format only to Carrie E. Foote-Ardah: Indiana University-Purdue University CA 303, 425 University Blvd. Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.





## Activities

# Sexualities & Borders Symposium

Bowling Green State University, Ohio | March 23-24, 2005

**T**his interdisciplinary symposium will feature noted scholars from the Midwest region whose research focuses on the intersection of sexuality, gender, race/ethnicity, migration, and borders. **Dr. Roderick Ferguson**, author of *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* and Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Minnesota, will provide a keynote address as part of BGSU's Provost's Lecture Series.

This gathering will analyze sexualities in relation to different kinds of borders: borders between and within social hierarchies, the geographical borders between nation-states, and borders between disciplines.

**THE BORDERS BETWEEN & WITHIN SOCIAL HIERARCHIES** The study of sexuality, race/ethnicity, gender, and immigration has been limited by a narrow focus that views each of these structuring categories/processes as self-contained. The symposium will address this limitation by centering the intersection of these hierarchies and challenging any notion of race, sexuality, and gender as monolithic categories.

**GEOGRAPHICAL BORDERS & MIGRATION** Focusing on the movement of people, cultures, and capital across the borders of the nation-state draws our attention to the contact zone between "native" and "alien," "white" and "Other." This gathering will focus on research that analyzes

migratory processes and immigrant culture in relation to sexuality.

**BORDERS BETWEEN DISCIPLINES** Because we believe that sexualities are best understood through interdisciplinary study, we seek to foster conversations across disciplinary borders. Invited participants are trained in History, Sociology, Anthropology, Literature, and Performance Studies, among other disciplines and interdisciplinary areas.

The symposium is organized by the Sexualities and Borders Cluster of BGSU's Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS).

For more information, please contact **Susana Peña** at [susanap@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:susanap@bgnet.bgsu.edu).

## GenderQueer/QueerGenders

*Conversations Among Artists, Activists & Academics*

University of California, Santa Barbara | February 11, 12, & 13, 2005

**G**enderQueer/QueerGenders is a multidisciplinary, multimedia conference for people who've been thinking about queerness and gender from different places (institutions, geographic locations, identities) and through different means (performance, scholarship, organizing, cultural politics, etc). The conference will bring together artists, scholars and activists as equal contributors to conduct workshops, exhibit and perform art, and present academic research. A priority of this conference is to reflect the diversity and complexity of gender expressions and the meanings gender has in different racial and cultural locations. To that end, we particularly encourage proposals by and for people of color, working-class people, and people with disabilities.

GenderQueer/QueerGenders will be a forum for discussing the multiplicity of queer gender identities as

they are experienced and expressed simultaneously with race, region, class, access, ability and other identities. One catalyst for this project has been our collective frustration with the lack of certain critical discourses about intersections of genders and sexualities. Specifically, we are concerned about the limited discourse on "emerging" queer genders including, for example, queer femininities, heterosexual queers, and the ways that gaps like these overlap with existing silences about race, class and privilege. We fear that these discourses are sometimes overshadowed by homogenizing "conventional" narratives of genderqueer and transgender communities. We hope to create a space to theorize a wider range of queer genders more fully representative of our identities, communities, and political/artistic work.

For more information, e-mail: [gq\\_qg@riseup.net](mailto:gq_qg@riseup.net).

## TRANSGENDER AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

San José State University  
Student Union, 2-5pm  
May 3, 2005

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Jamison Green**

Author of *Becoming a Visible Man*  
(Vanderbilt University Press, 2004)

*Transformations*

Photographic Exhibition by **Jana Marcus**

"Just a Boy"

A Documentary Film

by **Aidan Crawford** and Discussion

Workshops and Panels with **Travis Gardner, Tyler Fong, Damon Helton**, and many others.

For more info, contact **Dr. Susan Murray**, [summurray@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:summurray@email.sjsu.edu).

## 2005 ASA Sessions

### Some Sessions Related to Sexualities

#### REGULAR SESSION TOPICS

- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Studies
- Queers & the State
- Sociology of Sexuality

#### SEX & GENDER SECTION

- Gender & Sexuality in the U.S. Global Military Empire

#### SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES SECTION

- Sexual Spaces
- Sex Panics
- Open Session Roundtables

See the ASA Call for Papers for details. Deadline: **Jan. 18, 2005**.

## Committees

#### NOMINATIONS

B. Adam (chair), J. Puri, S. Peña, N. Raeburn, K. Vryan

#### MEMBERSHIP

T. Fetner (chair), E. Shapiro, A. Esacove, K. Peterson, C. Hammers, N. Fischer

#### GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

J. Fields (chair), T. Linneman, K. Lerum, D. Bullock

#### SIMON-GAGNON AWARD

B. Adam (chair), J. O'Brien, S. Vidal-Ortiz, M. Weinberg

#### MARTIN LEVINE DISSERTATION AWARD

V. Taylor (chair), M. Kimmel, D. Illig

#### RECEPTION

V. Taylor (co-chair), J. Hollister (co-chair), T. Ore, D. Illig

## Section Listserv

Subscribe to the **Sexualities Discussion Listserv**.

In addition to the official announcement listserv to which all section members are automatically subscribed, we have an informal discussion listserv to which you may subscribe by sending an e-mail message to [Majordomo@listserv.asanet.org](mailto:Majordomo@listserv.asanet.org).

In the body of the message, type "subscribe sexualities" (without the quotation marks). Leave the subject line blank, and make sure that anything else in the body is removed, such as any signature your e-mail program may automatically



## InPrint

## Recent Articles & Chapters

**Brandt, Keri J.** 2004. "They Skin We Live In: Explorations of Body Modification, Sexuality, and Citizenship (A Review Essay)." *Symbolic Interaction* 27:429-36.

**Ghaziani, Amin.** 2004. "Anticipatory and Actualized Identities: A Cultural Analysis of the Transition from AIDS Disability to Work." *Sociological Quarterly* 45:273-301. Examines the impact of the transition from AIDS disability to work on gay men's identities.

**Ryersbach, Marga.** 2004. "Sexual Boundaries: Trespasses into Chaos." In *Storytelling Sociology: Narrative as Social Inquiry*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

## Recent Books

**Barnett, Pamela.** 2004. *Dangerous Desire: Sexual Freedom and Sexual Violence Since the Sixties*. New York: Routledge.

**Beger, Nico.** 2004. *Tensions in the Struggle for Sexual Minority Rights in Europe: Que(e)rying Political Practices*. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press.

**Binnie, Jon.** 2004. *The Globalization of Sexuality*. London: Sage.

**Birden, Susan.** 2004. *Rethinking Sexual Identity in Education*. Lanhan, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

**Conrad, Kathryn.** 2004. *Locked in the Family Cell:*

*Gender, Sexuality, and Political*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin University Press.

**Davidson, J. Kenneth and Nelwyn Moore** (eds). 2005. *Speaking of Sexuality: Interdisciplinary Readings, 2nd ed.* Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

**Fregoso, Rosa Linda.** 2003. *Mexicana Encounters: The Making of Social Identities on the Borderlands*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

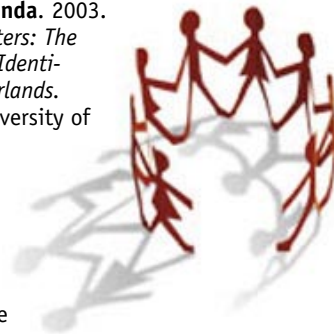
**Manalansan, Martin.** 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

**Puri, Jyoti.** 2004. *Encountering Nationalism*. London: Blackwell.

**Waskul, Dennis** (ed.). 2004. *Net.SeXXX*. New York: Peter Lang. Contains original and previously published works concerning sex, pornography, and the Internet. Critical of the clinical analysis that currently dominate literatures on Internet sex/pornography, *Net.SeXXX* emphasizes instead social, cultural, historical, and institutional analysis.

**Weeks, Jeffrey.** 2004. *Sexuality*, 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

**Wilton, Tamsin.** 2004. *Sexual (Dis)Orientation: Gender, Sex, Desire and Self-Fashioning*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.



## Awards

## Martin Levine Dissertation Award

The Martin Levine Memorial Dissertation Award was established to honor the memory of Martin Levine, who died of AIDS in 1993. It provides \$3,000 to a graduate student (and \$500 to an honorable mention) in the final stages of dissertation research and writing, who is working on those topics to which Levine devoted his career: 1) the sociology of sexualities, 2) the sociology of homosexuality, and 3) HIV/AIDS research.

Those wishing to be considered for the Martin Levine Award should submit five copies of their approved dissertation proposal, a letter of application indicating how their work adheres to the mandate for the award, and a letter from the chair of their dissertation committee about the work to the chair of the award committee. (This letter must state that the applicant has advanced to candidacy.) Send materials to: **Dr. Verta Taylor**, Dept. of Sociology, 2834 Ellison Hall, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 93106-9430, [vtaylor@soc.ucsb.edu](mailto:vtaylor@soc.ucsb.edu). Applications are due on **April 15** of each year.

## Graduate Student Paper Award

This award is given to a paper authored by a student currently enrolled in a sociology graduate program. A paper may be co-authored by two or more students who would share the award (papers co-authored with faculty are not eligible). The predominant focus of the paper should be sexualities broadly defined. Papers should be manuscript length and no longer than 35 typed, double-spaced pages. An original and four copies of the paper should be sent by **June 1, 2005** to **Dr. Jessica Fields**, Dept. of Sociology, 1600 Holloway Ave, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132.