



NU Sociology

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

A Newsletter from the Department of Sociology



January 2011

Chair's statement — The four colleagues we celebrate today each represent the excellence and scholarly courage that Northwestern Sociology is known for.



Jeremy Freese

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Investiture Event

On November 10, 2010 a ceremony was held by the Dean of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Sarah Mangelsdorf, to celebrate recently endowed fellowships. This was the first time the College has celebrated the installation of four chair-holders in one department a single ceremony.



Steve Epstein,
John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities

Wendy Griswold,
Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities

Aldon Morris,
Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology

Mary Pattillo,
Harold Washington Professor of Sociology and African American Studies

Let us hear from you:

Department of Sociology
Alumni News
1810 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60208
Phone: (847) 491-5415
Fax: (847) 491-9907
social@northwestern.edu

Our Department does not just represent an intellectual discipline. It is also a place where people teach and learn, meet requirements for degrees, prepare for and pursue careers, and develop and maintain intellectual, professional, and personal ties.

Books and articles by the faculty and students regularly win prizes and honors, and we do extremely well in national ranking systems. Even our most demanding courses are well received by both majors and non-majors. One could make a plausible case for eavesdropping on our hallway conversations as a good introduction to the sociological imagination.

Investiture Awards



In the late 1980s, as I was pursuing my studies as a graduate student at Berkeley while living across the bay in San Francisco, I found myself at Ground Zero of a medical and social disaster. This was a time before combination antiretroviral therapy, a time of governmental inaction on a mass scale, a time when public discourse surrounding AIDS still often centered around the idea that devastating illness was God's revenge for immorality. It was a grim time. But it occurred to me then that if sociology was something worth doing, then it ought to have something to say about the consequential events that were unfolding all around me. With that assessment in mind, I set out to write a dissertation about the AIDS epidemic.

But what sort of dissertation? In one of those path-altering accidents of timing and circumstance, I became fascinated by a kind of activism that I saw emerging in places like San Francisco. Central to the agenda of these activists was a remarkable mode of engagement with biomedical knowledge and expertise. I remember going to community forums where activists with no formal medical or scientific training got up and gave

stinging critiques of the status of AIDS research. As I began to study them, I learned that these AIDS treatment activists had set out on a grand project to transform public health in the United States by, as they put it, getting drugs into bodies — altering the procedures of drug discovery, testing, and licensing in order to speed up the scientific response to a deadly disease. I ended up arguing that AIDS activists served as a model of how laypeople might, at least sometimes, usefully contribute to the advancement of biomedical knowledge, and I suggested that their interventions had in fact provided a template for all sorts of patient associations that have arisen in their wake.

Steven Epstein

The inspiration doctoral students receive from their professors constitutes the single most important influence shaping in the development of scholars. The examples of key role models from my own graduate school days — the sociologists, Orlando Patterson, Theda Skocpol, Ann Swidler, and Harrison

White—were all ideal mentors. All professors working with doctoral programs, including myself, try to offer their students this type of mentoring.

Wendy Griswold

My parents decided I would participate in Milwaukee's relatively new high school bussing program that sent city students of color to schools in Milwaukee's predominately white suburbs. I went to Whitefish Bay (nick named White Folks Bay). All of the black students attending the school were bused in. This experience cultivated in me an interest in race, class, inequality, and place. We black students took the public bus into and out of Whitefish Bay every day. We might have desegregated Whitefish Bay, but we surely did not integrate it. Instead, we lived in parallel worlds — our predominately white wealthy school in the suburbs and our predominately black poor, working class, and middle class neighborhoods in the city — a DuBoisian double consciousness for sure. It was this experience that I shared when I visited the office of my advisor, William Julius Wilson, in my first year of graduate school at the University of Chicago.

Mary Pattillo

Racial oppression, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the influences of gifted, devoted, teachers at Olive Harvey Junior College and Bradley University were the factors that drove me to become a scholar.

One of my earliest memories is the 1955 lynching of fourteen year old Emmett Till of Chicago in Money, Mississippi located just a few miles from where I lived. I became a part of the Till Generation because his lynching taught me about the wholesale injustice of Jim Crow racism. That racism led me to become a scholar of the Civil Rights Movement and racial inequality.

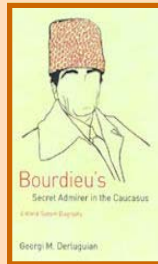
The Vietnam War led me to enroll at Olive Harvey Junior college so I could obtain a deferment because I thought the war unwise. It was there that I was first intro-

duced to sociology. Because of the knowledge I gained from gifted teachers there, I considered making scholarship my life-long profession. From there I attended Bradley University where my knowledge of sociology and scholarship deepened because of my studies with additional gifted teachers. It was at this point that I decided to dedicate my professional life to sociology and scholarship.

All scholarship is rooted in personal biography. I have always tried to engage in scholarship and activism that look human inequality squarely in the eyes. I do so because it is my belief that scholarship seeking to understand oppression is indispensable to discovering the keys that unlock doors to freedom.

Aldon Morris

Book Award



The Russian version of Professor **Georgi Derluguian's** book, ***Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus***, won first prize in the social thought, category of the national book selection (Russia's national book award). *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus* is an account of the rise and fall of Soviet socialism.

Derluguian reconstructs from firsthand accounts the life story of Musa Shanib, who from a small town in the Caucasus grew to be an intellectual reformer and, after 1989, a leader in several revolutions and wars, from Abkhazia to Chechnya.

Shanib's story allows Derluguian to add a human dimension to his analysis of abstract notions like globalization, the end of communism, democratization, the politics of ethnic identity, and terrorism. Simultaneously drawing on the work of Charles Tilly, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Bourdieu. Derluguian presents an explanation of ethnic wars in the wake of Soviet collapse.

Highest Honors

John Hagan, John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law, and Co-director of the Center on Law and Globalization at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, was recently elected to the **American Academy of Arts and Sciences**.

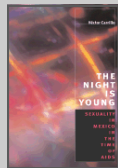
Hagan pioneered the application of advanced crime-measurement techniques to the study of genocide in his empirical work on violence in Darfur and the Balkans in 2003-2005 and was honored with the Stockholm Prize in Criminology in 2009. Using systematic methods of estimating deaths from surveys administered by non-governmental organizations and the U.S. State Department, Hagan led research studies that found that widely circulated murder estimates in the tens of thousands in Darfur should have been in the hundreds of thousands.

He is the co-author of ***Darfur and the Crime of Genocide***, which received the American Sociological Association Crime, Law and Deviance Section's Albert J. Reiss Distinguished Publication Award and the American Society of Criminology's Michael J. Hindelang Book Award.

Sociology Library

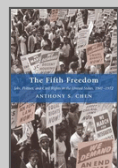
Hector Carrillo

The Night Is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in The Time of AIDS
University of Chicago Press, 2001



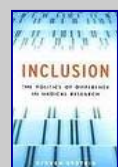
Anthony S. Chen

The Fifth Freedom: Jobs, Politics, and Civil Rights in the United States, 1941-1972
Princeton University Press, 2009



Steven Epstein

Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research
University of Chicago Press, 2009



Wendy Griswold

Regionalism and the Reading Class
University of Chicago Press, 2008



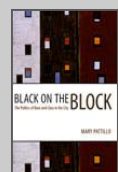
Gregoire Mallard

Global Science and National Sovereignty: Studies in Historical Sociology of Science
Routledge, 2009



Mary Pattillo

Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City
University of Chicago Press, 2007



Monica Prasad

The Politics of Free Markets: The Rise of Neoliberal Economic Policies in Britain, France, Germany, and the United States
University Of Chicago Press, 2006



Celeste Watkins-Hayes

The New Welfare Bureaucrats: Entanglements of Race, Class, and Policy Reform
University of Chicago Press, 2009

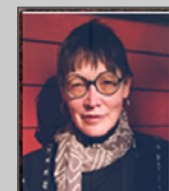


Sociology Notable Alumni

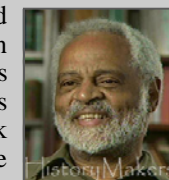
David Harris (PhD 1997) is currently on leave from his position as Deputy Provost (and Professor of Sociology) at Cornell University to serve in the Obama administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under the Department of Health and Human Services. This group focuses on policy related to welfare, poverty, service delivery issues, data for research, policies affecting children, youth, and families and economic matters affecting HHS.



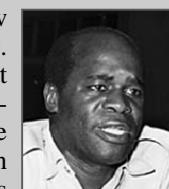
Judith Blau (PhD 1972) is currently Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is a prolific scholar whose recent work has focused on human rights and the difficulties and paradoxes of attempts to implement human rights agendas. She is the Director of the Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill & Carrboro. She is also President of the US chapter of Sociologists without Borders (which is affiliated with Sociologists without Borders International/Sociólogos sin Fronteras [SSF]). She also writes for the Huffington Post and Common Dreams.org.



Troy Duster (PhD 1962) is a very active and engaging scholar. Duster focuses especially on issues regarding race. He taught for many years at the University of California-Berkeley and is now Professor of Sociology at New York University. He served as President of the American Sociological Association in 2005. In the same year, he also received an honorary degree from Northwestern (to add to his earned PhD). He is the grandson of Ida B. Wells.



Eduardo Mondlane (PhD 1960) now deceased was born in Mozambique in 1920. When he was 31, he came to the US to study at Oberlin, where he received his BA in Anthropology and Sociology in 1953. In 1962, he was elected President of the Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO). In 1969, he was elected President of a more unified FRELIMO. FRELIMO was then headquartered in Tanzania and was, in effect, a government in exile. Later in 1969, Mondlane was killed by a bomb concealed in a book sent to him at FRELIMO headquarters. In 1975, the national university (founded by the Portuguese) in the Mozambican capital city of Maputo was renamed Universidade Eduardo Mondlane.



The Graduate School Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative

The Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative, developed by The Graduate School, is a program designed to aid graduate students during their academic career at Northwestern by fostering connections with students and faculty in other programs with whom they might have natural intellectual affinities. Interdisciplinary clusters in different areas of intellectual inquiry have been developed by faculty across schools and programs and provide a second intellectual home for incoming and current graduate students. Clusters offer their own separate courses and sponsor a number of activities and events for students and faculty.

Students interested in interdisciplinary study are also encouraged to take courses in interdisciplinary doctoral programs such as Religion, Screen Cultures, and African American Studies. Faculty in these programs are also very engaged in interdisciplinary study both within and beyond the cluster programs.

Grads' views on the Cluster Initiative

For me, the Cluster Initiative signals Northwestern's strong commitment to building interdisciplinary connections through a formal but flexible mechanism. Being an Interdisciplinary (Gender Studies) fellow, it already allowed me to make significant contacts in the Gender Studies Program and beyond. I feel that the opportunities to make these connections through the program makes Northwestern an ideal place to rigorously conduct both discipline-based and interdisciplinary research.

Clare Fostie

As someone who originally came from a humanities background, and is interested in how the humanities and the social sciences speak to one another, I felt a fellowship in Rhetoric and Public Culture would be an asset to my academic experience at Northwestern.

Gemma M. Mangione

The Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative provides a multi-layered and multi-sited perspective that is intellectually stimulating, thought-provoking, challenging, and comparative, and it encourages us to be in touch with people from different departments.

Hayrunnisa Goksel

The SHC Cluster gives me exposure to the ways allied fields are responding to the most current and exigent issues in science and technology studies, while challenging me to share my own ideas in ways that translate across disciplines.

Joseph Guisti

My Latin American and Caribbean Studies fellowship has provided me with strong connections to Latin Americanists at Northwestern, most of whom are not sociologists. This makes Northwestern ideal for the study of my original interests.

Taryn Nelson-Seawright

I am interested in the sociology of knowledge, science and law. I have a master's degree in public health, and I worked domestically and internationally before starting the PhD program. The Science Studies Cluster Initiative was one of the major reasons I decided to come to Northwestern. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from students and faculty with similar interests across departments. The Klopsteg Lecture Series, the Science Studies Doctoral Colloquium, and the interdisciplinary reading group have greatly enriched my graduate studies and deepened my knowledge of the field. Through this initiative, I have attended professional development workshops on a variety of topics, including grant writing, book publishing in Science Studies, publishing journal articles and the peer review process, developing a dissertation proposal, and research methods across disciplines. I have enjoyed building relationships with students outside of the department, and our discussions have provided an excellent forum for peer review and feedback.

Jaimie Morse

Sociology Major Hired Over Economic Majors



While I can't speak to every detail as to why I was hired over economics majors at Merrill Lynch in Chicago, I can describe how I leveraged my sociology major in the interview process and how it was beneficial to me as my resume was pored over by the managers. In the interview for the position of Client Associate in the Global Private Client Group at Merrill Lynch, I focused on two areas.

One: I highlighted my interpersonal skills and adaptability to various social situations which were developed through my ethnographic training. I knew this would set me apart because I had tangible examples of the experience I gained working with all sorts of populations while conducting my thesis research and through both my independent study with Dr. Karrie Ann Snyder and my work in Sociology 329-Field Research and Methods of Data Collection.

Two: I emphasized my ability to create, start, and finish a project involving complex steps and many setbacks, namely—my senior thesis. I highlighted my creativity in formulating the question and the measures I would take to answer it. I also underscored the independent nature of the thesis; I was in charge of everything: recruiting the subjects, creating the interview questions, finding collaborators and reaching out to them, working with the IRB, and getting all the pieces to fit together to form a meaningful inquiry. Few interviewees in finance have a piece of work that outright proves that you can successfully work independently, collaborate with others, be creative, and adapt to the hard parts.

As my boss said, "I can teach you about the market. I can't teach you how to work with and impress clients."

Alexandria Tate (2010 Northwestern University, Sociology Major)



Teaching a Sociology Class in Qatar

Assigning students to go out into the world and violate norms is a time-honored tradition of many an introduction to sociology course. Students have a ball transgressing the rules of social life and generally learn something in the process. Assigning this task to my class at Northwestern University in Doha, Qatar, however, gave me some pause. After all, these are students who have been socialized to believe that violating norms is a decidedly bad thing. Breaking the rules on purpose does not come as easily as it might to their Western counterparts.

The Doha students chose to breach norms similar to those selected by their U.S. peers: pushing all of the buttons on an elevator, wearing silly clothing in public,

breaking into spontaneous applause for no apparent reason. Their reaction papers, however, were markedly different. In the midst of breaking a social norm, adrenaline was pumping through my veins and a thrill crawled up my spine, a student wrote, The sensation was truly pleasurable. It is as if people have this innate desire to be free and not be constrained by rules and reprimands.

Many of us become sociologists in hopes of making the world a better place, however small the scale of our ambition. In Doha, one has the satisfaction of knowing one is making a difference one tiny norm violation at a time.

Geoff Harkness