

Global Transformations

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University

HIGHLIGHTS

- Health and Well-Being
- Recent and Current Research
- Noteworthy News
- New Faculty Members
- Web of Affiliations
- Faculty News
- SOC and the City

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Sociology Department has been involved in health and well being scholarship since the late 1950s. Over the years faculty members and graduate students have taught and conducted research on the social organization of health care, access to health care, the structure of health professions, doctor-patient communication, alcohol and substance abuse, food safety, body weight and image, social epidemiology and health demography. Many of these areas involve collaborative efforts with the Colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Education, Agriculture and Lyman Briggs.

Health and Well-Being spans the globe and emphasizes the social determinants of health. For example **Rita Gallen** has done work on women, work, and health in rural Taiwan, **Harry Perlstadt** consulted with the World Health Organization on national environmental health action plans in Europe, **Sabrina McCormick** has examined intersections between health and environment in Brazil, **Nan Johnson** has done work in Japan and Asia on aging and eldercare and **Zhang Zhenmei** has written on cognitive impairment and decline of the oldest old in China.

RECENT AND CURRENT RESEARCH

Stan Kaplowitz and **Harry Perlstadt** have completed research on predicting which children should be screened for lead poisoning based on individual and neighborhood characteristics. This research involved consultations with the Michigan Department of Community Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs and the creation of a website that allows people to enter their address and learn if their children or patients should be tested.

Cliff Broman continues his research in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, and behavior epidemiology of substance use and HIV risk behavior among adolescents and adults. He recently published on substance use disorders among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks in the *American Journal of Public Health*, (2008), and on discrimination and alcohol use among black and white college students in *Journal of Alcohol & Drug Education* (2007).

Tom Conner is working with an interdisciplinary team of MSU scholars to study elder abuse in Michigan. One project compares abuse of elders in differing types of care settings and another examined the role of impairment in elder abuse by paid caregivers. His research is supported by grants from US Department of Health and Human Services. He is also evaluating, Wraparound, a program for children with serious problems who have exhausted the normal treatments.



Caption here

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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East Lansing, MI 48824-1111
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www.sociology.msu.edu

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

New Sociology Minor

The department will offer a new academic minor in Sociology beginning this fall. Students majoring in other departments can take 19 credits in sociology with an emphasis on diversity in society and global transformations. The academic minor joins the sociology teaching minor that is currently available only to undergraduates enrolled in the College of Education.

Intercultural Initiatives

The African American Research Team lead by Jualynne Dodson won a \$2,500 award from the MSU Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives for demonstrate outstanding and exceptional leadership in support of diversity. Team members included Shanti Zaid, Andrew Woodson, Angela Nurse, Harry Odamtten, Alexandra Gelbard, Matthew Pettway and Sonia Maria Johnson who presented papers on "Ways of Being: Afro-Hispanic Culture, Religion and Identity in the Caribbean."

Sociology and Art

The Department has received some positive feedback. Kalli Halpern, owner of the Trillium Gallery in East Lansing, wrote about "Social Discourse: An Arts Experience," a project put together by Toby Ten Eyke and four undergraduate students. She thinks that the connection between art and sociology is vital, essential to life, and worthy of our attention.

Her interactions with Toby and his students involved a well-balanced combination of probing questions, good listening skills, art in public places, and professional presentations. She believes that a healthy desire to shake things up is an excellent way to create dialogue about the issues facing us today. The outcome of projects like these continues after the shows are dissembled and grades turned in. The connection between the University and the cities of East Lansing and Lansing are far reaching and community building.



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NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Xuefei Ren is an assistant professor of sociology and affiliated with the global urban studies program. She earned a masters in urban planning from Tokyo Metropolitan University before her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago. Her dissertation was entitled, *Building Globalization: Transnational Architectural Production in Urban China*. She has written on the construction of the national stadium of Beijing for the 2008 Olympics in *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and on historical preservation in globalizing Shanghai in *City & Community*. Last December she was interviewed by CBS in Beijing on architectural preparations for the Beijing 2008 Olympics and the impact of foreign-designed architecture on Chinese cities.



She employs ethnographic, statistical and spatial analysis techniques in her research and is currently working on urban developments in Shanghai and Mumbai, and on the international art market and Beijing's 798 art district. She teaches urban sociology, social change-globalization and its discontents, and plans to teach courses on sociology of space, and on art, cultural industry and the city.

Alesia Montgomery is beginning her fourth year here at MSU. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation/UCLA Center on Everyday Lives of Families where she videotaped and interviewed ethnically diverse families in economically disparate areas of Los Angeles. She teaches urban sociology, comparative urban theory and contemporary sociological theory.



An urban ethnographer, she is currently collaborating on a comparative study of the spaces for family life in Detroit and Los Angeles. Her article on the navigation of social distances by middle class families in Los Angeles appeared in *City & Community* and on the influence of alumni email lists on the workspaces of transnational software engineers in *Global Networks*. She also has a chapter on the merger of home and work in a 24-7 Global Economy in, *The Changing Landscape of Work and Family in the American Middle Class*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chairperson: Janet Bokemeier, Ph.D.
Associate Chair: Steven Gold, Ph.D.
Editor: Harry Perlstadt, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Design: Sharon Szegedy, Szegedy Graphic Design

WEB of Affiliations

ALUMNI NOTES

Clinton Jesser (PhD '62) is a professor emeritus at Northern Illinois University where he co-founded both the women studies program and the DeKalb women's shelter. He has been a teacher/researcher and writer in the area of sex and gender for more than 30 years. He wrote *Fierce and Tender Men: Sociological Aspects of the Men's Movement* (1996). In Feb 2008 he talked on "Boys to Men: The Masculine Code and Dispirited Sexuality" at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco.

Philip S. Hart (PhD 1974) is the executive director of the Urban Land Institute, Los Angeles. He has developed strategies for rebuilding cities and neighborhoods including Roxbury, MA; Hollywood, CA; Camden, N.J.; San Antonio, TX, and Washington, D.C. He recently wrote *African Americans and the Future of New Orleans: Rebirth, Renewal and Rebuilding—An American Dilemma* (2007).

Patricia Posey (BA 80) is a psychotherapist with Saginaw Psychological Services. She earned a master in counseling from Central Michigan University.

Abdolali Lahsaeizadeh (PhD '84) is a professor of sociology at Shiraz University in Iran. He is actively engaged in research on rural development and is chief editor of the *Iranian Journal of Social Studies*. He has several books focusing on migration, urbanization and development primarily in the third world.

Manfred Stommel (PhD '85), an associate professor in the MSU College of Nursing, was awarded one of two National Center for Health Statistics Health Policy Fellowships for 2008. He will study the risks of body-mass index on morbidity and mortality in racially and ethnically diverse populations. He plans to spend much of the next year working collaboratively with NCHS staff in Hyattsville, MD.

Andemariam Kidanemariam (MA '88) is an associate professor with tenure at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK. His research interests include the sociology of health and illness, international comparative health care systems, the sociology of Third World societies, and the political economy of health and diseases in developing countries. He has written *A Comparative Study of Infant Mortality in Four Developing Countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, South Korea, and Sri Lanka* (2003).

Kelly Goetzinger (BA '02) works as an eligibility specialist for the Michigan Department of Human Services.

J. Ryan Mulcrone (BA '05) is currently the multimedia manager for the Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL) hockey club. He was on the sports staff of *The State News* and went on to earn a master's in sport management from The Ohio State University.

FACULTY NEWS

Steve Gold was honored by the American Red Cross and Refugee Services in Lansing for exemplary work the Mid-Michigan International Community.

David Wiley and **Christine Root** received an award from Yusuf Omar, Consul General of South Africa, in recognition of their contributions to the New South Africa. David also received a commendation for more than 30 years of service toward increasing international education in the US from the National Coalition on International Education consisting of 27 organizations.

Tammy Spangler and **Sheryl Genawese** were honored with 2008 Sociology Employee Excellence Awards.

Stan Kaplowitz co-authored "The Cognitive Dynamics of Beliefs from Discrepant Messages." which was selected for the Communication & Social Cognition Division of National Communication, Top Four Paper Award for 2007.

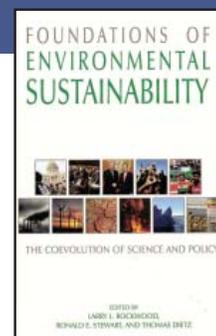
Carl Taylor will receive the Crystal Apple Award from the MSU College of Education. The award is a way to honor an outstanding educator who represents excellence and commitment.

Maryhelen MacInnes was the recipient for the Sociology Department 2008 Excellent Teaching Award for the undergraduate program and **Alesia Montgomery** was the recipient of the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award for the graduate program.

Larry Rockwood, Ronald Stewart and **Thomas Dietz** edited *Foundations of Environmental Sustainability: The Coevolution of Science and Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Aaron McCright held a Lilly Teaching Fellowship here at MSU for 2007-08.

Andrew J. Knight, **Michelle R. Worosz**, Leslie D. Bourquin, **Craig K. Harris**, and Ewen C.D. Todd authored a chapter on "Listeria in Raw Milk Soft Cheese" in *Global Risk Governance: Concept and Practice Using the IRGC Framework* Ortwin Renn and Katherine D. Walker, (Eds.) 2008



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- TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

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News (personal and professional milestones, recent accomplishments and recognition)

For information on giving to the MSU Department of Sociology, please visit the alumni page on our website www.sociology.msu.edu or call Sarah Blom toll free at (866) 678-2005.

Inside flap

**Please mail completed card, fax: 517-432-2856
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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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You are invited!

SOC and the CITY!

ASA IN BOSTON

The Department will hold the second annual SOC and the City during the ASA annual meeting in Boston on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND** in the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, Grand Salon A, from 8pm to 10pm.



This special dessert reception brings together alumni, faculty and students to reconnect, share experiences and learn a bit about the future of the Department.

Please join us!

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Outside flap



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