



Global Transformations

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University

HIGHLIGHTS

- Urban, Race and Migration
- Faculty and Research Interests
- Noteworthy News
- New Faculty Members
- Web of Affiliations
- Useem Fund
- Retirement
- SOC and the City

URBAN, RACE AND MIGRATION

Urbanization and migration are two contemporary processes driving global transformation. Both directly contribute to social change and social problems including racial and ethnic conflict, economic inequality, the viability of the nation state, and the cultural/ideological basis of social institutions. The New Urban Sociology studies the increasing concentration of the world's population in urban environments including suburban and exurban areas that now contain greater populations than central cities. It considers the role of culture, aesthetics and symbol systems in creating meaning within human environments.

Globalization presents a paradox and challenge. While technology and transportation have more closely connected people around the world, racial and ethnic conflicts continue as virulent and deadly social realities affecting both developing and developed countries alike. The study of migration addresses modes of exit, reception and incorporation of different types of migrations (including labor migrants, refugees, transnationals and sojourners) in distinct political, economic and cultural contexts. Of key importance are relations between race and ethnicity and other bases of social inequality, solidarity and identity, such as gender, sexuality, nationality, religion, generation, language and spatial location.

FACULTY AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Joe T. Darden and **Steven Gold** were awarded a Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Grant from the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) here at MSU. In 2006, Michigan passed Proposal 2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative that bans treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. Darden and Gold will examine the Propositions impact on the business start up and survival rate gap between white male and minority women owned businesses.

Carl Taylor is working with the Metropolitan Street Art Academy designed to have suburban and urban youth work together in learning, sharing art, and cultural events including Spoken Word, Community Leadership and finally an on-going discussion with middle school youth about careers, college and families. This project is a prelude to submitting a grant proposal for CDC funding.

Jualynne E. Dodson continues to direct the African Atlantic Research Team in the department. The student members presented research papers at the 1st Afro-Latin Cross Disciplinary Conference in Accra, Ghana. With the publication of Sacred Spaces and Religious Traditions in Oriente Cuba, Jualynne completed ten years of research and writing.



(left to right) Carl Taylor and Jualynne E. Dodson

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Awards

Colleen Wilson is one of six recipients of the 2009 MSU Excellence in Teaching Awards. The award is given to graduate teaching assistants who have distinguished themselves by the care they have given and the skill they have shown in meeting their classroom responsibilities to the undergraduate program. She becomes the 26th sociology graduate student to win the award since 1969 and joins Sal P. Restivo, Reginald R. Carter, Susan Asch, Werner von der Ohe, Beverly Turner Purrington, Patrick J. Ashton, Mark S. Sandler, Harry E. Mika, Kim D. Schopmeyer, Carol S. Wharton, Ali-Akbar Mahdi, Gordon M. Robinson, Marvin S. Finkelstein, Nalini Malhotra, Mary McCormack, Bradley J. Fisher, Jo Marie Dohoney, Fayyaz Hussain, Betsy Cullum-Swan, Elaine M. Allensworth, Michael Skladany, Denise Reiling, Nancy Mezey, Heather E. Dillaway, and E. Brooke Kelly.

Aaron McCright is one of six recipients of the 2009 MSU Teacher-Scholar Award. The award is given to a faculty member who early in their careers have earned the respect of students and colleagues for their devotion to and skill in teaching. Aaron is one of the new faculty featured in this issue of *Global Transformations*. He becomes the fifth sociologist to win this award, joining Kevin D. Kelly, Ruth Hamilton, William L. Ewens, and Kay Ann Snyder.

Carl Taylor received the 2008 Crystal Apple Award from the MSU College of Education. The award honors an educator who represents excellence and commitment in teaching.

National Research Council Panel

Thomas Dietz chaired a National Research Council panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making. Public participation includes holding public information-gathering meetings to forming advisory groups to actively including citizens in making and implementing decisions. The panel concluded that ordinary citizens can help agencies get the science right and get the right science, thereby improving the quality of federal agencies' decisions about the environment.

New Graduate Specialization

The Department of Sociology is the primary administrative unit for a new interdisciplinary graduate specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science & Humanities Perspectives. Master's and doctoral students can explore the historical and social dimensions of the human-animal relationship. **Linda Kalof** helped found the specialization and Tom Dietz is a core faculty member.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Aaron M. McCright is an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and Lyman Briggs College. He is part of the Environmental Science and Policy Program and is interested in understanding the relationships among social movements, counter-movements, and the structure of power within the state--particularly concerning problems of environmental degradation and technological risks. He co-edited *Community and Ecology: Dynamics of Place, Sustainability, and Politics* with Terry N. Clark. He recently published several articles with Riley Dunlap examining Republican and Democratic views on climate change, the consistency of beliefs about environmental problems within the American public, and the dynamics of public support for progressive social movements in the United States.



Aaron was selected to participate in the 2008-2009 Lilly Teaching Fellows program, and he recently won MSU's 2009 Teacher-Scholar Award. Aaron earned his doctorate at Washington State University. He then was a lecturer and research associate in the environmental studies program in the sociology department at the University of Chicago before coming to MSU. He teaches courses in Science and Technology and Environmental Sociology.

Stephanie J. Nawyn earned her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California and was a research Fellow at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UC San Diego. She has been an assistant professor in the sociology department at MSU since 2006. Her areas of specialization are gender, immigration, race and ethnicity and religion.



She has published scholarly papers on refugee resettlement and the relationship between refugee and immigrant non-governmental organizations, refugees, and the state. She has also served as a consultant to the Immigrant Participation and Immigration Reform (IPIR) project, publishing several reports on the organizing efforts of individual immigrants, immigrant community groups, and national advocacy organizations. She has forthcoming publications related to the ways in which gender relations and international migration are intertwined. She is one of the core faculty in the new Center for Gender in Global Context and currently has an MSU intramural research grant to study the temporal dimension of African immigrant assimilation. She teaches courses on Sex and Gender, Migration and Social Change, Qualitative Methods, and the Intersection of Class Race & Gender.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chairperson: Janet Bokemeier, Ph.D.
Associate Chair: Steven Gold, Ph.D.
Editor: Harry Perlstadt, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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WEB of Affiliations

ALUMNI NOTES

Robert Gordon Holloway (PhD 1962) passed way in August 2007. His dissertation was an analysis of the leadership structure of a local hospital and he was selected as the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Department in 1962. In 1983 he formed the Holloway Health Management Group that organized and analyzed a database consisting of thousands of items extracted from studies of hundreds of hospitals throughout the United States.

Rolf Schulze, (PhD 1966) has retired from the sociology department at San Diego University after 37 years. He taught courses related to political sociology and social problems and remains actively involved in union affairs.

Ann Baker Cottrell (PhD 1970) has retired from the sociology department at San Diego University after 33 years. She is continuing a research project on adult third culture kids begun by Ruth and John Useem.

Paula Palmer (MA 1989) is executive director of Global Response, an international organization promoting social and environmental justice. From 1995 to 2001 she served as an editor for *Winds of Change*, a Native American quarterly. In 2004 she received Elise Boulding Peacemaker of the Year Award from the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, and the Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award from the American Friends Service Committee.

Nuran Erol Isik (PhD 1993) is an associate professor in the Department of Media and Communications, Izmir University of Economics, in Turkey. Before that she was head of Department of Sociology at Yüzüncü Yıl University in eastern Turkey where she was a coordinator of a research project which investigated the impact of the university on a village in terms of social change dynamics.

Doug Wilson (PhD 1998) is a senior researcher at he Institute for Fisheries Management, a small foundation in rural Denmark that studies community involvement in fisheries management. He served as editor-in-chief (1999-2005) of *The Commons Digest* for the International Association for the Study of the Commons.

Lori Ann Post (PhD 1999) is associate professor & director of research development in the department of surgery and emergency medicine at Yale University.

Andile Siyengo (PhD 2004) is director of research services for the Western Cape Education Department, Cape Town Provincial Government. Before assuming his current position he was senior manager for planning, research and institutional development at Lovedale FET College, King William's Town.

Kimiko Tanaka (PhD 2008) is an NIA postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

USEEM FUND ENDOWMENT

Several years ago the Department established the John and Ruth Useem Fund to provide merit based scholarship support to graduate students with interests in international research and global transformation. Approximately \$13,000 is needed by the end of 2009 to fully endow the fund. The Department is seeking the assistance of former students and friends of the Useems to help raise the funds to complete this fitting memorial for two of the department's leading international scholars.

The Useem's legacy is evident in the department's commitment to studying and teaching sociology from an international and global perspective. Several current graduate students are doing their dissertation work in this area supported by many of the new faculty.

If you are interested in learning more about The Useem Fund, please contact Sarah Blom in the College of Social Science development office at her toll free number (866) 678-2005 or via email at blom@msu.edu.

Retirement



Harriette Pipes McAdoo retired at the end of 2008. She joined the Department from the Department of Family and Child Ecology. She began her career with a BA from Michigan State followed by a PhD from the University of Michigan, and postdoctoral study at Harvard University. She was Acting Dean at Howard University in the School of

Social Work and served as National Advisor to President Carter on the White House Conference on Families. She was President of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and received its Ernest Burgess Award. Her research has focused on African American families and children, and she edited several books on black families and children. In the past few years she has studied AIDS and pregnancy in Zimbabwean women and diabetes in older Black women.

Photo credit: University Relations, Michigan State University

Harriette Pipes McAdoo

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Register me for e-mail updates.

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

**Please mail completed card, fax: 517-432-2856
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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.

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You are invited!

SOC and the CITY!

ASA IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Department will hold the second annual SOC and the City during the ASA annual meeting in San Francisco Aug 8-11, 2009.



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

Please join us!

Faculty Retreat, August 2008