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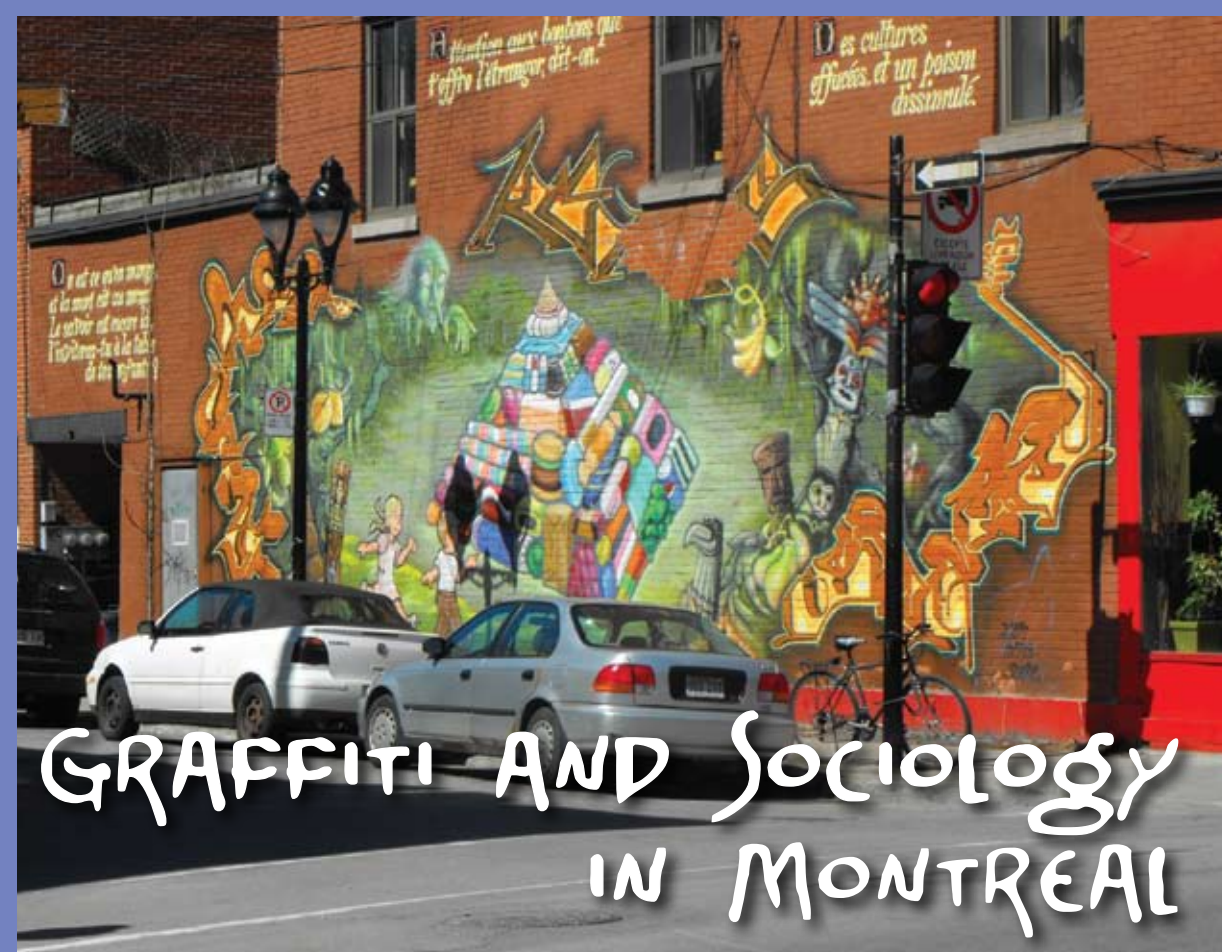
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Why graffiti? Because it is art – because it is a voice. In April 2010, Toby A. Ten Eyck, Emily Christensen, Jacqueline Kaltz, and Zoe Pelbart visited Montreal, QC to study the graffiti culture in a city where this art form is given the opportunity to thrive. The trip was paid for by funds from the Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative. The group's work on art and culture led to an invitation to participate in the 47th Annual East Lansing Art Festival, which was held May 22nd and 23rd, 2010.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Sociology of Population
- Faculty and Research Interests
- Distinguished Speaker Series
- Recent PhD Dissertations
- Web of Affiliations
- Noteworthy News
- In Memory
- Graffiti and Sociology in Montreal

SOCIOLOGY OF POPULATION

The Sociology of Population, a new focus area, is concerned with the rise, composition and distribution of people defined by geographical location and time period, as well as how populations change through fertility, mortality and migration. Numbers, however, do not speak for themselves. Sociologists in this area of study approach populations by focusing on the social processes and implications on society of demographic changes. The Sociological Perspective is a crucial tool for understanding the “whys” of change in population systems which helps to explain how social structures are transformed. It is an area fertile for the student of both social theory and statistical methodology.

FACULTY AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hui (Cathy) Liu (Ph.D., University of Texas Austin, 2008) specializes in marriage and the family, health/mortality disparities, social demography and quantitative methodology. Dr. Liu's recent research focuses on demographic changes in families and marriage, and how these changes are related to population health. Dr. Liu's work on

marriage and health trends has been widely reported in prominent media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, CBS News and Fox News.

Soma Chaudhuri (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 2008) studies collective violence and social movements with a special focus on gender. She is currently interested in how small groups mobilize prior to acts of collective violence such as witch hunts or genocides, and how the formation of violent groups can be prevented.

Dr. Chaudhuri has published articles in journals such as *American Journal of Sociology* and *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. Some of her current projects include contemporary witch hunts in the tea plantations of India (book manuscript); intimate partner violence among South Asian immigrants in United States; and an analysis of twenty-five years of data on witch hunts in India. Dr. Chaudhuri holds a joint position in Sociology and the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University.

Stephen Gasteyer (Assistant Professor) studies the structures and processes that influence community level access to critical natural resources and the capacity to manage those resources. He is currently working on the role of coalitions, social networks and social capital in protecting water quality; community resources needed to create and maintain sustainable food systems; and how social network models are mobilized to understand surface water-groundwater interactions for protection of instream flows. This work is located across the globe, including the United States, Middle East and West Africa.

Before coming to Michigan State University (MSU), Dr. Gasteyer was on faculty in the Department of Human and Community Development (HCD) at the University of Illinois. He was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali from 1987 through 1990. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University in 2001.



Faculty from top to bottom, Hui Liu, Soma Chaudhuri and Stephen Gasteyer.

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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES



Professor Pierrette Hondagne-Sotelo with Stephanie Nawyn

On Friday, April 23, 2010, the Department hosted its inaugural Distinguished Speaker Series with Professor Pierrette Hondagne-Sotelo's presentation, "There's a Spirit that Transcends the Border: Religious Activism for Immigrant Rights." The presentation drew over 125 professors, students and other guests. This inaugural Distinguished Speaker Series was coordinated by Drs. Stephanie Nawyn and Tom Dietz. It was sponsored by the Department of Sociology and co-sponsored by the Julian Samora Research Institute, Department of History, College of Social Science, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Those who wish to view the lecture, please contact Erik Selke at selkeeri@msu.edu.

Pierrette Hondagne-Sotelo is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California. Her primary research has focused on gender and migration, informal sector work, religion and social movements around immigrant rights. She has authored or edited eight books, with **Domestica** winning seven awards, including the Max Weber and C. Wright Mills book awards. The department is dedicated to continued funding for our Distinguished Speaker Series. If you are interested in donating to the speaker series, please contact the department at: contact@sociology.msu.edu.



WEB of Affiliations

ALUMNI NEWS

David A. Lopez, Ph.D., MSU, 1996, was promoted to full professor at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in August 2009. Dr. Lopez came to CSUN after holding an assistant professor position at Creighton University from 1996 to 2000.

Jason Konefal is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Sam Houston State University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Michigan State University in 2007. His areas of research and teaching include the environment, food and agriculture, social movements, political economy, and science and technology. Dr. Konefal's dissertation examined how marine and ocean conservation organizations are using market-based initiatives to conserve marine life and protect the oceans.

Teresa A. Sullivan, B.A. James Madison College, MSU was elected eighth President of the University of Virginia, effective Aug. 1, 2010. Dr. Sullivan has served as the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan. She is also Professor of Sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Prior to coming to the University of Michigan, Dr. Sullivan served as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Texas System, a position she held from 2002 until May 2006. In that role, she was the chief academic officer for the nine academic campuses within the University of Texas system.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS



The Great Lakes Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center

The Department of Sociology's own **Dr. Tom Dietz** will be helping to run The Great Lakes Regional Integrated Sciences

and Assessments Center (RISA), housed at Michigan State University. The goals of the Center are to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Great Lakes region in the face of multiple and simultaneous changes, including regional climate change, and to improve the utility of scientific knowledge in decision making. These goals arise from concerns that predict climate changes will affect ecosystems in the Great Lakes region and the services they provide with potential impacts on the region's economy and societal well-being. RISA will draw on a long history of outstanding research by scientists throughout the Great Lakes region, and through its integrative activities, particularly the active involvement of regional stakeholders in the co-production of knowledge and policy. Funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Aaron McCright has been promoted to associate professor and received tenure.



IT Professional **Erik Selke** received the SOCEE Award for Sociology Employee Excellence at the Honors/Awards Banquet 2010.

In Memory

Harriette Pipes McAdoo



It was with a heavy heart that the Department bid a farewell to Dr. Harriette Pipes McAdoo on December 21, 2009. Dr. McAdoo was born in Fort Valley, GA, and attended Michigan State University as an undergraduate before moving to the University of

Michigan where she received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Child Development. Dr. McAdoo was preceded in death by her husband, John Lewis McAdoo, and is survived by three sons - Garnett, John and David - and one daughter - Julia.

Dr. McAdoo was prolific in her research and writing. She edited the seminal anthology **Black Families** (four editions), which turned the academic and policy arenas from a "deficit" orientation regarding family life of US African Americans. Among the many other publications Dr. McAdoo produced were **Family Ethnicity** (two editions), **Young Families**, and **Black Children**, the latter with John L. McAdoo. She was author, editor and co-editor of 13 books and monographs, and more than 80 research articles and book chapters. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends and colleagues.

RECENT PhD DISSERTATIONS

Chris Oliver, Summer 2008. "Toxic Decisions: A Sociological Study of the Contaminations of US Water Supplies by Methyl Tertiary Butylether (MTBE)." Dr. Oliver is currently a full-time lecturer at the University of Kentucky.

Rachael Shwom, Fall 2008. "Greens, Suits, and Bureaucrats: A Sociological Study of Dynamic Organizational Relationships in Energy Efficient Appliance Policy." Dr. Shwom is currently an assistant professor at Rutgers University.

Elizabeth Waeckerlin, Spring 2009. "Catholic and Protestant Conservatives and Gender Ideology in Religious Politics."

Brikena Balli, Summer 2009. "Albanian Migrants: Earning a Living and Building a Life in Greece."

Lori Baralt, Summer 2009. "Health Social Movements in a Transnational Context: Racing Around the World for a Cure." Dr. Baralt is currently an assistant professor at Long Beach State University.

Charles Spurlock, Spring 2010. "From the Tigris to the Rouge: An Exploratory Study of Chaldean Gendered Ethnicity and Gender Transition." Dr. Spurlock is currently teaching at Oakland University.

Manashi Ray, Spring 2010. "Transcending National Borders to Embrace the Beyond: A Study of Transnational Asian Indians in the United States and India." Dr. Ray is currently teaching at Saginaw Valley State University and Michigan State University.

Angela Johnson, Spring 2010. "Analyzing the Social Context of Disparate Breast-feeding Outcomes through Intersectional Paradigms: Lessons Learned from a Qualitative Study of African American Mothers."

Benjamin Gross, Spring 2010. "The Self and Online Politics: A Social Psychological Approach to Political Computer-Mediated Communication in the United States." Dr. Gross is teaching at Saginaw Valley State University and Michigan State University.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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