



Global Transformations

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University

FOOD, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FEAST)

The FEAST theme area unites one of the oldest areas in the department, rural sociology which covered agriculture, food, and community, with contemporary interests in environmental sociology and sociology of science and technology. It utilizes sociological concepts of norms, values and equality to examine environmental justice across social groups and biophysical regions.

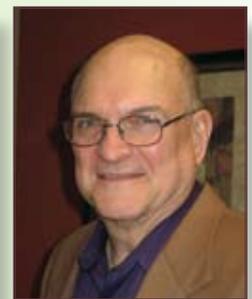
The department is one of the global leaders in the development of this field, and has one of the largest concentrations of faculty with teaching and research interests in environmental studies. Sociology faculty are connected with other departments and programs in the natural and social sciences, including the Environmental Science and Policy Program headed by sociologist Tom Dietz, the Food Safety and Toxicology Center, Kellogg Biological Station and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Food, Environment, Agriculture, Science & Technology (FEAST)
- Faculty and Research Interests
- Awards and Recognition
- Recent PhDs
- Web of Affiliations
- New Faculty Members
- SOC and the City

FACULTY AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Tom Deitz examines the human driving forces of environmental change, environmental values and the interplay between science and democracy in environmental issues. **Stephen Gasteyer** researches the structures and processes that influence community level access to critical natural resources and capacity to manage those resources. **Geoffrey Habron** focuses on social and ecological factors in natural resource and water shed management. **Craig Harris** studies the reciprocal systemic interactions between social factors and elements at different scales of the biophysical environment. **Sabrina McCormick's** research interests include the intersections between health and environment, environmental social movements, the role of science in politics. **Aaron McCright** examines the relationships among social movements, counter-movements, and the structure of power within the state--particularly concerning problems of environmental degradation and technological risks. **Chris Ganchoff** is exploring the scientific, political, and economic aspects of human stem cell research. **Larry Busch** writes on domestic and international food and agricultural standards, and **Toby TenEyck** studies the on public perceptions of food concerns, such as viruses and bacteria and genetic modifications, as well as how the mass media have reported these issues. **Linda Kalof** is known for her work on the cultural representations of humans and other animals and the links between culture and nature.



Faculty from left to right, Stephen Gasteyer, Toby TenEyck and, Larry Busch

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Department's annual honors and awards program was held on Apr 23, 2009 in the Union Building.



Undergraduates graduating with high honors (3.6 GPA and above) are **Amy Miilu, Jasleen Singh, Julia Lyskawa, Lindsey Fanning, Seo youn Kim, Veronica Roth** and **Marie Tyrrell**.



Julia Lyskawa was also named Outstanding Graduating Senior. **Jade Pearce** received the Ruth Hamilton Award, **Emily Christensen** received the Undergraduate Sociology Association student leader Award, and **Veronica Roth** held a Dean's Assistantship and the Andrew Award.

Undergraduates from top, left to right, Veronica Roth, Julia Lyskawa, Jade Pearce, and Emily Christensen

Also recognized were three McNair/SROP scholars, **Carla Roscoe, Paula Yu** and **Vanessa Gibson**.

Among graduate students, **Allison Loconto** received a Fulbright Fellowship for 2009-2010 to research sustainability and tea production in Tanzania. **Alexandra Gelbard** was named the MSU Faculty Professional Women Association Outstanding Graduate Woman for 2009. **Cedric Taylor** received both the Jay Artis Endowment Fund and the John L. and Harriett Pipes McAdoo Scholarship Fund. **Manashi Ray** earned a first place in the Shao Chang Lee Graduate Paper Prize from the MSU



Graduate students from left to right, Cedric Taylor, Manashi Ray, and Sana Ho

Asian Studies Center, and **Sana Ho** received a Fellowship for field research from the Korea Foundation. **Linda Gjokaj** received the graduate student research enhancement award, and **Jennifer Kelly** received the animal studies specialization fellowship. Four graduate students were recognized for their service to the department: **Paul Cheng, Naomi Glogower, Laurel Hilliker,** and **Colleen Wilson**.



Linda Gjokaj

The Excellence in Teaching Award from undergraduates in Sociology was given to **Ralph Pyle**, and the Excellence in Teaching Award from graduate students in Sociology went to **Stephanie Nywan**. **Shannon Davis**, the new office supervisor, was named the outstanding staff person by the faculty.

Jualynne E. Dodson is the first recipient of the All-University Excellence in Diversity award for Excellence in Advancing Global Competency. The award recognizes a person actively engaged in and committed to the principles of diversity and inclusion at MSU.

Harry Perlstadt received a Fulbright Scholar award to lecture on US health care policy at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary starting in February 2010.

Larry Busch was elected a foreign member of the French *Académie d'Agriculture*, the national academy for agriculture in France. He also received an honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Lisbon.



From top to bottom, Stephanie Nywan, Shannon Davis and Harry Perlstadt

RECENT PhDs

Julie Hartman (PhD '08) is a new assistant professor at Frostburg State University in Maryland, with a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and the Women's Studies Program. Her areas of interest are gender, sexuality, inequality, feminist and queer theory.

Josh Woods (PhD '08) is heading to West Virginia University where he will be an assistant professor in the Division of Sociology and Anthropology. His dissertation was entitled "Imagining Terror: The People, the Press and Politics."

Lori Baralt (PhD '09) will be starting a feminist health studies tenure-track position in Women's Studies at California State University-Long Beach in the fall 2009.

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

Jess Gilbert (PhD '83) a professor of rural sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, recently completed his term as President of the Rural Sociological Society

Aimee Vieira (MA, '96) is an assistant professor of sociology at Norwich University in Northfield VT. She specializes in language and society and economic sociology.

Ken Crane (PhD '00) is an assistant professor in the department of history, politics and society at La Sierra University, Riverside, CA. He will be teaching general sociology, sociology of the family, political and human geography, and international organizations.

Renée B. Canady (PhD '01) is Deputy Director, Ingham County Health Department.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

We warmly welcome three new assistant professors who will be joining the department this August.

Isabel Ayala joins us after two years on the faculty at SUNY Albany. She will have a joint appointment with the Chicano/Latino Studies Program. Her research focuses on the permanent and transnational migration of Latino population with an emphasis on gender and structural inequalities. She earned her doctorate in Sociology at Texas A&M University where her research on fertility behavior was supported by the Mexican National Council on Science and Technology. She also served as a graduate student member on council of the ASA section on Latino/a sociology.



Zachary Neal received his PhD this spring from the University of Illinois at Chicago. An urban sociologist, he examined the influence of central place, interurban networks, human ecology and natural advantage on the economic structures of cities. He will have a joint appointment with the Global Urban Studies Program. He is co editor of the *Metropolis and Modern Life* book series to be published by Routledge and managing editor of *City & Community*, the journal of the ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section.



Sandra Marquart-Pyatt comes to us from Utah State where she was an assistant professor. She earned her PhD at The Ohio State University. She will have a joint appointment with the Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP). She has done a comparative analysis of environmental concerns from a political sociology perspective. She is co-editor of *Continuity and Change in Social Life: Structural and Psychological Adjustment in Poland*. She has been an instructor for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer training program in advanced statistical techniques at the University of Michigan.



Department Faculty and Alumni

WHO HAVE SERVED AS PRESIDENTS OF RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1947-1948	Charles P. Loomis	1977-1978	Harry Schwarzweller	1995-1996	Janet L. Bokemeier
1959-1960	Charles R. Hoffer	1990-1991	Frederick H. Buttell	1997-1998	Lawrence Busch
1965-1966	J. Allan Beegle	1992-1993	James J. Zuiches	2007-2008	Jess Gilbert
1976-1977	Sheldon G. Lowry				

**REMAIN CONNECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
- TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

NAME _____
HOME ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TITLE _____
BUSINESS NAME _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PREFERRED TELEPHONE _____
E-MAIL _____
DEGREE _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

Register me for e-mail updates.

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

**Please mail completed card, fax: 517-432-2856
or email: contact@sociology.msu.edu**

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**.



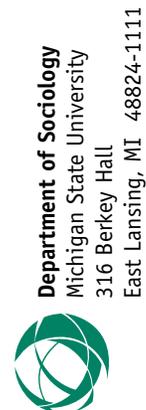
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list of funds
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Save the Date!

SOC and the CITY!

ASA IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Department will hold the third annual SOC and the City during the ASA annual meetings in San Francisco. Please join us at the Hilton on O'Farrell Street, Continental Parlor 7 on Sunday August 9, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



The special dessert reception brings together alumni, faculty and students to socialize and get an update on the department.

Please join us!