



Think Sociology!

Volume I, Issue I

April, 2007

A New Department !

A new era has begun here at UBC. Sociology, long partnered with other disciplines, has become an independent stand-alone Department.

Initially sociology was combined with Economics and Political Science in a single UBC Department. In 1955 Harry Hawthorn headed a new Department of Anthropology, Criminology and Sociology, to be renamed the Department of Anthropology and Sociology in

1959. On July 1, 2006 the Department of Sociology was formed.

Although three external review panels had recommended Anthropology and Sociology separate, the change took time. The recommendation ran against the grain of increasing interdisciplinarity. Also, Departments with small faculty numbers were thought to be more vulnerable to economic and administrative efficiency crusades. However, as both Anthro-

pology and Sociology became stronger units, attracting more students and more research funding, a split made increasing sense to more and more colleagues.

In Sociology this was especially so given the strength of our faculty hiring in the past decade and our continued success in both teaching and research. Furthermore our interdisciplinary connections with units such as women's studies,

health, education, law, and sustainability were stronger than ever.

Anthropologists and sociologists mostly interact in separate intellectual circles, evidenced by distinct professional associations, scholarly journals, granting council categories, and so forth. The two new Departments provide a stronger identity and voice for each discipline within the Faculty of Arts and within UBC as a whole.



**Neil Guppy,
Department Head**

Thinking Sociologically, Neil Guppy, Department Head

Sociology matters. This is increasingly true as explanations for world problems turn inward. The human genome project and research on neurotransmitters illustrate the trend toward looking inside the body for explanations of broad social problems.

Take obesity. Human biologists have begun examining molecular changes in body metabolism, "microbesity", to explain rising levels of obesity in children. Whatever happened to explanations based on the food production / delivery systems, the culture of eating, and the exercise habits of children? Social determinants of health research has shown repeatedly that the social

matters. Looking inside the body for solutions is important. However, this cannot be where most intellectual effort is expended and scarce science funding directed. Increasingly the explanatory framework of social context and constraint is being eclipsed – to our collective loss.

Rates of alcoholism are high among Aboriginal populations. Natural scientists seek to explain this by searching for genetic markers and neurotransmission patterns common to Aboriginal peoples. Sociologists explain these rates by pointing to a legacy of displacement whereby First Nations peoples saw their economic livelihoods disrupted, along

with their patterns of governance and family organization. High rates of poverty and chronic disease, two factors critical to understanding alcoholism, followed.

The struggle here is not to deny the advances of science. The challenge is to recognize that these advances will contribute only small increments to both identifying and addressing human problems.

Some sociologists, such as Ulrich Beck, actually see science as fomenting a riskier world. This is a world where risks of an artificial nature (e.g., toxins) are becoming more challenging than natural risks (e.g., hurricanes, and their global warm-

ing links).

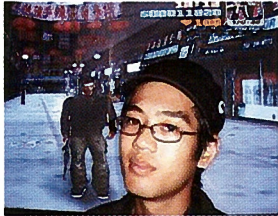
It is easy to see where sociology matters. The current research of Ralph Matthews, engaging with First Nations groups along the coast, is using sociological knowledge to work collaboratively in addressing peoples' needs. In a different but no less relevant vein, the writing of Patricia Marchak on terror and human rights addresses most directly our abilities to increase human welfare and social justice for all.

As a tool for understanding and improving a chaotic world sociological thinking matters.

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Student researcher finds video games rife with stereotypes



Parungao's
research project
drew wide media
attention after his
findings were
released this past
summer.

Robert Parungao graduated from UBC in 2006 with an Honours B.A. in Sociology. He spent eight months analyzing the storylines and characters of four popular video games, finding stereotypes generally condemned in other entertainment media.

"Film and television come under greater critical scrutiny so civil rights and minority groups can voice their concerns and effect some change," he explains. "But video games have generally been seen as kids' toys. There aren't the same mechanisms or critical forums to encourage game designers to evolve."

Parungao says he believes that video games as an interactive media have a far greater impact than movies or sports, which are passive and observational.

For his study, Parungao looked at four titles that span two decades of video game design: Kung Fu, Warcraft 3, Shadow Warrior and Grand Theft Auto 3. He analyzed the storylines and characters, and spent 100 hours playing the games.

Parungao's analysis found that Asian characters are consistently modeled on antagonistic stereotypes, such as kung fu warriors or faceless, yellow-skinned victims. "These stock characters are seen in a lot of games and function as narrative obstacles to be overcome, mastered or ultimately blown to smithereens by the white hero."

Parungao's research project drew wide media attention after his findings were released this past summer. Reports from media as far away as the BBC, Agence

France Presse (AFP), The Middle East Times, and Sing Tao covered Robert's analysis. Such attention is rare for an Honours thesis, according to Professor Gillian Creese, who teaches in the department of Sociology and supervised Parungao's work. "What is interesting is this very important analytic focus on what has become a very important part of popular culture," says Professor Creese, whose own research focuses on issues of gender, race and class relations in Canada.

Parungao is now studying for his M.A. in Sociology at Montreal's Concordia University.

"I hope to continue looking into ways to improve video games because they're fun and I'd like to see them turn into positive media instead of negative ones."

Based on an article by Josephine Anderson

Amy Hanser Wins ASA Dissertation Award



Amy Hanser
received the ASA
Dissertation
Award at the
2006 ASA meet-
ings in Montreal.

Amy Hanser, Assistant Professor of Sociology at UBC, received the American Sociological Association Dissertation Award for "Counter Strategies: Service Work and the Production of Distinction in Urban China."

Hanser took her degree at the University of California-Berkeley where she did her dissertation under the direction of Thomas B. Gold. The American Sociological Association, in its publication Footnotes (September/October 2006), praised her research as "original" and "pathbreaking". They noted, "With little editing, Hanser's dissertation can become a book that would be required

reading for beginning and advanced students alike."

From 2001 to 2002 Amy conducted participant observation in three retail settings in the city of Harbin, working as a uniformed salesclerk in two urban department stores and observing the business transactions in a large clothing bazaar. In these settings, she witnessed the emergence of new social inequalities in urban China, and found that service work in China today is centrally organized around the construction and communication of cultural boundaries that legitimate and reproduce these new inequalities. She is especially interested in

the emergence of what she considers to be a new "structure of entitlement" in China.

She is hoping to continue to study the stratification of consumer practices and the growth of a consumer rights discourse in an effort to understand issues of social inequality as well as questions about the relationship between economic, cultural, and political change in urban China today.

Recent Visitors

The current Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology is **Harris Ali**. He is from York University (Toronto), Environmental Studies. His term here is from January-June 2007.

In April 2007, **Simon Parker** will be a Visiting Professor with us. He is from the University of York (U.K), Department of Politics. He will be here from April-September 2007.

Dan Zuberi and “Differences that Matter”

Canada’s low-wage workers -- many of them immigrants -- fare much better than their U.S. counterparts due to Canada’s social policies, according to Assistant Professor Daniyal Zuberi.

Zuberi researched work conditions and quality of life for hotel workers at two multinational hotel chains - each with one union and one non-union hotel - in both Seattle and Vancouver. Over 18 months, Zuberi conducted interviews with 77 employees working in parallel jobs on both sides of the border. He found in his transnational study that Canadian social policies governing union organizing rules, health care and unemployment insurance make the biggest difference to workers.

His study shows that since B.C. hotel workers are almost ten times more likely to be unionized than workers in Washington, they generally enjoy greater job security, higher wages and better benefits. Zuberi explains that even when unionized, U.S. and Canadian hotels can differ. “Canadian rules enable unions to have more power. The hotel workers’ unions in Vancouver bargained collectively, whereas the same unions in Seattle had to negotiate with each hotel individually.”

As well, Canadian measures such as federal and provincial income supplements for low-wage workers with children boosted workers’ annual income.

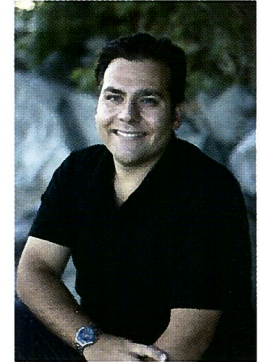
Zuberi found there was less con-

centration of poverty in Vancouver than in Seattle. “Half of the all the workers I interviewed relied on public transit. Because of the available bus routes in Seattle, low-income families clustered along Rainier Valley Road, south east of downtown.

“In contrast, he says, Vancouver’s hotel workers lived in mixed-income neighborhoods with Skytrain or bus service and had access to community centres, public parks and good schools.”

Zuberi says that it’s a myth that globalization necessarily means hospitality jobs must be insecure and pay poverty wages. “It comes down to having government policies to protect people in those job sectors.”

Based on an article by Lorraine Chan



Dan Zuberi concludes that Canada does a better job than the U.S. to protect Low-wage, Immigrant Workers

Bob Ratner’s History of the Department, a Personal Account

It’s been nearly forty years since I came to UBC. At that time I was a proud Columbia and Yale graduate, a young swaggering Parsonian structural-functionalist who initially thought that British Columbia was a small country somewhere in colonialist Africa and, a little later on, that Canada too celebrated its independence on July 4th. I was bound for Canada and UBC largely because my wife was a Canadian, Vietnam was raging (I hadn’t made up my mind about that conflict until I was mistakenly drafted and almost lost my student deferment), Ronald Reagan, then the Governor of California, declared a hiring freeze, which ruled out my preferred academic destination, and Tom Bottomore became too busy with percolating student rebellion at SFU to resume a timely correspondence with me before I, wisely it turned out, accepted Harry Hawthorn’s invitation to join this faculty.

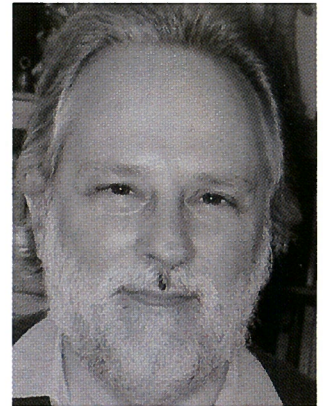
My introduction to Department

life began when I stopped in my wife’s home town on the way to Vancouver and taught a summer course in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. The Head of the Department was a disenchanted Harvard graduate who preferred to lecture mainly about dogs and baseball to his Sociology classes. On my second day, he stepped into my office for an obligatory chat, then, out of the blue, asked me if I wouldn’t mind finding out, while I was teaching the summer course, why so many of his students and colleagues hated him. I muttered something equivalent to “I’ll do my best”, and then did my best to avoid any further encounters with him.

My introduction to Department culture at UBC was no less disturbing. I arrived in time to assist student registration early that September. At the registration desk, I met the senior Sociologist in the Department who quickly told me that based on his recent

writings, my mentor at Yale had, to quote, “gone off the deep end”. This remark put me on a state of red alert that lasted until I got tenure five years later. To my consternation, I also discovered, after meeting most of the colonialist expatriate faculty, that my Brooklyn accent wasn’t quite as charming and distinguished as I had imagined.

There were several other new hirings the year I arrived. Most of us were from Ivy League institutions, a cycle now shamelessly repeating itself, Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Cornell, with throw-ins from Berkeley and Oregon. To my paradigmatic horror, almost no one shared the same sociological perspective, which meant either the promise of mutual enrichment or collegial fratricide. Predictably, it was the latter, although not before innovative efforts were made to keep all the balls in the air ---survey research, ethnomethodology, experimental small groups sociology, social



Robert Ratner, Professor Emeritus Sociology

See page 5 History



Becki Ross

A cautionary tale, this inquiry will shed light on the historical, socio-legal, spatial, and ideological conditions that coalesced two decades ago to normalize the harassment, violence, and murder of sex workers.

“The Expulsion of Sex Workers from Vancouver’s West End, 1975-1985: A Cautionary Tale” by Becki Ross

Long reputed to be the “prostitution capital of Canada,” Vancouver has been at the centre of legal and political debate, policing, media analysis, and policy-making for more than a century. Most recently, international news stories have focused on the disappearance and murder of close to seventy sex workers in the city. Criminologist John Lowman (1989) argues that these brutal murders date back to the mid-1970s when the city’s prostitutes were forced out of relatively safe hotels and nightclubs onto more and more dangerous streets.

From 1975 to 1985 - arguably the most pivotal yet under-studied decade in the regulation of outdoor prostitution in Vancouver’s history - a heterogeneous community of male, female, and transgender prostitutes lived and worked on-and-around Davie Street in the city’s West End. Their presence sparked a vigorous backlash, including vigilante action, from multiple stake-holders intent on transforming the port town into a “world class city” and venerable host of Expo 1986.

The objectives of this research are three-fold: 1) to examine the abolitionist strategies adopted by Vancouver’s residents’ groups, business owners, city politicians, provincial legislators, and police to criminalize prostitution and purge prostitutes from the West End; 2) to analyze the role played by

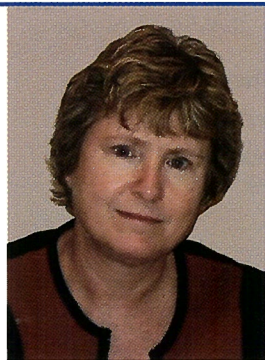
mainstream media in fuelling a “discourse of disposal” to justify the purge of “throwaways” and 3) to recover and document the heretofore unrecorded experiences of marginalized, West End sex workers who, in 1984, were forcibly relocated to an isolated, industrial zone in Vancouver’s East End where they began to go “missing” in ever greater numbers.

Historicizing and contextualizing the erasure of this violent expulsion from popular memory, and from the physical spaces of the West End today, necessitates analysis of an extensive collection of archival and ethnographic, interview-based data. A cautionary tale, this inquiry will shed light on the historical, socio-legal, spatial, and ideological conditions that coalesced two decades ago to normalize the harassment, violence, and murder of sex workers.

The empirical, theoretical, and sociological implications of this research are manifold. It will contribute to our understanding of sex work as labour; by extension, it will deepen and expand scholarship that advances the destigmatization and decriminalization of sex workers locally and globally (Brock 1998, Benoit and Shaver 2006, Ehrenreich and Hochschild, 2004). In addition, it will inform current debates about the efficacy of solicitation laws in the Canadian Criminal Code, as

well as the provision of harm-reduction services to high risk people working in the sex industry. It will be timely on two significant fronts: 1) the trial of Coquitlam farmer Robert Pickton, charged with murdering twenty-six female sex workers in the largest serial murder case in Canada, began in January 2007; and 2) civic authorities are beginning to design and defend “clean-up” and “renewal” agendas (similar to those engineered for Vancouver’s Expo 1986, and for other large urban centres) in anticipation of welcoming the world to Vancouver/Whistler for the 2010 Winter Olympics (see Ruppert, 2006; Nelson, 2002; Cowley, 2005; Thomas, 1997). I contend that historical sociology is a potent yet under-utilized instrument for helping us make sense of the persisting, pernicious “whore stigma” and its all-too-often lethal consequences for people working in the sex industry.

Research findings will be relevant to scholars and non-academics concerned with work and labour; gender, sexuality, and transgender; social rights and justice; health and well-being; social movements; stigma, social inclusion, and marginalization. I anticipate my research will be valuable to disciplines of Sociology, Gender/Sexuality Studies, History, Geography, Law, and Cultural Studies.



Gillian Creese

Gillian Creese provides Expert Testimony

Professor Gillian Creese wrote an expert opinion and then testified in the fall of 2005 in a Human Rights Tribunal (Case Number 2157, Ralph Stopps versus Just Ladies Fitness).

Ralph Stopps wanted to join a women-only fitness club but lost his human rights argument after a tribunal concluded that ruling in

his favour would mean all women would be denied the ability to work out in an all-female location.

In November of 2006 the human rights ruling was released and it cites both from Gillian’s report and her testimony. Her expert opinion dealt with the broader context of power relations between women and men, the

prevalence of the “male gaze” as a form of power in public places, and “body image” issues among women, leading some women to choose a woman-only facility over a co-ed gym. The case was featured in both the Vancouver Sun and the Province, where her role was prominently noted.

History of the Department continued from page 3

ethnography, structural-functionalism, and comparative sociology. In a last-ditch effort to avoid internecine conflict, we devised three distinct Sociology programmes, described broadly as Group A – Quantitative, Group B – Qualitative, and Group C – Comparative. There was minimal interchange between these three programmes, and if students did not make the mistake of stepping outside their chosen bailiwick in the unwitting pursuit of knowledge they could survive the schisms with no damage other than a bad education. Of course, faculty who were unwilling to identify with one or the other group were regarded as 'naïve eclectics' and universally distrusted. The divisions took on some unexpected notoriety when, at an International Sociology Conference, a Polish sociologist tapped Roy Turner on the shoulder and asked, "Excuse me, Are you a member of Group A, Group B, or Group C?" Turner, though known for his quick wit, was utterly dumbfounded.

Later on, as developments proved overly rigid for undergraduate, if not graduate students, the Sociologists reluctantly concluded that the subdivisions were becoming too compartmentalized, so the programmes were dissolved in favour of a more traditional curriculum, which of course re-stirred dormant disputes.

But these laudable programmatic stratagems were eventually sidelined in the mid to late '70s by a Canadianization theme that was sweeping the country and Academe. Who was Canadian Academe for if not Canadians...or at least some Canadians? Arguments ensued about the lack of Canadian focus in the Sociology curriculum, the lack of Canadian-trained sociologists, and the need for immediate correctives. At a heated Department meeting, an American graduate student representative quarrelled with the pro-Canadianist views of Michael Ames (who, was, it

must be noted, trained at Harvard), and actually invited Mike to "step outside and settle their differences man-to-man". At which point, Harry Hawthorne interjected, "Just what is your fighting weight, Jim?" Good ol' Harry always had the felicitous phrase.

Before long, the pro-Canadian thrust moved to the back burner (and is currently off the stove altogether), to be replaced by a new thematic in the 80s and 90s led by a group of feminists who had slowly infiltrated the department and now formed a critical mass ready to explode each and every myth of masculinity and to make it unmistakably plain that the male faculty, with few exceptions, were consummate assholes...to use their term and that although we craved power, exercised it and hoarded it, we knew next to nothing about the relations of ruling. Some of us sought redemption by using large shoulder handbags in place of briefcases, but most just plugged the gender variable into any new research proposal in hopes of staving off the day of reckoning before retirement.

Has the feminist revolution also come and gone, as burgeoning institutes and research centres draw scholars together in multi-disciplinary bonds that mute epistemological disputes or render them null and void? Are the ghosts of Marxism still fluttering about, and can any meta-narrative survive the relativistic critique of post-modernism? Can the rediscovery of race and ethnicity provide enough theoretical scope to confer a new vision of human betterment or are we to be mired in endless discourses on the self-evident fact of social inequality?

I don't know. Who knows?

I do know that I would like to see a practice of Sociology that, minimally, does the following:

- A sociological practice that follows credible analysis with clear political choices and commitments, so that analysis is not misused or left to remain inconsequential.
- A sociological practice, in the current conjuncture, that rigorously exposes the inequalities and inequities generated by neo-liberal economic and social policies, and that refuses complicity in those policies.
- And to give one concrete instance, a sociological practice that actively resists the increasing monetary restrictions on access to post-secondary education.
- Also, and importantly, a sociological practice that upholds the primacy of the nation-state as agents in global transformation. Global governance still requires state compliance, and the democratic will of a people is suitably registered in prudential state authority.
- And though we be in an age of interdisciplinarity, a Sociology—and a Sociology Department—that continues to expand the Sociological corpus, that searches for core, distinctive concepts and theories intrinsic to an autonomous discipline of Sociology, and that retains the dream of a unified field theory of social relations stretching from the dyadic to the global.
- And a sociological practice that recognizes where we are, whom we serve, and who ought to be part of our enterprise—in other words, a Sociology—at least in part- of, for, and about Canada, and in which our own graduate students are treated as potentially worthy colleagues.

Long live the Department of Sociology. Free at last! Free at last!

Ratner hopes to see a Sociology Department that retains the dream of a unified field theory of social relations stretching from the dyadic to the global.

Publications by Emerita and Emeritus Professors of Sociology.

Chang, Yunshik (edited with Steven Lee) 2006 *Transformations in Twentieth Century Korea*. Routledge

Foschi, Martha. 2006. "On the Application-Files Design for the Study of Competence and Double Standards." *Sociological Focus* 39: 115-132.

Address Corrections

Please send any address corrections to the UBC Alumni Affairs Office at alumni.records@ubc.ca or by mail UBC Alumni Association, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Alumni: Where are they now?

Peter Wall Scholars

Three faculty members have been chosen for the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies Early Career UBC Scholars program for the 2007-2008 academic year. **Wendy Roth** and **Amy Hanser** have been selected in this year's cohort at the Junior Early Career Scholar level (Assistant Professor) and **Gerry Veenstra** has been selected at the Senior Early Career Scholar level (Associate Professor).

Tammy Brimner (1997) has an MA from UBC in Sociology. Tammy has been with Faculty Relations at UBC since 1997 and is currently the Senior Manager. Her areas of responsibility include faculty recruitment guidelines, immigration policies and procedures, interpretation of the Collective Agreement and policies for faculty, tenure and promotion, training/workshops and grievance handling.

Dr. Peter Urmutzer (1999) has a PhD in Sociology from UBC.

He is an Associate Professor, UBC, Okanagan and teaches intro, survey methods, and Canadian society. Over the years, his academic interests have consistently leaned towards the distribution of income and wealth. Peter's publications include two recent books; *Globalization Unplugged* (University of Toronto Press) and *From Free Trade to Forced Trade* (Penguin Press Canada). His interests go beyond sociology and encompass economics, philosophy, and political science.

Donovan Collins (1973) obtained a BA in sociology working closely with Martin Meissner and especially George Gray on urban sociology. Upon graduation, Don started work with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in their mortgage division and now runs his own independent business in Real Estate Appraising and Consulting. Located in Vancouver, his business interests have him traveling extensively in Western Canada.

The Graduate Student Council of Sociology: A Year of new beginnings

Lily Farris

This year marked the launch of the GSCS, an organization formed after the split of the anthropology and sociology departments and subsequent divide of the graduate student association. The sociology graduate students have risen to the challenge of developing a new organization and in the process we have accomplished a great deal. Below are some of the highlights from our first year as an organization:

The sociology graduate students established an annual interdisciplinary graduate conference this year. The title of our first conference is "Shifts, Ruptures and Dis-

sonances: Liminal Spaces of the Social," and will be held May 4th and 5th, 2007. We would like to invite Sociologists working throughout UBC or in the community at large to join us on the evening of May 4th for the inauguration of our conference and a keynote address by our very own Dr. Tom Kemple followed by wine and cheese in the ANSO faculty lounge. For more information, please visit <http://www.soci.ubc.ca/Conference.10313.0.html> Special recognition goes to Leamore Cohen and Bonar Buffam the co-chairs of this year's conference.

Profiles of all of the graduate students describing their academic interests and research experience were posted in order to introduce our amazing group of graduate students to the academic community. Now faculty, undergraduates and other graduate students can find our profiles either online (thank you Katy Anne Legun) or displayed near the front doors of the ANSO building (thank you Casson Brown). http://www.soci.ubc.ca/Student_Profiles.9818.0.html

A monthly social held with a steady turn out at various bars

See page 8 Grad Students

Undergraduate Student Notes

Elliot Holden President | Sociology Student Association

The 2006/2007 academic year has been one of exciting change for Sociology Undergraduates. Beginning with the official split of the former ANSO Department, the undergraduate student body was refreshed with a brand new student exec, with a very motivated work ethic and positive outlook for the future of the department.

This year the newly constituted Sociology Student Association (SSA) achieved record member-

ships among sociology students. Over 50 active members strong, the SSA has taken student involvement to new heights. On November 17th, 2006 the Department of Sociology and the SSA co-sponsored an Undergraduate and Alumni night, aimed at increasing Undergraduate-Alumni connectivity and awareness of career paths after graduation. This was coupled with a special presentation and discussion by chiefs Archie Pootlas and Les Sams; the

event was a great success (thanks Ralph Matthews). In the past, student governments at UBC have struggled with student apathy towards such events, but we were delighted to find that almost all of our registered members attended the event for at least some time. The feedback we received was nothing short of amazing. Immediately there was a surge of requests for further events and information, which we as the SSA strive to fulfill.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 3, 11:30-1:00 pm
AnSo Room 1305

Monica McDermott

(Stanford University)

Varieties of White Racial Identity

Scholarly analysis of white racial identity often assumes a uniformity of experience, one primarily rooted in whiteness as a privileged if guilt-inducing status. In this talk I will identify three distinct experiences of white racial identity: as perceived stigma, as privilege, and as an identity to be transcended.

Details of these experiences of whiteness are illustrated with three cases of working class areas with different racial profiles: Atlanta, Boston and Central Appalachia. The analysis is based upon

participant observation research as a convenience store clerk in Atlanta and Boston and on interviews and observations in Appalachia. Whites in Atlanta and Appalachia fail to see the privilege of whiteness, and instead feel stigmatized for being both white and poor. In Atlanta, whites respond with a defensive attack on blacks who assert racial victimization, while many Appalachian whites are rejecting their whiteness and proclaiming a mixed-race identity: Melungeon. Conversely, whites in Boston embrace a white identity as a marker of hard work, if not superiority.

The sources for this difference are rooted in the historical development of class, race and ethnicity in

the three areas, especially the relative concentrations of blacks and affluent whites in the three regions.

Tuesday, April 17, 11:30-1:00 pm
AnSo Room 1305

Gillian Creese, (Sociology UBC)

Brandy Wiebe, (PhD candidate in Sociology UBC)

Workshop: Migration, Gender, and Survival Work in Vancouver's African Community

Friday, September 7, 2007 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. UBC Sociology Meet **Katherine S. Newman**, Princeton sociologist, and discuss with her, her recent book, *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low-Wage Labor Market* (Harvard University Press, 2006).



Information about the Sociology Seminar Series may be found at: www.soci.ubc.ca/

Thank you to our generous donors

Recent UBC donations made by Sociology folk:

Maylen Ahoy
Cynthia Fell
Stacey Koss
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Neil Guppy
Patricia Marchak
Robert Ratner
Evan Soukas
Bruce Widman

Daisy Ching
George Kennedy
Janice Macrae
Andrew Rozen
Colette Storrow
Judy Yu

plus several anonymous donations

Congratulations

Among the many accomplishments of Department members, here are a few illustrations of successes:

Professor Gerry Veenstra has won a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research 'Senior Scholar Career Investigator Award', valued at \$500,000 over five years (2007-2012).

Kerry Watts, a fourth year honours student, earned the Kaspar Naegele undergraduate prize in Sociology and was named a distinguished UBC Westbrook Scholar.

Professor Ralph Matthews is one of fourteen members of the Ecosystem Based Management Working Group of the Province of British Columbia, a group jointly

chaired by the Province and First Nations.

Professor Dawn Currie is a UBC Killam Teaching Prize Winner 2007.

Professor Tom Kemple was awarded the Sociology Graduate Student Teaching Award, on March, 27, 2007.

We wish to acknowledge the generous donations of time and/or money made by members of our Sociology community.

Attention Sociology Alumni!

The Sociology Department would like to keep in touch with you electronically. With your email address we will be able to:

- send your newsletters via e-mail
- keep you informed about departmental events such as the Sociology Seminar Series

There is no cost, just reply to us at ansohead@interchange.ubc.ca

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Grad Students continued from page 6

and restaurants around Vancouver including the Banana Leaf (thank you Andrea Streilein). If any faculty or alumni would like to join us at any of these events we would welcome an email: soci-grads@interchange.ubc.ca

With examples from other departments in hand we developed a new constitution for the GSCS. We now have a set of procedures approved by graduate students, through which to elect new members, pass motions and approach official business (thank you to Rachel Sullivan, Ben Cushing, and Lily Farris).

This year also marked the launch of the Sociology Graduate Student Teaching Award to honour faculty who exhibited exemplary teaching at the graduate level. The recipient this year is Professor Tom Kemple.

Graduate students were represented in many settings this year including department meetings and hiring committees (thank you Ben Cushing, Rachel Sullivan, Bonar Buffam and Jackie Shoemaker Holmes).

In addition to all of the other activities graduate students are involved in a new group developed

in the past year: the Sociology MA Thought Collective. Founded specifically as a forum to address the needs of MA students, this developed as a complement to the PhD Springboards. Special thanks to Shelly Ketchell who helped organize mock thesis defenses, peer editing exchanges, and critical dialogue on thesis work at the MA level.

As this academic year comes to a close we have a great deal to celebrate as an organization. Thank you to all faculty, staff and students who have helped to improve the experience of sociology graduate students.