Department News

WHAT’S UP IN THE DEPARTMENT?

Well, it is the end of another successful academic year. And this has been an especially interesting one, with a historical presidential race that included Hillary Clinton as the first woman endorsed for candidacy and resulted in the election of Donald Trump. Sociology courses are ripe for discussing these politics, and I know our undergraduates have appreciated the space to talk about the social issues that continue to emerge on a national stage.

I am happy to report our graduate students continue to do innovative research, be published and present at conferences. Below, we detail conference presentations and research from this past year, as well as the awards our students have received from the College of Liberal Arts and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program to support their dissertation efforts.

Our faculty have been busy, with recent books from Dr. Darren Sherkat and myself. Dr. J.-P. Reed used his sabbatical to get a jumpstart on his own book, and everyone has been writing and publishing. Our faculty had a strong showing at both the Southern Sociological Society conference, as well as the Midwest Sociological Society conference. Our own Dr. Sherkat has been nominated for SSS president! Continue reading for a list of our faculty’s impressive work.

Here’s to another great year from SIUC Sociology!

-Kristen Barber, Assistant Professor
“CHANGING FAITH” BY DR. DARREN SHERKAT

“More than anywhere else in the Western world, religious attachments in America are quite flexible, with over 40 percent of U.S. citizens shifting their religious identification at least once in their lives. In Changing Faith, Darren E. Sherkat draws on empirical data from large-scale national studies to provide a comprehensive portrait of religious change and its consequences in the United States.

With analysis spanning across generations and ethnic groups, the volume traces the evolution of the experience of Protestantism and Catholicism in the United States, the dramatic growth of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, and the rise of non-identification, now the second most common religious affiliation in the country. Drawing on that wealth of data, it details the impact of religious commitments on broad arenas of American social life, including family and sexuality, economic well-being, political commitments, and social values.

Exploring religious change among those of European heritage as well as of Eastern and Western European immigrants, African Americans, Asians, Latin Americans, and Native Americans, Changing Faith not only provides a comprehensive and ethnically inclusive demographic overview of the juncture between religion and ethnicity within both the private and public sphere, but also brings empirical analysis back to the sociology of religion.”


“...religious attachments in America are quite flexible, with over 40 percent of U.S. citizens shifting their religious identification at least once in their lives.” (Changing Faith, Sherkat)

REVIEW FOR “CHANGING FAITH”

“Darren Sherkat’s Changing Faith is an interesting and valuable... book. [...] Changing Faith is worth reading, debating, and teaching.”

—American Journal of Sociology

"Sherkat’s study undermines the popular claim that while fewer Americans have a formal religious identification, they nevertheless retain many of the trappings of religious belief and personal practice."

—Choice

“Changing Faith is a well-written, compelling book. By illustrating the importance of demographic factors in understanding religions in the United States today, Changing Faith is an important book with which all sociologists of religion should be familiar.”

—Sociology of Religion

DR. WILLIE PEARSON, JR., SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Four undergraduate students majoring in Sociology have been awarded the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Excellence in Sociology scholarship for 2016-17: Luccinny Melendez-Gomez, Kaitlynn Miner, Emily Staniec, and Michael Wilson. Each recipient received $738.54 for the Spring 2017 semester.

This award is funded by a generous gift from Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., to promote academic excellence in the field of sociology and to benefit students pursuing studies in sociology. Dr. Pearson earned his Ph.D. at SIUC in 1981; and in 1993, he was awarded the College of Liberal Arts’ Alumni Achievement Award. He is a professor of sociology and former chair in the School of History, Technology and Society at Georgia Institute of Technology. He specializes in the sociology of science and sociology of the family and is the author or co-editor of eight books and monographs and numerous articles and chapters.

The award is open to all applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status and is chosen by a selection committee.

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients!
WHAT’S UP WITH OUR GRAD STUDENTS?

Our graduate students have been busy. Here is a brief list of some of the exciting things happening in the department:

Debaleena Ghosh:


Debaleena will also be presenting a co-authored paper, titled “Cultural Tokenism: The Effects of Gender, Race, and Ethnicity for Immigrant Women at Work,” with Dr. Barber in August at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada. She also has a book review forthcoming in Gender & Society of “Iron Dads: Managing Family, Work, and Endurance Sport Identities” by Diane Tracy Cohen.

Debadatta Chakraborty:

Trisha Crawshaw:
Forthcoming publication—"Girls Rock the Stage and Smash the Patriarchy," ASA publication, Contexts—Summer Issue, highlighting her dissertation research on feminism, mentoring, and young girls.

Amanda Patrick:


Neeraja Kolloju:

Neeraja is also collaborating with Dr. Barber and Dr. Kelsy Kretschmer on a paper titled “Walking for Women: Men and the Gendered Politics of India’s Slut Walks.”

GRAD STUDENT AWARDS

Several of our graduate students have been recognized for their hard work and scholarly contributions and have received the following prestigious awards:

SIUC’s Dissertation Research Assistantship Award:
Derek Lehman
(Fall 2017 & Spring 2018)
Debaleena Ghosh
(Fall 2017)

The Elizabeth Eames Women’s Studies Graduate Scholarship:
Trisha Crawshaw

Marlene Rotbart Matten Academic Excellence in Health Research Award:
Ann Johnson

The 5th Annual SIU WGSS Conference Grad Student Paper Presenter Award:
Amanda Patrick

Congratulations to all our award winners and keep up the good work!
A FOCUS ON FACULTY

Our faculty have been doing some pretty amazing things this past year. Here’s a snapshot of what they’ve been focusing on:

**Dr. Kristen Barber:**


*Styling Masculinity* was honored with an Author-Meets-Critic session at the Southern Sociological Society conference in Greenville, South Carolina, 2017.


**Dr. Jessica Crowe:**

2016-2021 Collaborative Research: Upper Delta Region Biodiversity Scholarship, S-STEM Program at NSF (total awarded: $4,781,097; SIU awarded, $1,600,837).


2016-Present Co-chair of Community Rural Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society

2016-Present Co-chair of Teaching and Learning Rural Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society

2016-2017 Chair-elect of Development Committee, Rural Sociological Society

**Dr. William Danaher:**


“Songs in the Canadian Women’s Movement: A Comparison Across Three Sub-groups.” With Kelsy Kretschmer (Oregon State) and Jason Eastman (Coastal Carolina), Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, 2017.


Christina J. Whaley


SOCIOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES

The 2016/17 school year was a very busy year also for brown bag series speakers. Here is a listing of all the presenters on campus this past year:

J.-P. Reed, Associate Professor of Sociology, SIUC Sabbatical Lecture, 9/21/16: “The Bible, Religious Story-telling and Revolution: The Case of Solentiname, Nicaragua.”

Barbara Risman, Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois Chicago, 10/21/16: “Marriage and Relationships: What do the Millennials Want?”

Amy McDowell, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Mississippi, 11/2/16: “Aggressive and Loving: Evangelical Masculinity and Male Bonding in Christian Hardcore Punk.”

Adia Harvey Wingfield, Professor of Sociology, Washington University in St. Louis, 2/1/17: “The Post-Racial Workplace: Black Health Care Professionals in the New Economy.”

Rudy Ray Seward, SIU M.A., 1969, Ph.D., 1974, and Professor Emeritus at the Department of Sociology, University of North Texas, 2/22/17: “Impact of SIUC International Exchanges of Sociology Faculty and Students Initiated in 1967: Expanding Networks and Enhancing Careers.”

Elena Windsong, Lecturer, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, SIUC, 3/8/17: “Neighborhood Activities and Motherhood: Gendering the Systemic Model of Community.”

Chris Wienke, Associate Professor of Sociology, SIUC, Sabbatical Lecture, 4/5/17: “Saying ‘I do’ Again and Again: An Exploration of How Serially Married and Cohabiting Men and Women Understand Their Marital and Relationship Biographies.”

Lisa Wade, Associate Professor of Sociology, Occidental College, 4/24/17: “American Hookup: the New Culture of Sex on Campus.”

Stay tuned for a listing of the speakers we can expect in the upcoming 2017/18 school year.

AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Congratulations to Debadatta Chakraborty on her acceptance to the doctoral program at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. We’re going to miss her but wish her the best!

Dr. Crowe and family welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Nova Mae, on April 27th. Nova joins big brothers Shannon, 9, and Layne, 5, and has already attended her first faculty meeting!

Doctoral candidate Annie Johnson and her wife, Andrea, will be welcoming baby Layla in mid-August. The department recently celebrated with a baby shower, complete with giraffes and cupcakes!