This has been a year of change in our Department. Elizabeth Comack completed her term as Department Head on December 31, 2012. After five years of strong and creative leadership, the Department faced the reality that, because of heavy research commitments, those prepared to take up the Headship were not immediately available to do so. Faculty members collectively worked to develop a strategy that would ensure the important administrative support would be intact and so Rick Linden and I agreed to take turns in the role of Acting Head until the next Head would take up the position on July 1, 2014. The Headship Search Committee will get underway in the New Year. Taking on the responsibility of Acting Head for six months after many years away from this position quickly reminded me of how important this work is and how effective Elizabeth had been in attending to the details, championing our cause, and supporting the self-reflexive renewal the Department achieved under her supportive leadership.

There have been changes in our faculty complement this year. Chris Powell has left us to take up a position at Ryerson University. We thank him for his important contributions to our Department and wish him well on the next phase of his career. After forty-four years of service, Wayne Taylor has retired from the University. We thank him for his significant contribution to the development and the direction of Research Ethics Boards for the university community and wish him the best in his retirement. Mary-Anne Kandrack, who has been a very successful Sociology sessional instructor for several years, has now secured a continuing position at the rank of Instructor II. We also welcome (see next page) Annette Desmarais who has been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice, and Food Sovereignty. We are delighted to have her join us. Mara Fridell has also joined the Department and adds to our strength in Theory and Global Sociology. Lori Wilkinson is returning from her Associate Dean of Arts position to take up a major grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, leading a team of academics and community-based organizations in the examination of the initial settlement experiences of immigrants in Canada. We are glad to have her back in the Department. The Department underwent an undergraduate program review this past year. Russell Smandyche guided the review process and ensured that the external reviewers — Terry Wotherspoon (Saskatchewan), Patrizia Albanese (Ryerson), and Karen Busby (UM Law) — received all the information and support they needed to conduct this important undertaking. Their report provided us with a very positive review of our program and offered many thoughtful suggestions on how to enhance what they found to be a very healthy undergraduate program. These recommendations are now under review in the Department.

Also significant this fall is the launching of the new Criminology Honours Program. Interest in this program is high among students and we are excited to have this important addition to our Criminology curriculum.

So the level of activity associated with teaching and research in the Department continues unabated and the infusion of new strengths and directions will contribute to our positive collective enterprise.

Rod Kueneman, Acting Head

Past Events
September 6: Graduate & Honours Orientation
September 27 and October 4th: Feeding and Growing Your Academic Career: Applying for Funding
November 15: The CV Doctor is In
November 27: Public Lecture and Discussion with Leo Panitch. "Understanding American Empire: The Canadian Model for Governing Global Capitalism." 7 PM, Hotel Fort Garry, Club Room (lower level)

2014 Winter Grad Committee Events

HEAD NOTES

How to Contact Us:
Visit the Sociology Office, 318 Isbister Building, phone us at 204-474-9260 [toll free: 1-800-432-1960 ext 9260], or visit our website: www.umanitoba.ca/sociology

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2013
In July 2013 Annette Aurélie Desmarais joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Manitoba where she will pursue research and teaching on human rights, social justice and food sovereignty. Annette is the author of La Vía Campesina: Globalization and the Power of Peasants (2007), which has been published in French, Spanish, Korean, Italian and Portuguese. She also co-edited Food Sovereignty: Reconnecting Food, Nature and Community (2010) and Food Sovereignty in Canada: Creating Just and Sustainable Food Systems (2011). Prior to obtaining her doctorate in geography, Annette was a small-scale cattle and grain farmer in Canada for fourteen years. She also worked as technical support to La Via Campesina for a decade and continues to conduct participatory research with the movement.

Selected Recent Publications


Students from Building A Community Commons: Urban Permaculture in Practice, along with Instructor Rod Kueneman and teaching assistant Sarah Carson.

Mara Fridell is a political sociologist and political economist specializing in comparative research and theory from a historical-materialist perspective. She earned her Ph.D. at the Department of Sociology at the University of Oregon, prior to which she earned an MA in Sociology from the University of New Mexico while simultaneously training in complex ecology through the National Science Foundation. Since moving to Manitoba, she has gained experience in participatory and collaborative research projects, having worked in partnership with Manitoba Community Economic Development, gender equity, and First Nations organizations. She has also worked on provincial and comparative education policy. Mara’s current research program investigates factors enabling and constraining social democratic politics in Scandinavia in comparison with the Anglosphere, comparative immigration policy in Canada and Sweden, elite-driven social movements and elite theory, and Fair Trade, Community Economic Development, public provisioning and complementary alternative-economy social movements.

Selected Recent Publications

Meet the Graduate Students: An Interview with Rachell Dolynchuk

Rachell, a recent graduate of the M.A. program, speaks about her experience at the UM Sociology Department.

Q: What was your experience like in the Master’s program?

A: I found the work rewarding and challenging. It was so gratifying to apply what I was learning in my coursework to what I was doing as a research assistant. I was able to see a research project through from its brainstorming stage to finally presenting our findings at academic conferences. Along the way I was able to learn so much from my professor, my peers and the people who graciously participated in our research.

Q: How did the courses you took help you in attempting to achieve the goals that you set for yourself in your program?

A: I was among those who delighted in Quantitative Social Analysis during my undergraduate coursework. Because of that, I made it my goal to advance my quantitative analysis skills while working on my graduate degree. When I was finally interviewing for jobs, I had so many examples to draw from that showed I had experience cleaning and analyzing large amounts of data. Refuse to downplay the skills and work experience you acquire during your time as a student.

Q: What was your MA project about, and how did you go about finding a faculty advisor to work with?

A: I had known for some time that I wanted to learn as much as I could from my advisor Lori Wilkinson during my limited time as a graduate student. I chose my advisor first, and then chose a topic and a data source that would be a good fit for both of us. My project included topics like immigration, aging and mental health. I gained experience working with a large Statistics Canada dataset, which prepared me in many ways for the work I am doing now.

Q: Are you planning to go on and do a Ph.D.? If so, how well do you think the MA program at the UM has prepared you for Ph.D. studies?

A: I am not planning to go on and do a Ph.D. at this time, however it’s not because I feel ill-prepared. If I decide to work towards a Ph.D., I’ll do so with confidence in my training.

Q: Two things that can make or break a student’s experience are the student culture in the department and peer support. What was your experience with these during your time in the Sociology Department as an undergraduate and graduate student?

A: A large part of writing a thesis involves sitting alone in front of a computer, so it’s easy to neglect becoming involved in university communities. I often felt that I didn’t have enough time for other things in my life, and this was incorrect. When my personal life began affecting my ability to get my work done (as it always does—count on that), the fact that I had somewhat isolated myself made it more difficult for me to reach out to those who could help me. While there is a temptation to view our peers as competitors for awards, the top grade, research assistant positions, etc., I did not feel this was the overarching attitude in our department. In the end I learned that it was worthwhile to lighten up a little bit and that we were all supporting each other and going through similar struggles. I made some enduring friendships, and the difficulties and laughter that I shared with people in my cohort are the memories that will last long after my diploma is pushed to the back of the bookshelf.

Q: What do you see yourself doing with your future career as a sociologist?

A: Though I have only been employed in my current position for six months, I can already see the value that someone with a background in sociology can bring to an environment where there are people from many different educational disciplines working as a team. I have excellent analytical skills, an understanding of research ethics, and a keen sense of social justice. I look forward to becoming more involved in my community and in volunteer positions as well.

“...the difficulties and laughter that I shared with people in my cohort are the memories that will last long after my diploma is pushed to the back of the bookshelf.”

Q: What words of wisdom might you have for students considering graduate work in Sociology?

A: Karl was not joking—the work you do in graduate school can be alienating, especially when close friends and family members do not understand or support your choice to pursue graduate work. Do not fail to participate in activity that nourishes your sociological imagination, whether that’s reading poetry for the joy of it, gardening, protesting or paintball.
**Student Accomplishments**

The Practicum in Criminological and Sociological Research was again offered in 2012-13 and coordinated by Mary-Anne Kandrack. The students pictured above gained valuable experience in the research process and successfully completed projects with the RCMP D Division, NEEDS, Inc., John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Societies, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Housing.

**RECENT AWARDS**

Catherine Taylor was awarded a SSHRC - Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Masters Graduate Scholarship.

Daniel Levin received the Headship Fund Award
Faculty of Arts Graduate Award and the Carolynne Boivin Bursary.

Janine Bramadat received the Faculty of Graduate Studies Special Award.

Jenna Jones was awarded a Manitoba Graduate Scholarship.

Jill Bucklaschuk received a Manitoba Graduate Scholarship, the Faculty of Arts J G. Fletcher Award, the Canadian Japanese Mennonite Scholarship, and the Carla Thorkalson Graduate Fellowship.

Joseph Asomah received the Sociology Graduate Student Entrance Scholarship.

Mariah Baldwin received the Carolynne Boivin Bursary.

Natalia Ilyniak received a SSHRC - Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Masters Graduate Scholarship.

Palak Dhiman received a SSHRC - Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Masters Graduate Scholarship.

Ryan Coulling received a Faculty of Arts Graduate Award.

Scott McCulloch was awarded a Manitoba Graduate Scholarship

Shauna Zinnick received the Honours Book Award

Zoé St. Aubin received the Faculty of Arts J G. Fletcher Award and the Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research.

**2012-13 HONOURS THESES**

Jon Bilan. “As Real as it Gets; An Analysis of Brand Management Strategies and Cultural Mythologies of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)” (D. Spencer, advisor)

Ryan Catte. “The Thin Blue Line,’ Memorialisation, and a Closed Door: An Investigation of the Winnipeg Police Museum” (D. Spencer, advisor)

Tracey Corner. “The Open Method of Coordination, Civic Literacy and Europe 2020: Improving the Quality of Life of European Citizens” (M. Hudson, advisor)

Oluwatosin Daodu. “Aboriginal Youth Gangs in Manitoba: Prevention and Evaluation” (R. Smandych, advisor)

James Gacek. “‘What is the Truth?: Assessing the Adequacy of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions for the Reconstruction of Post-Conflict Societies” (A. Woolford, advisor)

Jill Patterson. “Is Canada Becoming More Punitieve?: A Discourse Analysis of the Safe Streets and Communities Act” (D. Spencer, advisor)

Matthew Sanscartier. “Food Fit for Royalty: Corporate Cohesion, Power, and the Decline of Canadian Food Sovereignty?” (M. Hudson, advisor)

**2012 M.A. THESIS**

Evan Bowness (M.A.) “Racialized Policing in Winnipeg: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Online Comments” (E. Comack, advisor)

Matthew Giesbrecht (M.A.) “Canadian Corporate Criminal Liability in Workplace Fatalities: Evaluating Bill C-45” (R. Linden, advisor)

Mark Hanly (M.A.) “Nodal Governance and Security Provision: The University of Manitoba Security Service” (R. Linden, advisor)

Carly Johnston (M.A.) “Government as Learnaucracy: Learning and Performance in a Canadian Public Sector Organization” (R. Linden, advisor)

Brianna Messina (M.A.) “Gender and Social Policy: An Examination of Four Welfare States” (G. Olsen, advisor)

Charles Mulvenna (M.A.) “Orienting Terrorism: Representations of Terrorism in ‘the West’” (C. Powell, advisor)

Ashley Pearson (M.A.) “An Evaluation of Winnipeg’s Electronic Monitoring Pilot Project for Youth Auto Theft Offenders” (R. Linden, advisor)

Nicholas Sasaki (M.A.) “An Evaluation of Food Security in Manitoba: An Issue of Sustainable Supply” (R. Kueneman, advisor)

**Where are they now? Keeping tabs on our graduates**

Rana Bokhari is now the leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba

Evan Bowness is currently teaching in the UM Sociology Department.

Matthew Giesbrecht is a Consumer Services Officer at the Consumer Protection Office with the Government of Manitoba.

Brianne Goertzen (Messina) is now working as the Campaigns Coordinator of the Canadian Federation of Students, Manitoba

Carly Johnston is the Executive Director for Disability Programs and Early Learning and Child Care, Manitoba Family Services and Labour (Province of Manitoba)

Charles Mulvenna is now a Broker at Colliers International, specializing in Retail Leasing and Development.

Carly Sacco works for Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries as a Research Analyst.
Letter to the Sociology Department Head

I am writing in order to give a sincere thanks to the Sociology program at the University of Manitoba. I was enrolled in the undergraduate honours program last year from September 2010 to April 2011. I have since moved to Ottawa to obtain my Masters of Sociology degree at Carleton University. My first year in graduate school has been very successful and I know I owe a lot of thanks to the hard working people who each played a role in my preparation for graduate school. Although my courses this year were intense and competitive, I found the year to be enjoyable and stress-free due to the skills I had already acquired during my honours year.

The honours sociology program at the University of Manitoba is truly a unique experience that prepares a student for graduate work and academic life, not just in terms of skills for study but also coping and stress mechanisms and time management. I firmly believe that my current success has much to do with the wonderful experience I had in the honours program. Specifically I must thank the outstanding professors who assisted in my education: Gregg Olsen, Chris Powell, and Mark Hudson. I also owe gratitude to the wonderful support staff for all of their assistance in applications and course registrations.

In short; please do not change a thing. The program is wonderful, and I hope more universities adopt the same system of preparation for success.

With gratitude,
Tiffany Hall

Awards and Recognition

Donna Alexiuk, Dianne Bulback, and Margaret Currie received the Team Contribution Award, Faculty of Arts.

Lance Roberts was the recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. H.H. Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Rick Linden received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Christopher Fries received the Faculty Access Award from Student Affairs.

Faculty Activities

2012 BOOKS


**2012 JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS**


Fries, C. J. “Ethnicity and the Use of “Accepted” and “Rejected” Complementary/Alternative Medical Therapies in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Community Health Survey”. In J. J. Kronenfeld (ed.). Research in the Sociology of Health Care (30).


Walby, K., & D. Spencer. “Shiri (A mass spectrometer) and the Emotional Climate of an Earth Sciences Department.” In D. Spencer, K. Walby and A. Hunt (eds.), Emotions Matter: A Relational Approach to Emotions. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.


2012 RESEARCH REPORTS & OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY


2012 CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Albas D. & C. Albas. “Aces and Bombers: In Student Life and Everyday Life” Presented at the University of North Dakota, College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Speaker Series, Grand Forks, ND, February


Albas D. & C. Albas. “University Examinations and Family Life: An Exercise in Cooperation and Conflict” Presented at The European Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Erasmus University, Rotterdam Netherlands, July 4-6.


Bookman, S. “Urban Brands, Culture and Social Division: Creativity, Tension and Differentiation among Middle Class Consumers.” Invited paper presented to Symbolic Power and Urban Inequality: Taking Bourdieu to Town Research Seminar. Hosted by the York European Centre for Cultural Exploration and the Centre for Urban Research, York University, York, UK.

Comack, E. “Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People’s Encounters with the Police” Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice Studies, University of Manitoba, October 19.

Comack, E. “Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People’s Encounters with the Police.” Invited presentation at the University of Winnipeg Inner-City and Urban Studies Program, April 19.


Driedger, L. “Mennonites: From Separatist to Engaged Rights.” Paper read at the “Mennonites and Human Rights” conference, held at the University of Winnipeg, October 18-20, 2012.

2012 RESEARCH REPORTS & OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY


Funk, L.M. “Meaning-making and managing difficult feelings: death, dying and the provision of front-line end of life care in residential settings.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.

Funk, L.M. “The Manitoba Caregiver Recognition Act: implementation and evaluation through the Caregiver Policy Lens.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.


Peter, T. “You can’t break… when you are already broken?” A university-based study of prevalence and risk/protective factors for suicidality among sexual minority youth. Summit on LGBTQ youth suicide, Toronto, May.


Roberts, L. Keynote presentation “Teaching Digital Natives” at Inspired Teaching Symposium, Fostering Conversations about Teaching Sociology in Canada”, Toronto, Sponsored by Nelson Publishing.


Ursel, J. “The Winnipeg Family Violence Court: Lessons Learned and Ongoing Challenges.” Canadian Sociological Association meetings, Waterloo University, June 2.


Woolford, A. “Boarding Schools, Genocide and Redress in North America”, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico, February 24.

Woolford, A. B. Stuart and C. Morgan. Panel discussion on Restorative Justice at Justice in a Post Bill C-10 World: Restitution vs. Restoration, May. 29.


Woolford, A. “Discipline, Territory, and the Colonial Mesh: Boarding/Residential Schools in the US and Canada,” Native Studies Colloquium, University of Manitoba, November


Woolford, A., L. Wilkinson, J. Wilson, and E. LaRoque. “We Need to Talk about Racism,” Visionary Conversations Series, September 12, 2012, U of M.

2012 RESEARCH GRANTS


Funk, L. (P.I) (2012). Volunteers and Paid Companions: Supporting Older Adults in In-Patient and Residential Settings. Research Fellowship, Centre on Aging, U of M. $9,605


Woolford, A., A. Muller, S. Sinclair (2012). SSHRC Bridge-Funding, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba, $5000.


2012 BOOK REVIEWS


NEW BOOKS FOR 2013


With the advent of Aboriginal street gangs such as Indian Posse, Manitoba Warriors, and Native Syndicate, Winnipeg garnered a reputation as the “gang capital of Canada.” Yet beyond the stereotypes of outsiders, little is known about these street gangs and the factors and conditions that have produced them. “Indians Wear Red” locates Aboriginal street gangs in the context of the racialized poverty that has become entrenched in the colonized space of Winnipeg’s North End. Drawing upon extensive interviews with Aboriginal street gang members as well as with Aboriginal women and elders, the authors develop an understanding from “inside” the inner city and through the voices of Aboriginal people — especially street gang members themselves.


Contrary to mid-twentieth century predictions, ethnic pluralism has increased dramatically in North America and significantly in Europe. Neither the post 9/11 emphasis on international border security nor anti-immigration and anti-multiculturalism movements have affected the fifty year trend of increasing labour mobility and sustained levels of migration. The ethnic pluralism accompanying this powerful trend has fueled academic research and public debate.

Multicultural Variations includes national reports describing each of the six countries under investigation and is book-ended by introductory and concluding chapters that present a new understanding of and synthesis on multiculturalism that is distinct from either enthusiastic support or ideological critiques.

*Fighting Scholars* brings to the fore the ethnographic study of combat sports and martial arts as a means of exploring embodied human existence. The book’s main claim is that such activities represent privileged grounds to access different social dimensions, such as emotion, violence, pain, gender, ethnicity and religion. In order to explore these dimensions, the concept of ‘habitus’ is presented prominently as an epistemic remedy for the academic distant gaze of the effaced academic body. The different contributions of this volume are aligned within the same project that began to crystallize in Loïc Wacquant’s *Body and Soul*: the construction of a ‘carnal sociology’ that constitutes an exploration of the social world ‘from’ the body.


Is fair trade a radical movement aiming to transform global systems of production and exchange, or is it a marketing niche that delivers small benefits to Southern farmers and a clean conscience to Northern consumers? Schisms currently opening between the US-based Fair Trade USA and the rest of the international fair trade movement are reflective of this choice. This book evaluates the extent to which fair trade is likely to be a transformative movement. The authors show that fair trade’s most significant, and threatened, contribution is its potential to reveal to otherwise ‘blinded’ consumers the qualitative aspects of labour and nature embodied in commodities. Integrating insights from economic and sociological theory and research, the book sheds new light on this potential of the movement, its role in producing social change, and, given the recent strategic trajectory of the movement, the serious problems it now faces.
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