Upcoming Events

Andrew Woolford will launch his book, This Benevolent Experiment: Indigenous Boarding Schools, Genocide, and Redress in Canada and the United States at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park on Wednesday September 30 at 7 pm.

Trine Øland, University of Copenhagen, "Public Welfare Work Addressing Immigrants and Refugees in Denmark: A differentiated and differentiating social and symbolic practice." Monday, September 28 at noon in 335 Isbister.

Karen Busby, Adam Muller and Andrew Woolford will be launching their edited book, The Idea of a Human Rights Museum at McNally Robinson Booksellers on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm.

HEAD NOTES

In the past year we lost our colleague Nick Tavuchis. Nick was a scholar noted for his book, Mea Culpa: A Sociology of Apology and Reconciliation, a dedicated grammarian, and an unforgettable fixture in our department from 1975 to his retirement in 1999. But we were able to celebrate the retirement of another well-loved colleague this year, Rod Kueneman. In addition to his dedication to teaching, Rod had the misfortune of occupying the headship for several years and is a living testament to those of us currently saddled with the position that one can survive and go on to lead a happy life.

We also celebrated Dianne Bulback’s 30th year at the U of M. As an administrative assistant Dianne goes beyond the call of duty, and beyond normal work hours, to deal with all of the budgetary and travel issues that arise in the department. No matter how busy she is her door is always open for problem solving whatever new crisis arises. Such crises can range, at least in my experience, from caring for a sick colleague to ensuring our infrastructure is in order. Working in close harmony with our other support staff, Margaret Currie and Donna Alexiuk, Dianne keeps the Sociology ship on a steady course.

Congratulations also to Laura Funk for winning the prestigious Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation Award in the social science area, to Susan Prentice for her receipt of the Réseau action femmes Manitoba, Prix Réseau – Volet Communautaire, and to Lori Wilkinson for her receipt of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Research Fellowship.

Finally, as a supervisor rather than head, I’d like to single out Amanda Nelund, who secured a tenure-track job at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta. More so than any grant or publication, seeing this talented student find well-earned and gainful employment was the happiest moment of my year.

Andrew Woolford

How to Contact Us:

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In Memorium:
Nicholas Tavuchis

Born on November 2, 1934 in Astoria, Queens, New York, Nicholas Tavuchis passed away on April 4, 2015.

Nick earned his B.A. from Columbia College in 1955. After serving in the U.S. Army, he settled into graduate study in Sociology, earning his Masters in 1961 and PhD in 1968 from Columbia University. In 1966 Nick took up a position in the Sociology Department at Cornell University. He joined the U of M Sociology Department in 1975, where he taught until his retirement in 1999.

Nick was an accomplished scholar, a meticulous critic, and master of the English language. His scholarship is best exemplified by his book *Mea Culpa: A Sociology of Apology and Reconciliation* (1991, Stanford University Press), which sits at the forefront of the contemporary study of apology and reconciliation. Described in the *American Journal of Sociology* as an “important” and “wonderful” book, *Mea Culpa* is the first intensive study of the sociology of apology. It has been cited by hundreds of authors, taught in countless courses, and remains essential reading for scholars interested in apology and reconciliation as social phenomena.

Nick was a dedicated teacher who spent an inordinate amount of time commenting on his students’ written work. He was also generous in offering his editorial skills to Department members and other scholars. He will be especially remembered for his legendary sense of humour.

Nick is survived by Bess, his wife and partner of 54 years, his sons Alexander (Laura) and Christopher (Shelagh), and four grandchildren (Athena, Nicholas Maxwell, Thalia, and Anthea). He will be missed.

Rh Award Winner
Laura Funk

Laura Funk is the recipient of the 2014 Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Winnipeg Rh Institution Foundation Award in the social science category. The award is given to academics in the early stages of their career who display exceptional innovation, leadership, and promise in their respective fields. Laura's research program, which focuses on the responsibility, care, and support offered across the life course, reflects all of these qualities. Drawing on the sociologies of aging, health, and family, and utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, she is reinvigorating the sociological understanding of care and the broader cultural and social forces shaping this work. Since joining the department in 2011, Laura has proven to be a valued colleague and a skilled mentor to our students, and we congratulate her on this achievement.

Celebrating Rod Kueneman

In April the Department celebrated the retirement of Rod Kueneman. A member of the Sociology Department for over four decades, Rod established a reputation as an award-winning teacher who inspires students with the sociological imagination, especially in relation to social justice and ecological concerns. He has also been a valued citizen of the department, including serving a five-year term as our Head. We are very pleased that Rod will remain with the department as a Senior Scholar, and wish him continued success with his important community work, especially in fostering the Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative, which strives to create a culture of sustainability and resilience at the neighbourhood level.

Support staff arranged for a fitting cake for Rod’s retirement reception.
An Interview with Matthew Sanscartier

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

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

A: I think I echo the sentiments of my fellow graduate students when I say I honestly had a great time. Certainly not an easy time, but great all the same. Starting in the honours program and moving to the MA program here has given me lifelong skills and friends—both, especially the latter, are difficult to come by. I feel incredibly well prepared moving forward and while I am excited to carry on with my education and career, I will miss this department greatly for its unique kind of warmth.

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

A: It happened in steps. I took courses from Gregg Olsen, Rod Kueneman, Rick Linden, and Andrew Woolford, which were all main ingredients to my intellectual stew. The result is that as a researcher, I’m interested in critically examining how welfare states and citizenship work to include, exclude, and criminalize certain sections and members of society. My professors at both the undergraduate level and graduate level have always given me plenty of breathing room to explore my own interests while making sure I stayed true to course material. Their hard work in this respect is something I will always appreciate. It was (and is) critical to my development as a scholar.

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

A: My MA project examines the scaling back of the Canadian welfare state through a lens of citizenship, and how “being Canadian” has moved from having more inclusionary connotations on an economic axis to one of greater individualism and market reliance. My goal in the future is to incorporate the axes of race and gender to create a more comprehensive examination of how citizenship excludes and de-humanizes oppressed individuals, particularly from an intersectionality perspective. By way of advisor, in my third year I developed an excellent working relationship with Dr. Olsen. It just made sense to approach him for my project and as a result I have a great committee and a thesis of which I am proud.

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

A: My goal, or dream, if you will—as naïve as it may be—is really to teach. I love research, but academia for me has always been about teaching. I’ll never forget the revelations I had while I sat in some of the classes I took at the University of Manitoba. Inequality isn’t natural! Race is a social construct?! It would be great to be able to do that for students who sign up for introductory sociology or other sociology classes. In some small piece, I would be doing my part to improve the human condition. Eventually, I hope this takes the form of a permanent position at a Canadian university, and I won’t stop working hard for it—even if that takes a while.

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: Both were simply awesome. There’s no real other way to put it. Beginning in the honours year, we formed close bonds and acted as a network of support. It can be difficult to find empathy since not everyone knows what happens in graduate school. We formed friendships in which healthy and fun competition was present, but it never interfered with our support for one another as things grew increasingly difficult. This continued into the MA program. In addition, all of the professors here have always made me feel like more of an equal or a colleague than a subordinate, and this has been pivotal to my confidence as someone who aspires to work in an increasingly pressured and competitive academic field.

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’ll be starting a PhD at Carleton University in September. I feel very well prepared in my ability to wield both theory and methodology to productive and contributory ends. I have some of the best training one can receive at the MA level in tools like SPSS syntax, qualitative ontology/epistemology, and general organizational skills when it comes to research and writing. I’ve learned through my doctoral applications that this department is known across the country for producing excellent and well-prepared students, and I’m just happy to be one of them.

“I’ve learned through my doctoral applications that this department is known across the country for producing excellent and well-prepared students, and I’m just happy to be one of them.”

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

A: Do it because you’re passionate about a subject and you’re always hungry to see what’s around the corner, or you’re
I often joke that graduate school is the snooze button on the alarm clock of life, but the reality is that it’s anything but sleeping in. It’s hard work, and sometimes it feels thankless and frustrating, but at the end of the day it’s going to be passion that drags you through it.

passionate about an area in which you want to work. Don’t do it because you’re simply unsure as to what direction you want your career to go. I often joke that graduate school is the snooze button on the alarm clock of life, but the reality is that it’s anything but sleeping in. It’s hard work, and sometimes it feels thankless and frustrating, but at the end of the day it’s going to be passion that drags you through it. Find a way to get through those frustrating days—Netflix, chips, and talking to my peers always helped me—and it can be incredibly rewarding. Above all, don’t forget to be kind to yourself along the way.

Student Accomplishments

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS

Sociology Graduate Chair Susan Prentice presented Lisette Dansereau (L) with the Douglas Rennie Scholarship and Veronika Eliasova (R) with the Sociology Graduate Student Entrance Scholarship at our September 2014 departmental gathering.

Joseph Asomah, Iqbal Chowdhury, and Sally Ogoe received Conference Travel awards.

Pallabi Bhattacharyya, Brooke Silversides, Craig Adolphe, Jacob Simoes, Mateja Carevic, Lisette Dansereau, Cosmos Domfeh, Worlanyo Dowoh, Efe Ehigiato, Justine Narine, and Marc Pelletier received Sociology and Faculty of Arts Awards.

Shanise Burgher and Jillian Patterson each received support from the Manitoba Research Alliance and the Graduate Enhancement of Tri-Council Stipends (GETS) from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Cosmos Domfeh, Worlanyo Dowoh, Efe Ehigiato, and Justine Narine were awarded International Graduate Student Entrance Scholarships (IGSES).

Douglas Dowle received a Manitoba Graduate Scholarship.

Tamara Edkins and Ella Rockar received a Dean’s Honour Roll Special Achievement award at the Arts Celebrating Arts event for maintaining an exceptional GPA of 4.25 or higher while taking a minimum course load of 9 credit hours during each term.

Veronika Eliasova was awarded a University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship (UMGF).

James Gacek, Nicole Macinnis, and Kevin Schachter were recipients of the SSHRC–Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Nicole Macinnis received the Carolyne Bovin (RESOLVE) Scholarship.

Matthew Sanscartier received a Tri-Council Masters Supplement Award

2013-14 HONOURS THESES

Jeffrey Biegun “Living Dangerously: Analyzing the Relationship between Homelessness and Victimization in Canada” (T. Peter Advisor)

Corey Chan “Restoring a Nation through the Needs of the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide” (A. Woolford, advisor)

Taurai Chimwanda “A Comparative Study of Youth Justice Systems and Immigrant Youth Crime and Prevention” (R. Smandych, advisor)

Candace Corroll “Gendercide of Aboriginal Girls in Canadian Residential Schools” (A. Woolford, advisor)

Noelle Dietrich “Restorative Justice and Technologies of Power: A Study of the Victim in Society” (C. Axelrod, advisor)

Jamie Dueck “The case for Gender Equality: Investigating How Childcare Promotes Gender Discrimination” (S. Prentice, advisor)

Tamara Edkins “Stop the Hate: Understanding Hate Crime Trends in Canada” (T. Peter, advisor)

Brandy Falkevich “Black Widows of the Islamic State: Women’s Involvement in Contemporary Terrorism” (R. Smandych, advisor)

Keelin Griffin “Neoliberalism and the People’s Home: The Erosion of Social Citizenship in Welfare Policy” (M. Fridell, advisor)

Jonathan Lipson “Does Problem Gambling Affect Health Status? (J. Edgerton, advisor)

Brittany Minne “Feminist Prisons? A Social History of Federally Incarcerated Women” (E. Comack, advisor)

Ella Rockar “Descamisados y Piqueteros: The Impact of the Labour Movement on the Argentine Welfare State” (J. Mignone, advisor)

Erin Scott “Old Age Insecurity? Portrayals of Retirees and Retirement in Canadian Print Newspapers” (L. Funk, advisor)

Claudia Serré “Seeking the Answer: A Cambodian Case Study” (A. Woolford, advisor)
Mitchell Smith “Oil Development: Escaping the Resource Curse” (M. Hudson, advisor)

Caitlyn Stevens “Corporal Punishment: A Canadian Socio-Legal Comparison” (J. Durrant, advisor)

Ranju Upadhyaya “Ferguson: A Case Study of Pacification” (A. Woolford, advisor)

Steven Yurkowski “Positive Mental Health: The Impact of Pathological Indicators of Illness on the Subjective Well-being of Canadians” (T. Peter, advisor)

Jason Zweiban “Altering Perceptions: An Investigation into the Stigmatization of Hallucinogenic Drugs” (F. Cormier, advisor)

Iqbal Chowdhury, “Family Influences on the Emotional Well-Being of Newcomer Youth in Canada” (Lori Wilkinson, advisor)

Ryan Coulling, “Investigating Smartphones – There’s a Theory for That: Smartphones as an Assemblage and Apparatus” (Andrew Woolford, advisor)

Kyla Doll, “Representations of Gender on the Television Series ‘Deadly Women’” (Dale Spencer, advisor)

James Gacek, “The Impact of ‘Life’ Behind Bars: Understanding Space, Impression Management and Masculinity through Former Inmate Narratives” (Elizabeth Comack, advisor)

Michelle Gorea, “The ‘Fluidity’ of Beings Portrayed Through Human-Robot Interaction: An Analysis of Human-To-Roomba Robot Relations” (Sonia Bookman, advisor)

Natalia Ilyniak, “To Rob the World of a People: An Instance of Colonial Genocide in the Fort Alexander Residential School” (Andrew Woolford, advisor)

Scott McCulloch, “Reimaging Urban Space: The Festival as a (Re)Branding Vehicle For Inscribing Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside Japantown” (Sonia Bookman, advisor)

Sally Ogoe, “Why Does Female Genital Mutilation Persist? Examining the Failed Criminalization Strategies in Africa and Canada” (Lori. Wilkinson, advisor)

Jillian M. Patterson, “Deconstructing Neoliberal Rationality In An Increasingly Punitive Society: Canadian Public Support for ‘Tough on Crime’ Policies” (Tracey Peter, advisor)

Matthew Sanscartier, “A Brave New Citizenry: Exploring Canadian Welfare State Retrenchment through Changing Citizenship” (Gregg Olsen, advisor)

Nicholas Weselowski, “Housing Policy Approaches in Canada: Locating Quebec, Alberta, and Manitoba” (Gregg Olsen, advisor)

2013-14 M.A. THESES

H. Maamansa Asaam. “Mental Health and Well-Being of Refugees to Canada: A Brighter Future” (Christopher Fries, advisor)

Joseph Asomah. “The Rise of Global Policing in Africa: Real Need or Imperialist Project” (Russell Smandych, advisor)

Janine Bramadat. “The Role of Canadian Laws and Policies in Perpetuating Intimate Partner Abuse Against Newcomer Women in Canada” (Lori Wilkinson, advisor)

Iqbal Chowdhury (MA’15) is working on his PhD at the University of Saskatchewan.

Evan Bowness (MA’12) after teaching for us for three years and creating the Community Commons course is heading to UBC to work on a PhD.

Janine Bramadat (MA’15) is a Policy Analyst at “Children’s Advocate” in Winnipeg.

Iqbal Chowdhury (MA’15) and Sally Ogoe (MA’15) will be staying on in our department to complete their PhDs.

Daniel Church (MA’13) has a permanent position with the Government of Manitoba in the Department of Emergency Placement Resources.

Ryan Coulling (MA’14) and Matthew Sanscartier (MA’15) are working on their PhDs at Carleton University in Ottawa.

James Gacek (M.A. ’15) is teaching Criminology (SOC 2510) and Criminal Justice and Corrections (SOC 2610) in our department.
Michelle Gorea (MA’14) is working on her PhD at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

Natalia Ilyniak (MA’15) is a Co-Director of Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) in Winnipeg.

Randall Jackson (MA’03) is completing a PhD in Social Work at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Damien Leggett (Hons. ‘14) is a Newcomer and Immigrant Support Worker at the West Central Women’s Resource Centre in Winnipeg.

Scott McCulloch (MA’15) is a Research Assistant at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Faculty of Health Sciences, College of Medicine at the U of M.

Jillian Patterson (MA’15) has taken a position with the Manitoba Palliative Research Unit in Winnipeg.

Jasmine Thomas (MA’09) is completing her PhD at the University of Alberta and is a Research Analyst at the Liquor and Gaming Association.

Nicholas Weselowski (MA’15) is a Policy Analyst with the Government of Manitoba Housing and Community Development.

Faculty Awards and Recognition

Elizabeth Comack and Susan Prentice received Outstanding Achievement awards at Arts Celebrating Arts.

Laura Funk received the 2014 Dr. John M. Bowman Memorial Winnipeg Rh Institution Foundation Award in the social science category.

Susan Prentice was presented with the Prix Réseau – Volet Communautaire by the Réseau action femmes Manitoba.

Lori Wilkinson received the Shastri Indo-Canadian Research Fellowship by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Faculty Activities

2014 BOOKS


**2014 JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS**


Bowness, E. and M. Hudson. “Sand in the Cogs? Public Participation and the Treadmill of Production in Alberta’s Oil Sands.” *Environmental Politics* 23 (1): 59-76.


**Currie, Raymond F.** “Winnipeg Area Study.” In A.C. Michalos (Ed.), *Encyclopedia Of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*, Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.


**Edgerton, J.D., and L.W. Roberts** “Cultural Capital or Habitus? Bourdieu and Beyond in the Explanation of Enduring Educational Inequality/


Rieger, S.J., T. Peter, and L.W. Roberts. “‘Give me a reason to live!’ Examining Reasons for Living across Levels of Suicidality.” *Journal of Religion and Health* 53 (6).


**2014 RESEARCH REPORTS**


**2014 CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**


Comack, E. “Do We Need to ‘Get Tough on Crime’? Framing Crime Issues to Realize Meaningful Change.” Sociology Speaker Series, Mac Ewan University, Edmonton, Alberta, January 24.

Desmarais, A. “Food Sovereignty: A Powerful and New Vision for Agriculture and Food” Invited speaker, Seminar Series, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba, November 19.


Fries, C. J. “A Sociological Perspective on Heath Disparities,” invited lecture to the Law Student Bioethics Interest Group, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba, November 25.


Peter, T. “Mental Health and Suicidality among LGBTQ Students: Perspectives of Canadian school psychologists and counsellors in the Every Teacher Project,” Egale Canada Human Rights Trust Suicide Summit, Montreal, May.


Langford, R., S. Prentice, P. Albanese, and B. Richardson. “How to be Contentious and Cooperative at the Same Time in Childcare Policy Development:

Langford, R., S. Prentice, and P. Albanese. “Reclaiming Care as a Motivation for Child Care Advocacy in Canada: Benefits, Challenges and Problems,” Canadian Sociological Association Meeting, St. Catharines, ON.


Prentice, S. “Hot Topics in Canadian ECEC,” Manitoba Child Care Association Annual Conference, Winnipeg.


Wilkinson, L. “What do we know about the settlement experiences of immigrants in Canada?” Invited lecture for St. John’s Soup and Bread Lecture Series, University of Manitoba, November.

Wilkinson, L. “We Can’t be Racist, We’re CANADIAN”? An Examination of Sense of Belonging and Marginalization Experiences of Recently Arrived Immigrants” Invited presentation for the Affect Project, Institute for the Humanities, University of Manitoba, November.


Wilkinson, L. “Immigrants and Integration in the Canadian Metropolis,” invited for presentation at the Shanghai Forum, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, May 24-26.


Wilkinson, L. “One Size Does Not Fit All: Meeting the needs of aging immigrants.” Invited keynote address Centre for Aging Spring Research Symposium, University of Manitoba, May 5.


OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Camfield, D. was interviewed in the magazine of the Alliance de Personnel Professionel et Technique de la Sante et des Services Sociaux, “5 questions à David Camfield” L’APTS en Revue 10.1 (June 2014), 10-11.

Camfield, D. was interviewed on six occasions by media outlets (CTV, CBC, CFUM Radio, CBC Radio One) about work and labour issues.


Comack, E. was interviewed on CFRO, Vancouver’s Co-op Radio, on Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People’s Encounters with the Police, April 4.

Comack, E. was interviewed by B.C. Public Health for a training video on Indigenous Cultural Competency, Vancouver, October 31.

Cormier, F. was interviewed on seven occasions by media outlets (Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg Sun, Global News, CBC, CBC Radio) about crime issues.


Funk, L. was interviewed by freelance writer Jake Naughton, about the ‘Living Apart Together’ study, November 16.


Prentice, S. was involved with the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba in producing a video based on the Parent Voices Roundtable.

Prentice, S. was video-taped for a segment in Red River Community College’s international video series, the Science of Early Childhood Development in November.


Wilkinson, L. “Why don’t Immigrants to British Columbia feel more ‘at home’? Unpacking the Settlement Experiences of Newcomers.” Invited speaker for AMSSA e-Symposium, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, December 10.


Wilkinson, L. “What do We Know about the Service Usage among Newcomers to Canada?” The Immigrant Centre, Winnipeg, MB, February 10.


Woolford A. September 2, 2014. Interview with Dahlia Kurtz on CJOB radio (with Adam Muller) to discuss Embodying Empathy.

Woolford A. was interviewed by the Winnipeg Free Press, CJOB, UMTODAY, and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network about the Eleventh Conference of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, which he organized in July 2014.
RESEARCH GRANTS


NEW BOOKS FOR 2015


The Idea of a Human Rights Museum is the first book to examine the formation of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and to situate the museum within the context of the international proliferation of such institutions. Sixteen essays consider the wider political, cultural and architectural contexts within which the museum physically and conceptually evolved, drawing comparisons between the CMHR and institutions elsewhere in the world that emphasize human rights and social justice.

This collection brings together authors from diverse fields—law, cultural studies, museum studies, sociology, history, political science, and literature—to critically assess the potentials and pitfalls of human rights education through “ideas” museums. Accessible, engaging, and informative, the collection’s essays will encourage museum-goers to think more deeply about the content of human rights exhibits.
The development of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) is a remarkable story in the development of quantitative social science research in Canada. From a core group of nine Research Data Centres, when it was launched in the early 2000s, the Network now includes 27 facilities right across Canada. It plays a key role in providing access to a vast array of social, economic and health data, primarily gathered by Statistics Canada. It also helps to prepare the next generation of social science researchers, by offering essential training in quantitative methods, and to make research count, by disseminating research findings to the policy community and the Canadian public. Thanks to thousands of researchers from more than 25 disciplines who have used this infrastructure through the years, Canadians now know far more about their society than would have been possible otherwise. This book tells the story of this quantum leap forward in quantitative social science research capability in Canada, paying tribute to the men and women who made it happen.


This concise introduction to the study of aging challenges students to think critically about key topics in the field such as the aging of populations in Canada and around the world, the status of aging peoples and ageism, and the social participation of older adults.


Accessible and illuminating, this text is both a map and toolkit for successfully navigating the maze of social statistics. A five-step learning model, applied to each statistical technique, introduces key concepts in plain language; explains how to perform calculations manually; provides specific descriptions of how to use statistical software such as SPSS; offers practice questions to solidify understanding; and gives guidance on interpreting results.
At the end of the nineteenth century, Indigenous boarding schools were touted as the means for solving the “Indian problem” in both Canada and the United States. With the goal of permanently transforming Indigenous young people into Europeanized colonial subjects, the schools were ultimately a means for eliminating Indigenous communities as obstacles to land acquisition, resource extraction, and nation building. Andrew Woolford analyzes the formulation of the “Indian problem” as a policy concern in the United States and Canada and examines how the “solution” of Indigenous boarding schools was implemented in Manitoba and New Mexico through complex chains that included multiple government offices, a variety of staff, Indigenous peoples, and even nonhuman factors such as poverty, disease, and space. The genocidal project inherent in these boarding schools, however, did not unfold in either nation without diversion, resistance, and unintended consequences. Because of differing historical, political, and structural influences, the two countries have arrived at two very different responses to the harms caused by assimilative education. Inspired by the signing of the 2006 Residential School Settlement Agreement in Canada, which provided a truth and reconciliation commission and compensation for survivors of residential schools, This Benevolent Experiment offers a multi-layered, comparative analysis of Indigenous boarding schools in the United States and Canada.
Support Our Students!

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