

2013/2014

Sociology Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Department of Sociology's Spring 2014 newsletter! Ours is a busy and productive department, engaged in an impressive range of teaching, research and publishing activity. Given our relatively recent development of graduate courses and programming, our graduate numbers have grown by leaps and bounds: at last count, we had 12 MA students in the department. Graduate student projects span a broad range of interests – from portrayals of women in heavy metal discourse to performances of masculinity by men with disabilities, to human rights and citizenship in Nigeria, our students are engaged in exciting and important projects. And opportunities for graduate research dissemination abound – our students were involved in the Meeting of the Minds GSA conference on campus this Spring, will be presenting a half a dozen papers at Congress in St. Catherine, Ontario and will be speaking at the Disability Studies Biannual Conference in Lancaster, England in late summer.

Our faculty continues to earn recognition for research excellence in the media, and has obtained an impressive number of grants that not only support students through their undergraduate and graduate programming, but that also produce significant knowledge through books, publications and presentations at invited and refereed venues. We are fortunate to house two research chairs in the department; Dr. Reg Bibby (Board of Governors Research Chair in the Social Sciences), whose survey work on religion and youth is a Canadian institution, and Dr. Susan McDaniel, a Tier I Canada Research Chair in population studies, who also heads the prestigious Prentice Institute. Amongst our other faculty, we have seen two SSHRC grants obtained over the past year, and a dozen other grants from national provincial and institutional sources. Additionally, Dr. Trevor Harrison serves as Director to the renowned Parkland Institute out of the University of Alberta. With only 10 active faculty (Dr. Robert Wood is seconded as Dean of Graduate Studies and Dr. Muriel Mellow is serving as Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences), ours is a small but mighty force!





Congratulations

Congrats to Dr. Reginald Bibby, who entered into a partnership with Angus Reid in December of 2013 that includes the generation of data for Bibby's forthcoming book, *The Future of Life in Canada* (late 2014), as well as the collection of data for Bibby's 2015 Project Canada national survey.

Congrats to Dr. Susan A. McDaniel, FRSC, who was appointed by the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) as Chair of its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Dr. McDaniel was also elected to the executive of Committee on Family Research, International Sociological Association, 2014-2018.

Congrats to Dr. Kim Mair, who was awarded tenure by the Arts and Science Salary Tenure and Promotion Committee.

Student Awards

Lindsay Oneil - Chinook Summer Research Award (undergraduate), \$5,625.

New and Continued Funding

Dr. Susan McDaniel

Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Global Population and Life Course, CRC Programme, 2011 – 2018, \$1.4 million.

Co-Investigator, "Gender, Migration and the Work of Care: Comparative Perspectives," SSHRC Partnership Grant, 1 June 2013-2018, \$2.85 million.

Principal Investigator, "Is the Math Sufficient? Aging Workforce and the Future Labour Market in Canada," SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant. April 2013- March 2014, \$24,309.

Co-Investigator, "Conveying Researcher Knowledge of Climate Change on Multiple New Media Platforms," Public Outreach Grant, SSHRC, 2011-14, \$128,000.

Principal Investigator, "Income Inequality in Mid-Life, Looking Toward the Later Years: A Canada / U.S. Comparison," SSHRC, June 2010-2014, \$102,000.

Co-Investigator, "Living in Low Income," SSHRC, 2008-2013, \$100,000.

Dr. Kara Granzow

Principal Investigator. "Groups and susceptibilities: The production of racialized difference in genetic research," University of Lethbridge Research Fund. \$5,940

Dr. Kim Mair

Principal Investigator. "Dogs in wartime," University of Lethbridge Internal SSHRC Grant. \$4,500.

Dr. Mickey Vallee

Principal Investigator. "Glenn Gould, record production, and aesthetic subjectivity: A bridge to cultural theory," SSHRC Insight Development Grant 2013-2014. \$12,685.

Dr. Jason Laurendeau

Principal Investigator. "Father figuring: Fatherhood, embodied emotion, and masculinities," Community of Research Excellence Development Opportunity (CREDO). \$22,989.

Dr. Claudia Malacrida

Principal Investigator. Alberta Innovations Health Solutions, Sustainability Grant, 2013-4. Pilot Study on C-section rates in Alberta as a cultural artifact: Understanding risk, responsibility, and choice. \$40,000.

Principal Investigator. SSHRC Insight Grant 2013-18. Eugenics to Newgenics in Alberta: Historical continuities and differences. \$318,278

Principal Investigator. University of Lethbridge Research Fund. Discourse and Policy Analysis, C-Sections in Southwest Alberta. \$6,000

Principal Investigator. Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research, SMALL Grant. Exploring education and services about intimacy and sexuality for youth with intellectual disabilities in Alberta. \$40,000.

Graduate Student Research

OLUKAYODE A. ADEGOKE: Ethno-Religious conflict in global Africa: Imperative of Human Right and Justice as Source of Peacebuilding in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

JENNA KUMMER: Masculinity, morality and metal: Understanding recontextualizations of heavy metal music and it's subculture

ALLIE LEDOUX: Heterotopic Postmemories of an Actual Homeland

HEATHER McINTOSH-RIVERA: The Impact of Second-generation Immigrants in Canada: A cohort comparison of education, earnings and fertility

SHAHINA PARVIN: Vulnerability and Meaning of Lives of Infertile women in Bangladesh

ALAN SANTINELE-MARTINO: Understandings of Sexual Expression and Practices among Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Direct Care Workers

BRAD ROBERTSON: Destabilizing Identities: The Performance of Masculinities by Men with Intellectual Difference

CLAYTON SMITH: Specters of the Ridge: Transgenerational Trauma, Subjectivity, and Collective Crypts

JOSLIN SMITH: Communication in Rural Communities

VANJA SPIRIC: Sexuality and Gender of Deaf People and People With Mental Disabilities As Represented in Serbian Media

JAMES VAUGHAN: "Pitilessly Blocked and Passions Violently Choked:" Exploring Fatalism in the Lives of Nonresidential Fathers

NATHAN WONG: The Mechanical Bride and the Reification of Love



Meeting of the Minds 2014 GSA conference

Congratulations all sociology students involved with the conference! Jenna Kummer presented "Powerslaves?: Navigating Femininity in Heavy Metal" (poster) and Alan Santinele-Martino presented "Negotiating Qualitative Research Methods within a Dominant Positivist Paradigm" and "'How are you going to stay objective?': Positioning the researcher in the research process and outcomes".



Sociology in the News (selected)

- Reginald Bibby** and Angus Reid wrote “We’ll be home for ‘Christmas,’ however it’s celebrated.” *The Globe and Mail*, Dec. 24, 2013.
- Jason Laurendeau** was interviewed in “Doctor killed in BASE jump among elite group in rare sport.” *Calgary Herald*, January 29, 2014.
- Claudia Malacrida** was featured in “University Study Examines Childbirth.” *Lethbridge Herald*. May 27, 2014.
- Claudia Malacrida** was on CBC Radio Calgary’s Alberta at Noon program with Judy Ault: “Eugenics to Newgenics.”
- Trevor Harrison** wrote “Alberta has a new export: the petroleum gap.” *Globe and Mail*, February 22, 2013.
- Trevor Harrison** presented on the Parkland Institute report *Stabilizing Alberta’s Revenues*. Global TV, Edmonton March 1, 2013.

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Jing Shen



Dr. Jing Shen obtained her Ph.D. degree in Sociology from University of Toronto in 2013, and is currently a Post-doctoral fellow working with Dr. Susan A. McDaniel in the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, Dr. Shen studies social inequality from multiple perspectives and in the global scope.

Her doctoral dissertation, focused on the formation and consequences of labour market inequality within the transitional context of post-socialist China, makes theoretical contributions to the existing inequality literature in two areas. In the area of social stratification, she delineated the process of stratification by showing how labour market institutions and individual behaviours have interacted with each other and subsequently co-constructed inequality in the current Chinese labour market. Her focus on the process analysis exemplified solutions to theoretical limitations resulting from the conventional focus on consequences of stratification in this area. The other significant contribution of her dissertation lies in the area of social capital. By putting forth an innovative approach of distinguishing the joint use of formal and informal job search methods from the use of either formal or informal job search methods alone, she empirically demonstrated that the causal effects of contact use on job search outcomes are contingent on the quality of a job seeker’s formal qualifications. Her argument of “conditional causality” directly addressed the unsolved “causality vs. homophily” debate that has long puzzled social capital scholars.

During her Ph.D. program, she won the Best Graduate Paper Award in the Department of Sociology, University of Toronto. She also held a competitive university-wide Doctoral Completion Award between 2011 and 2012. In addition to her doctoral research, Dr. Shen’s interests in social inequality are also shown in her publications in the field of ethnicity and immigration, with a focus on immigrants’ economic, political, and social integration in Canada. While further developing her previous research into multi-society comparative studies, Dr. Shen is now actively engaged in studies on gender, immigration, and care workers in the global context.



Parkland Institute

Parkland Institute is a public policy research network affiliated with the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. The University of Lethbridge makes a significant contribution to Parkland, with sociologist Trevor Harrison serving as director and anthropologist Patrick Wilson as a board member. Since the Institute was founded in 1996, it has produced academically-rigorous, policy-oriented research and undertaken extensive community engagement. These traditions have continued over the past few months.

In November 2013, Parkland published a report on residential elder care in the province. This report exposed the extremely worrying state of Alberta elder care while making clear that private, for-profit care was only worsening the situation. Along with partner organizations Public Interest Alberta and Friends of Medicare, Parkland Institute participated in a province-wide speaking tour intended to create a dialogue on elder care issues. Since the publication of the report, the institute has been working with media and seniors' groups as well as labour and professional organizations to make clear the desperate need for real improvements.

On 25 February 2014, Parkland Institute put out a fact sheet titled 'Sick of inequality: The case for action by the government of Alberta on the social determinants of health.' This piece builds on local, national, and international data showing the ethical and economic imperatives to address the extreme inequality that is associated with negative health consequences. Released in anticipation of the 2014 provincial budget, this document argues that Premier Alison Redford's government should engage in reforms to Alberta's system of revenues and expenditures to ensure that all Albertans benefit from high-quality public services funded out of a reliable revenue stream.

In the months to come, watch for other reports by Parkland Institute on the key issues of the day, including progressive income tax, the role of unions, the problem of non-voting in elections, and the privatization of public services. Parkland Institute's research and education activities are funded through donations from individuals and groups.

If you are interested in supporting and working with Parkland, please feel free to contact Trevor (trevor.harrison@uleth.ca).



Eugenics to Newgenics Project Underway

The Eugenics to Newgenics research team. Front Row, l-r: Claudia Malacrida, Gillian Ayers, Tiff Semach, Shahina Parvin. Back row, l-r: Alan Santinele-Martino, Vanja Spiric, Tiffany Boulton, Brad Robertson

Dr. Claudia Malacrida, under a 5-year \$318,000 SSHRC Insight Grant, has pulled together a team of graduate students and post-graduates who are working together to uncover the history of eugenics in Alberta, and to examine how attitudes and practices relating to sexual and disability persist in ways that are both similar to and different from historical eugenic practices. To date, the Eugenics to Newgenics research team has collected more than 60 interviews with people in their 60's and 70's who lived through the eugenic experience, and with young disabled people today who are trying to build relationships, have a sexual life, and in some cases, have a family.

Tiffany Boulton (MA 2007), Gillian Ayers (MA 2012) and Tiffani Semach (MA 2013) are providing senior Research Coordination to the project.

They have been guiding website development, recruiting participants, organizing policy databases, and in the next leg they will help organize a conference to be held at the university in Spring 2015. Working along with them, other team members include Brad Robertson and Alan Martino, both of whom are exploring questions of sexuality and disability in the MA research. Sarah Weaver, a fourth year Sociology major has been transcribing and organizing data, and two new incoming MA students, Shahina Parvin and Vanja Spiric, round out the team.

"My name is Sarah Weaver and I am a 4th year student at the University of Lethbridge. My degree thus far has provided me with opportunities to take many different courses in the social sciences. Being a Psychology major with a greater interest and equal background in Sociology, I have been granted a unique interdisciplinary opportunity to manage different modes of thinking effectively and critically. Since the summer of 2013, I have held a research assistant position with Claudia Malacrida, department chair and professor in the Sociology department. My experience as a research assistant has been nothing short of liberating and enlightening. Dr. Malacrida's current projects pertaining to eugenics and elective C-section in Alberta have provided me with a passion, inspiration, and love for these issues. The elective C-section project in particular is a subject that I am profoundly interested in, and plan to continue to explore with Dr. Malacrida and her research team."

Undergraduate Student Sarah Weaver



Q&A with Dr. William Ramp, Director of Centre for Culture and Community (CCC)

How did the Centre for Culture and Community come about?

The instigator and visionary was Steve Ferzacca, of the Department of Anthropology, who pulled together an inter-faculty and interdisciplinary group of supporters around a new idea for a centre which would not focus on a single research topic or area, but instead would provide a focus for the sharing of ideas and opportunities between researchers, community groups, activists and artists. Our statement of purpose commits us to building a democratic network for scholarly and creative interchange in support of cultural and community studies and community engagement. It will also provide opportunities for learning and debate in an environment of mutual respect, support, and accountability.

So we'll facilitate study of communities and their cultures, but we'll also model community in our practice. We'll foster interchange between communities, academic and non-academic, and promote academic and public interest in cultural and community based research, creative activity, and education.



I took the reins of the initiative on an interim basis in 2011, and we received official standing as a U of L research centre in 2013. Since then there's been a bit of a hiatus -- other distractions claimed a lot of our attention this past year; a number of us have been involved in political developments over the past year. But things are starting to happen now, with a journal initiative underway and other task groups starting up around possible projects and linkages

What is your job as the centre's director?

My job is to sing its song, get people interested, put people together around initiatives, synthesize, look after the official stuff, and otherwise get out of the way.

What are some of the exciting directions you plan to take the centre in?

It's important to say here that Steve had a vision for the centre which I want to respect. And in that vision, where I would want to take the centre doesn't count. Or at least, it doesn't count as much as what comes out of the interaction of the folks involved in it.

We are, among other things, a centre for conviviality, in the way Ivan Illich used that term. I think we need to revive that term - conviviality - and move it from the 'after-work' margins back to the centre, as a term designating what are really life-and-death issues for our collective futures.

I could name some things -- an interdisciplinary online journal; social media resource-sharing, collaborative and participatory-action research with community groups, collaborative education, awareness and artistic projects. Shared projects with other U of L centres, and with the 'Understanding Complex Social Change' group. Personally, I'm involved with local food-sovereignty and food-justice groups, in a food-mapping initiative for Lethbridge and area, in a possible urban-farming and food hub project, and in a push for a local/regional Food Charter. All of these would be things that could link to the CCC. More broadly, I'd like to see the CCC bring together research, political action, and (especially) artistic activity around projects to re-address the meaning of the public, the common good, etc., from an anti-security and anti-corporatist perspective; to explore alternatives to the marketizing of social, political and academic life.

But I'm more interested in seeing what comes together from CCC members as we get under way over the summer and fall. It's early days yet.

Recent Publications (selected)

Bibby, R.W. (2013). "Reflections on the 36- Denton Conference on Implicit Religion." *Implicit Religion* 16.2:131-35.

Bibby, R.W. (2013). "Religion." In Robert Brym (ed.). *New Sociology*. 7th Edition. Chapter 13. Toronto: Nelson, 310-38.

Bower, SS, **T. Harrison**, and G. Flanagan. (2013). "Stabilizing Alberta's Revenues: A Common Sense Approach." Edmonton: *Parkland Institute*, February.

Gazso, A., & **S. McDaniel** (2013). "Families by Choice and the Management of Low Income Through Social Supports." *Journal of Family Issues*, Online First.

Giardina, M. and **J. Laurendeau**. (Eds.). (2013). "Evidence, Knowledge and Research Practice." *Sociology of Sport Journal* (Special Issue) 30.3: 237-407.

Giardina, M. and **J. Laurendeau**. "Truth untold? Evidence, knowledge, and research practice." *Sociology of Sport Journal* 30.3: 237-55.

Granzow, K., (2014). "The 'nonmenstrual woman' in the new millennium? Discourses on menstrual suppression in the first decade of Extended Cycle Oral Contraception in Canada." *Culture, Health & Sexuality* (forthcoming).

Harrison, T. (2014). "Populist and Conservative Christian Evangelical Movements: A Comparison of Canada and the United States." (Revised; original 2008.) In M. Smith (ed.), *Politics of Contestation*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview.

Kazemipur, A. & M.R. Nakhaie (2013), "The Economics of Attachment: Making a Case for a *Relational* Approach to Immigrants' Integration in Canada." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*: 1-24.

Krahn, Harvey, and **T. Harrison**. (2013). "Governing Alberta: Citizens' Views." Edmonton: *Parkland Institute*, May.

Laurendeau, J., & Moroz, S. (2013). "Morality in the Mountains Risk, Responsibility, and Neoliberalism in Newspaper Accounts of Backcountry Rescue." *Communication & Sport*, 1.4: 382-99.

Laurendeau, J. (2013). "'Just tape it up for me, ok?': Masculinities, injury and embodied emotion." *Emotion, Space and Society*, Online First.

Low, J. and **C. Malacrida**. (Eds.). (2013). "Embodied Action, Embodied Theory, Understanding the Body in Society." *Societies* (Special Issue) 3: 146 pages.

Mair, K. (2013). "Itinerant Memory Places: The Baader-Meinhof-Wagen". In *The Inhabited Ruins of Central Europe: Re-imagining Space, History, and Memory*, edited by D. Gafijczuk and D. Sayer. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 79-101.

Malacrida, C. (2013). "Whatever It Takes." In *Monday Coffee & Other Stories of Mothering Children with Special Needs*, edited by L. Whiteacre and L. Jones. Indianapolis, Indiana: Inwords Press, 86-100.

Malacrida, C. and T. Boulton. (2014). "The Best Laid Plan? Women's Choices, Expectations and Experiences in Childbirth." *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine* 18.1: 41-59.

McDaniel, S. 2013. "Understanding Health Sociologically." *Current Sociology*, Online First 61.5/6, September.

McDaniel, S., A. Gazso, and S. Um. 2013. "Generationing Relations in Challenging Times: Americans and Canadians in Mid-Life in the Great Recession." *Current Sociology* 61.3:301-21.

McDaniel, S. and A. Gazso. 2013. "Income Inequality and Health Trajectories from Mid-Life to Later Life: Are Canadian and American Differences Widening?" *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, 47: 1-18.

McDaniel, S., G. Boco and S. Zella. 2013. "Changing Patterns of Religious Affiliation, Religiosity and Marital Dissolution: A 35-year Study of Three-Generation Families." *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 54.8:1-29.

McDaniel, S. and Z. Zimmer (Eds.). 2013. *Global Ageing in the 21- Century: Challenges and Opportunities*. Farnham, Surrey, UK: Ashgate Publishing.

Perks, T. (2013). "What Makes a Classroom an Effective Learning Environment." *Light on Teaching*, 2013-14 Issue: 5-10.

Ramp, W. (2014). "Paradoxes of Sovereignty: Toward a Durkheimian Analysis of Monarchy." *Journal of Classical Sociology*, Online First.

Ramp, W. (2014). "The Elementary Forms as political (a)theology." *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, Special Issue on Emile Durkheim's, *Les formes Élémentaires de la vie religieuse*. (forthcoming).

Rashid, R. & D. Gregory, **A. Kazemipur**, Lynn Scruby. (2013). "Loneliness is killing me': A holistic exploration of woman immigrants' life stories and their journeys in Canada." *International Journal of Women's Health*.

Shields, R. & **Vallee, M.** (Eds.) (2013). *Demystifying Deleuze: An Introductory Assemblage of Crucial Concepts*. Ottawa: Red Quill Books.

Vallee, M. (2013). "'Say Rawr!': Lyotard, Deleuze, and the Refrains of Wesley Willis." *Cultural Politics* 9.2:188-202.

Vallee, M. (2014). "A little piece of the reel: Record production and the surplus of prosthetic vocality." In *Žižek and Media Studies: A Reader*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Vallee, M. (2013). "The Media Contingencies of Generation Mashup: A Žižekian Critique." *Popular Music and Society* 36.1: 76-97.

Walton-Roberts, M., Beaujot, R., Hiebert, D., **McDaniel, S.**, & Wright, R. (2014) "Why do we still need a census? Views from the age of "truthiness" and the "death of evidence". *The Canadian Geographer/Le Geographe canadien*.



Alumni News

Message from incoming Chair Dr. Jason Laurendeau

I'm very excited to be the incoming Chair of the Sociology Department at the U of L; I look forward to serving a dynamic and talented group of colleagues in this new role. Though it means I'll be spending a little less time in the classroom, I hope to be able to exercise my passion for contributing to the student experience in other ways at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. With a revised undergraduate curriculum, a vibrant culture of graduate education, and cutting-edge scholarship, our Department is well-positioned at this exciting time!

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Rachel Shields (MA '12) is pursuing her Ph.D. in English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. Ms. Shields already has work published or forthcoming in *Cultural Studies* <=> *Critical Methodologies*, the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, and *Body & Society*.

Carlin Sharpe (MA '12) is a Program Associate for the MA and MBA programs at Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C.

Michael Granzow (BA, MA '10) is currently a second year PhD student at the University of Alberta where he is studying the lives and afterlives (ghost towns) of resource communities in Canada. Along with his own research, Michael works as a Research Assistant at the City-Region Studies Centre on a project that explores the links between nanotechnology, community and place in Edmonton and the Capital Region.

Katie Herzog (BA '10) is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta. Katie hopes to complete her thesis by May 2014, which is titled "Adults with Developmental Disabilities and their Experiences of Autonomy and Independence." Katie feels very fortunate to have been surrounded by wonderful individuals throughout her educational journey; she is supervised by Dr. Lisa Strohschein and Dr. Rob Shields, and fondly remembers many of her friends and professors from the U of L, who continue to inspire and offer her support and guidance in her educational pursuits.

M.A. alumnae Tiffani Semach and Gillian Ayers have recently established the qualitative research consulting company Semach & Ayers Social Research Consulting. They have taken their first contract with a local disability agency. Both were supervised by Dr. Claudia Malacrida, and continue to work for her part-time on her Eugenics to Newgenics and The Culture of Birth in Alberta projects.