



# IN SOLIDARITY

**Department of Sociology**

**Fall 2008**

**WELCOME** to *In Solidarity*, our first department newsletter of the 2008/2009 academic year and what will hopefully be a fruitful source of information for our students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni. As our department grows and changes, it is the hope of the editorial board that our newsletter will serve as yet another vehicle from which we can communicate with one another, highlight our accomplishments, and encourage each other in our academic as well as social pursuits. As is typical with any first issue, we are sure there are kinks that need to be worked out and changes made to improve this newsletter. We encourage all of you to submit suggestions, comments, and critiques that might help us.

Editorial Board: David G. Embrick, J. Talmadge Wright, and Chris Wolff

## Table of Contents

From the Editors .....	1	G.A.S. (Graduate Association of Sociologists).....	7
Message from the Chair .....	2	Announcements.....	7
What's New in the Department.....	3	Graduate Student Kudos .....	7
New Faculty .....	3	Colloquium Schedule .....	8
Commentary.....	4	Calendar .....	8
Faculty Kudos and Announcements .....	5		
Alumni Highlights .....	4		
UPD's Corner.....	6		
Announcements.....	6		
Undergraduate Student Kudos .....	6		
Sociology Club.....	6		



**LOYOLA  
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CHICAGO**

*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

# *Message from the Chair*



**Welcome to the first edition of our newly revived departmental newsletter.** We hope you will enjoy this occasional update on the state of our department. These are exciting times for Sociology at Loyola, as you will see if you peruse the newsletter. But let me note some of the particular highlights of our recent history.

This semester we welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Jennifer Barrett from the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Jon Norman from the University of California at Berkeley (via a postdoc at Stanford). You will hear more about them and their work in this edition of the newsletter. They join two other recently hired assistant professors, Drs. David Embrick (from Texas A&M) and Japonica Brown-Saracino (from Northwestern). After a long hiring drought, we are glad to have the new ideas and energy that young faculty bring to our departmental life and to their classrooms. Another welcome addition this year is Ayana Karanja, who begins a dual appointment in Sociology to augment her primary appointment in Black World Studies.

Along with welcoming new faculty, we said some sad good-byes during the past year. We began fall of 2007 with the devastating news of the passing of Peter Whalley, our former Chair and Graduate Program Director. Peter died unexpectedly, but after a long and courageous battle with cancer. We all miss him dearly.

On a more celebratory note, we also said good-bye last year to Dr. Richard Block, who retired after a long and distinguished career at Loyola. A weekend symposium and banquet last spring celebrated his many contributions to our department and to the discipline as a whole. Dick is continuing his important research, and will teach an occasional course as a Senior Professor, so we are grateful for his ongoing contributions while he enjoys his “retirement.”

We were sorry to see Dr. Ken Johnson leave our department this year in order to take a position as a Senior Demographer at the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey Institute. We wish him the best, and look forward to hiring another senior professor this year who will help us maintain our department’s research productivity and national profile.

Besides all the professorial comings and goings, the most important current changes occurring in our department flow from the thorough departmental program review we are just now completing. In that review, we revised our department’s mission statement to highlight our commitment to public sociology and to reaffirm our department’s special strengths in urban sociology and the sociology of religion/culture. We are currently developing a five-year strategic plan, rooted in our mission, to guide our curricular development, teaching and research activities, and future faculty hiring. Stay tuned!

## Welcome to our new faculty



**Jennifer Barrett** comes to Loyola from Austin, Texas, where she received her Ph.D. in sociology with a specialization in demography and reproductive health from the University of Texas in 2008. Her main research and teaching interests are in the areas of religion, health, and demography. Barrett's work adds to the department's strength in the sociology of religion, concentrating on questions of how religion is written on the body in terms of physical health outcomes. She is also interested in exploring the social determinants of health for women and children. Most of her research focuses on understanding the influence of religious beliefs, practices, and contexts on health-related attitudes and behaviors in both the United States and in societies experiencing the post-Soviet transition. Presently, she is working on a series of projects examining links between religion and reproductive and sexual health in the United States.

Growing up in a rural farming community in West Texas where religious organizations were very important mechanisms for social expression and integration, Barrett developed an early interest in the influence of the social institution of religion on individual attitudes, behaviors, and life chances. The link to post-Soviet societies may initially seem a bit less intuitive, but Barrett's interest in this area is equally longstanding. From the other side of the world, news of the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 sent shockwaves around the world (including West Texas), inspiring Barrett to learn more about people living in these regions.

As an undergraduate at Texas Tech University in the 1990s, Barrett pursued these two streams of interest separately, earning a B.A. in both Sociology and Russian Language and Area Studies, and coming to understand that all of the questions she was interested in asking were sociological. Formerly Soviet societies have undergone rapid and dramatic changes in a range of social, demographic, and economic spheres, and shifts involving both religion and healthcare have been among the most striking. These rapid social changes have given the region potential to be seen as a natural laboratory for studying a variety of social phenomena.

While a graduate student in sociology at UT Austin, Barrett began working on issues related to reproductive and sexual health in post-Soviet Central Asia. Other research aimed to clarify the links between religion and health in several post-Soviet contexts and in the United States. Her dissertation drew several threads from previously separate interests together, using quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the influence of religious beliefs and practices on maternal and child health in Uzbekistan. Over the next several years, Barrett plans to continue to expand her work on the nature of the link between religion and health and to explore other social determinants of health. Her planned research involves continued work in the United States and in the post-Soviet world, especially Central Asia, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

**Jon R. Norman** received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007. After graduating from Berkeley, he was a post doctoral research associate at the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University. His research and teaching interests include urban and community sociology, the sociology of architecture and the built environment, the sociology of culture, the sociology of religion (with a focus on non-Christian faiths), and both qualitative and quantitative research methods. In addition to graduate degrees in sociology, Dr. Norman also holds a master's of science in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the faculty of Loyola University Chicago in the fall of 2008.



From a relatively young age, Dr. Norman has been interested in a key sociological question: how do groups of people solve collective problems? At the same time, he has also been interested in the built environment, and how it shapes and is shaped by people. While an undergraduate, Dr. Norman began bringing these two interests together by studying social science as well as visual arts and architecture at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. Prior to attending graduate school, while living in Boston, he worked professionally in architecture as well as in applied public policy research. This led Dr. Norman to attend graduate school in architecture, initially hoping to become a practicing architect.

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However, during the course of his studies, he realized that he was more interested in how people create, navigate and are affected by the built environment than in being a designer himself, and therefore entered the Ph.D. program in sociology to study urban sociology with Claude Fischer. Having worked professionally both in architecture and city planning, he continues to remain interested in how these fields affect individuals and communities on multiple levels, ranging from day-to-day understandings of architecture to the effects of federal housing policies on communities.

At Loyola University Chicago, Dr. Norman hopes to contribute to the strong tradition in urban sociology that is the heritage of both the department and of the city of Chicago. His current research continues his dissertation work that examined demographic and socioeconomic change in smaller cities in the United States over the latter part of the twentieth century. Drawing on his doctoral work that investigated which places are doing better and why, Dr. Norman's current research will examine the specific mechanisms that that enable and constrain particular smaller cities as they attempt to maintain population, higher standards of living and economic opportunities for all residents.



**Ayana Karanja, Ph.D** Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences is an activist/scholar who teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Sociology as well as undergraduate courses in Black World Studies. She holds the designation of Master Teacher within the College. Embracing a teaching philosophy grounded in critical thought and the stimulation of ideas above mere memorization of information, Dr. Karanja approaches pedagogy from the theoretical standpoint of Humanistic Sociology. Currently, her research interests are related to the Sociology of Knowledge, Critical Race and Gender Theory; Sociology of Literature; Human Rights and Social Justice. In addition to many years of teaching and administrative

service to Loyola University Chicago, Dr. Karanja has a rich background in teaching which includes the University of Illinois-Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University, and the Newberry Library, Chicago. Dr. Karanja lives in Chicago's historic Bronzeville neighborhood, where she provides training, human capacity building and education to community residents at the Lugenia Burns Hope Center, primarily through their engagement in processes of journaling, life-writing and narration—telling one's story. An anticipated outcome of this community-based research/project is a work in progress based upon Hope Center participants' experiences in breaking silence and bearing witness. Dr. Karanja is the author of *Zora Neale Hurston: Dialogue in Spirit and in Truth* (New York: Peter Lang, 1999).

## Commentary

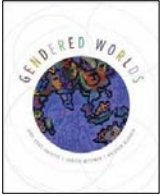
### **CAPITALISM CRISIS AND THE MANIFESTO: HEGEMONY VS RESISTANCE**

*by Lauren Langman*

When Zhou Enlai was asked his feelings about the French Revolution, he answered, "it's too early to tell." To evaluate contemporary capitalism in its globalized moment, one must also consider its dialectical contradictions. It is for this reason that we must start with Marx and see how 160 years later, the Manifesto remains the most concise distillation of his thought, his analysis, and prognostications. When Marx was writing, capitalism, in its early industrial moment was changing the face of the world. It transformed the entire world into a market, created vast wealth, erased the isolation and "idiocy of rural life" and laid the foundations for its modern form. "All that was solid melted into air." Today, capitalism has created a deterritorialized, seamless market in which globalized material production and financial markets, the bulk of global trade, have produced enormous wealth and prosperity. Multitudes have moved from abject poverty and illness to undreamt of level of comfort, wealth and health. But at the same time, as Marx has shown, capitalism rests on basic contradictions beginning with class conflict. To be sure, as he points out, written history is the history of class conflict, but under capitalism the economic nexus of social relations were laid bare- the ruling bourgeoisie gained its wealth by appropriating the surplus value created by workers. As the contradictions of labor and capital grew more blatant-as capital gathered workers together, the viability of capitalism became problematic. Yet despite its many crises, contradictions and reversals, it has not only endured,

# Faculty *Kudos and Announcements*

## Publications



### Judith Wittner

(with Judy Aulette and Kristin Blakely) has a new book out, *Gendered Worlds*, published by Oxford University Press.

**Dr. Lauren Langman**, Professor of Sociology, will present a lecture at The International Conference of The Communist Manifesto and the Contemporary Value of Marxism, in Shanghai, China. The title of his presentation will be: “Capitalism Crisis and the Manifesto: Hegemony vs. Resistance.”

## Presentations

**Dr. Marcel Fredericks**, Professor and Director of the Office of Research in Medical Sociology presented a lecture in Medical Sociology at the Jagiellonian University Medical College in Krakow, Poland. The title of his presentation was “The Society, Culture, Personality (SCP) Model: Toward an Integration and Synthesis of Select Concepts and Theories in the Health Care Institution.”

## Announcements

**Philip Nyden** will be at the University of Western Sydney, as Visiting Faculty, this fall to work on the international comparative housing research project.

Congratulations to **Philip Nyden and Marilyn Krogh** (Co-editors) for the launch of their first Issue of *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*.

but has become the hegemon of our era. But capitalists are very clever and their efforts to forestall demise should never be underestimated. Given their own understandings of the contradictory nature of their system, they initiated various economic and cultural agendas to obscure alienation and exploitation and preserve their system. These included reforms that blunted the harsh edges of its economic contradictions, namely social security legislation granting entitlements (unemployment/retirement/health care), recognition of unions and indeed better wages. At the same time, insofar as ideas are materially based, and ruling classes control the production of ideas, in the late 19th C., the growth of nationalism, and later consumerism, served hegemonic functions and secured spontaneous assent to domination (Gramsci). The “solutions” to its contradictions, have created additional contradictions. Entitlement programs have created legitimacy crises for the State. Nationalisms have fostered wasteful spending on weapons and wars over resources. Consumerism has fostered debt crises and environmental despoliation. Growing inequality and blocked careers have fostered fundamentalisms. In face of the many contradictions and crises of global capital, we have also seen various expressions of resistance such as the rapid proliferation of various global justice movements – best embodied by the World Social Forum that proclaims “another world is possible”. Will it happen? As Zhou Enlai said, it’s too early to tell.

## *From Dr. Maribyn Krogh, Undergraduate Program Director:*

Congratulations to Omar Kamran, who has won the President's Medallion for the College of Arts and Sciences for 2008-2009 (see below for more details) And Omar makes two in a row for the department! Last year's winner, Tara Becker, was also a sociology major.

Spring 2009 will feature some new special topics classes, including on the sociology of the American Catholic Imagination, mental health, and literature, as well as a section of the social problems course offered in conjunction with the Alternative Break Immersions trips.

With registration not far away, don't hesitate to ask your faculty advisor for assistance. If you need an advisor assigned or want to change your advisor, contact me.

Thanks to the Sociology Club and their graduate advisor, Courtney Irby, for the interesting and informative programs they're hosting this year. And keep an eye out for our new and improved sociology web page, with help from Chris Wolff.

**Oct 17** Deadline for Alternative Break Immersion trip applications <http://www.luc.edu/ministry/abi.shtml>

**Oct 21** Alumni Panel on Work Life after Loyola McCormick Lounge 7:00 PM

**Nov 1** Deadline for CURL fellowship applications for spring  
[http://www.luc.edu/curl/fellowship\\_applications.shtml#uf](http://www.luc.edu/curl/fellowship_applications.shtml#uf)

**Dec 5** Holiday Party Hussey Lounge 4:00

## *Undergraduate Students*

### *Kudos and Announcements*

**Omar Kamran**, a senior major in sociology, was awarded the prestigious 2008-2009 President's Medallion for the College of Arts and Sciences! This award recognizes outstanding scholarship, leadership and service. Omar was also the recipient of the 2008-2009 Provost's Fellowship, the 2008 REU Summer program at Texas A&M University, and the 2008 American Sociological Association Honors Program. Most recently, Omar was just accepted as the 2008 Fall Semester Organizing Intern at the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN).

**Micah Uetricht**, a senior major in sociology, was awarded a CURL Undergraduate Research Fellowship for 2007-2009. He is also the recipient of the 2008-2009 Provost's Fellowship and the 2008 American Sociological Association Honors Program. Micah was also the recipient of our department's 2007-2008 Ross Sherer Junior Student of the Year Award and was inducted as a member of Alpha Kappa Delta.

**Glenance Green**, a senior major in sociology, was awarded a CURL Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the summer 2008 semester. She is also the recipient of the 2008-2009 Provost's Fellowship and the 2008 American Sociological Association Honors Program. She was inducted as a member of Alpha Kappa Delta this year.

## ***Sociology Club Life After Sociology Series***

Oct. 14 - Grad Panel, 7:00 pm in Galvin Auditorium (Sullivan Center)

Oct. 21 - Alumni Meet and Greet, 7:00 pm in McCormick Lounge (Coffey Hall)

*Join us*, get involved, help us keep the club going.

We'd love to have more freshman and sophomore members.

Check our board in Damen Hall, 9th fl. for more event information.



## Kudos and Announcements

**Meghan Burke, Ph.D.** Candidate, was awarded a HUD grant of \$18,744.00 for her dissertation project titled, “Active Members of Diverse Communities: A Contextual Examination of Racial Self-Concept.” As part of their research incentive award to graduate students, Meghan will also be receiving \$1000.00 from the Graduate School at Loyola to help with her research.

**Laurie Cooper Stoll, Ph.D.** student, has had an extremely busy year. In addition to having two of her papers accepted for publication this year [Stoll, Laurie Cooper and Larry R. Petersen. (2008). “Church Growth and Decline: A Test of the Market-Based Approach.” *Review of Religious Research*, 49, 3, 251-268; Scanlan, Stephen J., Laurie Cooper Stoll, and Kimberly Lumm. (2008). “Starving for Change: The Hunger Strike and Nonviolent Action, 1906-2004.” *Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change*, 28, 239-323.], she was also the recipient for the Ross Sherer Award for Research in the Sociology of Religion, a yearly award presented by our department for outstanding research by a graduate student. Laurie is collaborating on a paper with Fred Kniss and Todd Fuist titled, “Understanding Religion and Homosexuality: Applying a Two-Dimensional Approach,” to be presented at the upcoming Society for the Scientific Study of Religion’s annual meeting in Louisville, KY.

The “**Works In Progress**” has historically been a time of solidarity for the department. It is a time where we gather to hear new research and new ideas. It is a time where we collectively offer feedback to one another and engage in intellectual debates about, what else—sociology?

Join us this semester (**November 14th**) at host Fred Kniss’ house. Our very own Meghan Burke will be presenting her talk, “*Not Just Race!: Whites’ Diversity Discourses.*” This is a pot luck arrangement so we are asking folks to bring your favorite dishes, your favorite drinks, and let’s party! More detail later.

G.A.S. has created an  
*internet message board*  
for the  
graduate sociology department  
*check it out*

<http://loyolasociology.proboards.com>

## Sociology at Loyola Alumni WE WANT YOU! Alumni Outreach Program

*In Solidarity* is looking for news about you! As part of an effort to create greater solidarity between alumni and current faculty, staff, and students, the editors of this newsletter have decided to create a section dedicated to those who have graduated and moved on, yet still remain here in spirit and passion. The goals of this section are many:

- to increase networking opportunities within our academic “family;”
- to introduce and invite alumni to department events, lectures, brown bags, and colloquia;
- and *most* importantly, to keep the department updated about your lives. Did you get a new job? Any new little faces in the family portraits? Did you recently win an award? Let us know your news and we will gladly print it.

Please email all news and suggestions to the department chair, Fred Kniss ([fkniss@luc.edu](mailto:fkniss@luc.edu)) or David G. Embrick ([dembrick@luc.edu](mailto:dembrick@luc.edu)). *We look forward to hearing from all of you!*

## Sociology Fall 2008 Colloquium Series

All events begin at 3pm unless otherwise noted.

September 12	DH 966	Friday Colloquium Series	Tal Wright
September 26	DH 966	Friday Colloquium Series	Laura Miller
October 10	Hussey Lounge	Friday Colloquium Series	David Lind
October 20	Hussey Lounge	<b>Friday</b> Monday Colloquium Series	William Domhoff
October 24	Hussey Lounge	Friday Colloquium Series	Fred Block
October 31	Hussey Lounge	<b>CV Workshop</b>	<b>see below</b>
November 7	Hussey Lounge	Friday Colloquium Series	David Fasenfest
November 14	see page 7	<b>WIP Pot Luck Party</b>	Meghan Burke
November 21	Hussey Lounge	Friday Colloquium Series	Carla Goar

CV workshop October 31st • 3-4:30 • Hussey Lounge  
with  
Jennifer Barrett and Japonica Brown-Saracino

### *other important dates*

Tuesday, Oct. 14	Sociology Club <i>How to Apply for Grad School</i>	Galvin Auditorium	7:00 - 9:00
Tuesday, Oct. 21	Sociology Club Alumni Panel	McCormick Lounge	7:00 - 9:00
Monday, Oct. 27	<b>Department Meeting</b> (full time faculty)	DH 966	3:00 - 5:00
Friday, Oct. 31	CV Workshop	Hussey	3:00—5:00
Tuesday, Nov. 4	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE</b>	
Thursday, Nov. 6	Benefits Health Fair Days (Faculty and Staff)	Gentile Center	8:00 - 3:00
Saturday, Nov. 8	CAGSRC Meeting	McCormick Lounge	12:00 – 5:00
Monday, Nov. 24	<b>Department Meeting</b> (full time faculty)	DH 966	3:00 - 5:00
Friday, Dec. 5	<b>Holiday Party</b> (faculty, staff, students)	Hussey Lounge	3:00 - 7:00
Thursday, Dec. 11	Dean's Holiday Party for (faculty and staff )	Hussey Lounge,	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19	University Christmas Party for (faculty and staff)	Halas	11:30 - 2:30