

**New York State Sociological Association
56th Annual Meeting**

**COMMUNITY, CONFLICT, AND
CONTROL**

Conference Abstracts

October 17-18, 2008

**Buffalo State College
1300 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222**

Coordinated by: Timothy A. McCorry (President, NYSSA 2008)

**Keynote Speaker: Elijah Anderson, Yale University
“Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black and Male”**

**Plenary Speaker: Peter St. Jean, SUNY at Buffalo
“Lessons from Homicides: The Implications for
Community, Conflict, and Control**

Friday October 17, 2008

Registration: 12:30 – 4:30 PM E.H. Butler Library Rm 210

Book and Poster Exhibit 12:30 - 4:30 PM E.H. Butler Library Rm 210

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM [Panels ‘A’ - ‘C’]

Panel A: Learning C. Wright Mills in Introduction to Sociology (Bacon Hall 220)

**Organizer and Panel Chair: Jeanne Cameron, Tompkins Cortland Community College
Dryden, New York**

Presenters:

“Technology’s Effect on Social Relationships,” Stephen Albonesi,

“Performing the Ivy League Role,” Ben Currens

“Social Work and Social Justice” Mallory Goyette-Luciano,

“Poverty and School Failure: Challenging Conventional Wisdom,” Anna Tate

This is a panel presentation of introductory-level research that purposefully applies Mills’ sociological perspective to daily life. Panel participants include four *Introduction to Sociology* students and their professor. Each student’s research is based on a qualitative interview with a family member about their work. Using inductive reasoning, students analyzed their interviews to identify contemporary sociological issues that linked their research subjects’ experiences with broader structural forces. Students then conducted secondary research to examine the prevalence of the issues within the larger society. Collectively, the work of these students attests to the potential to engage students in a meaningful and substantive dialogue with Mills’ central ideas about the social sciences.

Panel B: Community and Faith Based Programs for Youth (E.H. Butler Library 210)

Panel Chair: Kim Cattat-Mayer, SUNY Brockport

**“Examining Community Based Alternative Programs as a Pathway for Dropout
Prevention and Recovery in Boston, Nicole Lavan, University of Massachusetts-Boston**

This intensive one-year study examined the role of alternative programs located in community based organizations in dropout prevention and recovery. Researchers utilized qualitative measures to better understand why students were able to obtain their diploma in these programs but had dropped out of the district program. The guiding research questions for this study about the role of community based alternative education programs in dropout prevention and recovery are: 1) How and why do students enter alternative education programs in community based organizations? 2) What characteristics in the alternative education programs in community based organizations facilitate students in obtaining their high school diploma?

To answer these questions researchers used multiple data collection methods: 1) Interviews with students; teachers; staff; and program directors. 2) Participant Observation. This ethnography study is the second phase of a larger study that incorporates quantitative student level data to better understand why students leave BPS for alternative and GED programs. Based on preliminary analysis of the interviews and the observations, it seems the community based alternative programs provide a more conducive and favorable learning environment for students that is academically on par with the district schools the students left, and with more resources it could be even more academically rigorous.

“Segregation of Community Mental Health Resources for Youth: A GIS Application in Buffalo NY, Christine M. Rine, SUNY Buffalo

There is mounting research that suggests that proximal access is a real barrier to youth in obtaining the mental health treatments that they require (Grason, Aliza, Hutchins, Guyer & Minkivitz, 1999; Rosenheck & Lam, 1997). For this reason, examining access to mental health services for youth is an important first step in addressing youth outcomes in at-risk areas. Specifically, this paper examines how this community resource is segregated in Buffalo, NY through the use of census data and GIS mapping techniques. It is hoped that this knowledge will inform decisions around the planning and future location of mental health services for poor children and youth in area neighborhoods while elucidating the importance of proximal access in the provision of community resources.

“Lessons Learned from a Faith-Based Mentoring Program,” Kim Cattat-Mayer, SUNY Brockport

In 2003, the federal government created the Mentoring Children of Prisoners grant (MCP). Similar to other mentoring grants, this grant provides funding to programs who offer mentoring to at-risk children and adolescents. However, two qualities make MCP programs stand apart from other mentoring programs. First, MCP programs are only allowed to accept children of incarcerated parents into their programs. Second, some MCP programs are faith-based in nature, a relatively new phenomenon resulting from the federal government’s Faith-Based Community Initiative. This article provides an in-depth look at one such faith-based MCP program, using data from both staff interviews as well as participant observations. While multiple aspects of the program are explored, particular attention is paid to the faith-based features of the program.

“The History of Defining Youth: Current Implications for Identifying and Treating Delinquent Youth,” Robin M. Hartinger-Saunders, SUNY at Fredonia

This article presents a historical overview of how legally and socially constructed definitions of childhood and youth, related to juvenile delinquency have, and continue to, influence the identification, treatment and research of delinquent youth in the current system. Although we age biologically along a continuum, formal social systems, most notably the courts and our system of rights, are based on specific chronological age parameters which impose a rigid element to something that is otherwise fluid. This often results in subjective decision making regarding sanctions and treatment options among the court system and other

professionals who work closely with delinquent youth. This article highlights the importance of considering more than the specific delinquent act in determining the fate of youth. Consideration of individual characteristics and environmental factors will bring us closer to a more comprehensive strategy including intervention efforts to the family and community/neighborhood level to stimulate long term change.

“Social Support for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, Bivette M. Stodghill, SUNY Brockport

Annually, millions of children are exposed to domestic violence (CEDV). These children face an increased risk of exhibiting negative behavior outcomes. Theorists and interventionists have consistently referred to social support as an avenue for decreasing the likelihood that a child exposed to inter-parental violence will experience a negative behavioral outcome. Other scholars suggest that social support can reduce the number or severity of extant problems among CEDV. A widely held presumption exists regarding the buffering effects of social support in the lives of CEDV. At the same time, scholars suggest that CEDV may experience social support differently than other children because of the violence and coercion they live with. While there is a great deal of positive speculation about the ameliorative role of social support in the lives of children exposed to domestic violence, there is little empirical evidence regarding the experience and effects of social support among this population of at risk children. The purpose of this study is to empirically investigate the role of social support among CEDV and children who are not exposed to inter-adult violence. Recommendations for future research will be discussed.

**Panel C: The Social Construction of Gender and Sexual Identity (Bacon Hall 117)
Panel Chair: Tom Weinberg, Buffalo State College**

“Border-Crossing and Trans Identity Management, Reese Kelly, SUNY Albany

Trans people in the United States experience a wide array of discrimination and challenges while navigating a world in which only the identities of man (male) and woman (female) are legally and socially recognized. They must often weigh personal choices of bodily appearance and identity against safety and institutional definitions of sex/gender. Previous literature has focused on gender embodiment or “coming out” trajectories to explain trans identity management. I propose a new framework called “border-crossing” to describe the negotiation of legal identity, self-presentation, social interactions and gender identity of transgender people when negotiating a gender specific interaction. I explore this notion by comparing and contrasting two different instances of border-crossing, that of traversing across international borders and the act of using public restrooms. In each crossing, individuals must identify or “pass” as one sex/gender or the other. While these acts may be mundane to normatively gendered people, they are filled with tension, fear, apprehension, and conscious self-management. This study reveals the ways in which transgender people negotiate and manage their identities in their daily lives and illuminates the gendered performances of normatively gendered people as well.

“Compulsory Heterosexuality and Individual Understandings of Sexuality”, Nicole LaMarre, SUNY Albany

In this presentation, I would like to explore feminist and queer theorist arguments on the effects of compulsory heterosexuality on individual sexual identities to examine what has been missing from contemporary analysis of heterosexuality. In order to exemplify and raise new questions about the compulsory nature of heterosexuality, I conducted 15 face-to-face interviews (with human subjects approval) to explore how young, college age people are accounting for their sexuality by exploring the relations between gender preference, sexual behaviors, desires, and self-identification of sexuality. Evidence, such as marriage laws rewarding heterosexual relationships, suggests that the gender composition of relationships continues to socially and individually define and determine sexuality. The question remains whether or not younger generations are ascribing to heterosexual normative behaviors, or if they are becoming more fluent and resistant to the effects of compulsory heterosexuality? With this in mind, I explore the following research questions: How are individuals accounting for their sexuality- do they rely on gay/straight dichotomies as society dictates? Do hetero/homo discourses still have a strong influence within individual accounts of sexuality? Do contemporary accounts of sexuality serve to accurately describe individual sexualities?

“Exploring Perspectives on Adolescent Female Sexual Desire,” Sarah H. Smith, SUNY Buffalo

The following paper explores development of a framework for understanding the current situation of adolescent female sexual desire in the context of contemporary United States. My exploration particularly concerns the relationship between awareness and agency as manifested in behavior. In part, the literature reviewed describes current societal context (USDHHS 2004; Welles 2005; Miller and Leavitt 2003). In addition, review will delve into current social science perspectives and considerations regarding adolescent females as subjects (Tolman 1994; Welles 2005). Further literature reviewed focuses primarily on initiation to heterosexual intercourse as mitigated by the roles of major social and cultural influences such as religion (Meier 2003), community and family (Browning et al 2005), and education (Fine and MacClelland 2007; Kohler et al 2008; Mueller et al 2008). Because human agency is influenced not only by these institutions, but also by enactments of culture including popular media, the paper proceeds from the literature to a qualitative content analysis of the film ‘Juno,’ a relatively recent popular comedy that tells the story of a teen pregnancy. Conclusions will discuss problems of theoretical standpoints and possibilities for future research.

“Intimacy and the Self: Ideals and Practices of Individualism in Heterosexual Relationships,” Daniel Santore, SUNY Albany

Sociologists working in various traditions have posited an individualization of contemporary romantic relationships. This paper calls attention to concepts of self-development in theories of intimacy and provides an empirical portrait of individualized ideals and practices as negotiated in the lived context of relationships. Data are drawn from qualitative interviews with 41 cohabiting or married women and men, exploring meanings of self-development and obligation in relationships. Findings demonstrate that: (a) self-understanding, self-disclosure, and

individuality were valued in relationships by both women and men but with varying depth of feeling, (b) individual pursuits were prized in ideal terms but constrained in practice, and (c) gender and social class shaped individuals' understandings of how self and other are balanced in intimacy.

Coffee Break: 2:30 – 2:45 PM

Session II: 2:45-4:15 PM [Panels 'D' – 'G'] Various Rooms

Panel D: Subcultures, Social Networks, and Identity (E.H Butler 210)

Panel Chair: Carolyn E. Storms, SUNY Buffalo

“Searching for a Musical Identity: The Changing Value of Contemporary Shakuhachi Players,” Joshua Smith, Osaka University

Through personal interviews, participant observation, and a reading of historical shakuhachi texts I wish to explore younger shakuhachi players in relation to group vs. individual identities. Drawing from the concepts of Howard Becker's (1982) *art worlds* and Pierre Bourdieu's (1993) *habitus*, we will see how the social networks of younger players today are creating a new value system for them, forever changing the path of this traditional Japanese art.

"Game [never] Over: Insider and Outsider Perspectives on the Extensive Playing of MMORPGs," Zachary Miner, SUNY Albany

As video gaming is coming into its own as a pastime and cultural phenomenon, the controversy surrounding it continues to swell. Recent recommendations by the American Medical Association to include both Internet and gaming addictions in the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – followed by a backlash to this suggestion – demonstrate just how volatile the issue of problematic use is. It is clear that various groups and individuals seek to have the power to speak authoritatively about gaming as a pastime, or as an addiction. And while medical studies may be able to produce helpful information about things like the blink rates and respiratory or cardiac patterns of gamers, it is also important to look at the social circumstances in which gaming is located. The current research takes a step in this direction, providing contextual data about extensive gaming and seeking to understand its location in the social world, especially the differences in the perceptions of insiders and outsiders.

Specifically, I use a phenomenological approach, and a qualitative methodology, to examine extensive playing of Massively Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Games (MMORPGs) and the different meanings ascribed to this activity by insiders and outsiders. The disease/addiction model currently dominates outsiders' representations of those with a strong commitment to MMORPG gaming, while my respondents report alternative perceptions. Gamers' accounts of the positive aspects of gaming focus on its social/fun aspects, differential experience of time, and the meeting of human needs through gameplay. When addressing the negative aspects of gaming, they acknowledge that it is possible for extensive gaming to

become problematic, but their descriptions of problematic gaming show disagreement with the traditional disease/addiction model, and support for a definition which emphasizes individualized functioning rather than traditional attributes of addiction. I discuss implications of these definitional differences and I propose future research avenues in this content area.

“Skateboarding: The Hierarchy of a Youth Subculture,” Tyler Dupont, University at Buffalo, SUNY

In this paper I will map the organization of the skateboard culture by adapting an outline provided by Fox (1987) in her paper “Real Punks and Pretenders.” The paper will describe the hierarchy of the skateboarder subculture by level of commitment to the activity. The hierarchy of the skateboarders can be seen as a pyramid. The top of pyramid is filled with few members that are strongly committed to skateboarding, and as the pyramid becomes broader, more members are involved but are less committed. At the top are the *‘core skateboarders’*; the *random skateboarders* make up the next level, and the bottom level contains the *others*. Each of these levels in hierarchy is discussed at length in paper. The research is based on participant-observations, content analysis of websites and videos, and both formal and informal interviews with skateboarders in Buffalo, NY and Phoenix, AZ.

“ ‘There’s No Sorry in Roller Derby’: A Feminist Examination of Aggression and Identity of Women in the Full Contact Sport of Roller Derby,” Carolyn E. Storms, SUNY Buffalo

This study of women skaters who participate or have participated as a player in the all female full contact sport of flat track roller derby is focused on data obtained through 30 semi-structured interviews, as well as extensive participant observation. The dual nature of the research explored is, first, what effect does the adoption of methods of overt aggression have on levels of relational aggression in women who engage in competitive contact sports; and, secondly, to discover what changes in identity occur for women who participate in physically aggressive sports such as roller derby. In addition to the construction of a sociohistorical analysis of the sport of roller derby and the often complicated relationship between women, skating, and liberation, the analytical objective of describing variation and explaining relationships by means of individual accounts will help explain group norms and explore the process of acquisition of overtly aggressive strategies through the learning and engaging in contact athletics in women. This project will provide insight and suggestions for decreasing the levels of relational aggression in girls and women by participation in sports requiring instrumental, overt aggression in female athletes, which is significant since negative effects of relational aggression are intensified in women and girls due to the importance placed on friendships and higher levels of emotional intimacy in comparison to boys and men in relationships.

Panel E: Resistance, Rationalization and the Body (Bacon 117)

Panel Chair: Staci Newmahr, Buffalo State College

“The Body in Politics and Social Movements: Rethinking Resistance in Contemporary Politics,” Randolph H Hohle, D’Youville College

The body has been central to our understanding of political power, yet, has been conspicuously absent in the study of politics and social movements. This paper seeks to advance our understanding of the body in social movements as the effect of culture via the repetitive and ritualized embodied performances. I outline three conceptual understandings of the body – the disciplinary body, embodiment, and feminist body – to establish the centrality of the body in sociological thought. After a brief analysis of the limits of these approaches, this paper argues for the incorporation of a more active political body, a political body that is power and empowering, which organizes individual and collective identities. Drawing from the concepts of performativity and performance, I argue that political aesthetics, sentiment and knowledges are embedded in bodily practices that sustain contentious political cultures by attaching the political group to the site of performance. Social movements use embodied performances to establish new sites of connection, which allow social actors to recall and reconnect with places, changing the identity and meaning of civic culture as they struggle for and/or achieve civic inclusion. I use contemporary environmental politics and the idea of “going green” to illustrate how an important shift and development of environmental politics were the embodied performances of localism: dietary and communal practices that emphasized consuming local food products, limiting the distance and how one travels in geographic space. The emphasis on local practices allowed the movement to bypass an unresponsive state to pressure centers of economic power, illustrating how neoliberal politics can be turned against itself.

“‘Ow!’ is a Safeword: Sadomasochism and the Social Construction of Pain,” Staci Newmahr, Buffalo State College

Long the domain of medicine and medical sociology, "pain" is most often understood as a physical reality that is essentially and naturally undesirable. The sociology of sport has recently broadened the scope of pain studies, often offering what sociological explanations for the otherwise-baffling tolerance of painful activities. Physical pain is thus naturalized in the literature, rendering it nearly impossible to understand as a constructed and contextual experience.

For people who engage in sadomasochistic play (SM), the meanings and experiences of pain vary widely. For some, pain itself is the objective of SM. Others utilize it only toward particular ends, and still other SM participants avoid it entirely. Based on ethnographic work in an urban SM community, this paper identifies four distinct discourses of pain among SM players. Together these discourses illustrate the deployment of "pain" along three intersecting axes: as a carnal condition or experience, as a discursive tool in the community, and as evidence, written on the body, of relative power. The relationship between pain and hurting is mediated through, and constructed within, discourses of power. This paper breaks from the conventional understanding of pain as a naturalized physical reality, and questions the emotional-conceptual relationship between "pain" and "hurt."

“Rationalizing and Justifying Fraternity Hazing,” Marlon Gayadeen, SUNY Buffalo

This presentation examines hazing at a state college in the northeastern United States, with data collected from interviews of three historic White and three historic Black fraternities and participatory observation at a college program. Descriptive responses are explored through Sykes and Matza's five techniques of neutralization and four additional techniques. Results indicate that all participants used at least one technique of neutralization to rationalize hazing practices they were involved in or were witness to within their respective organization.

Panel F: Community, Conflict and Control (Bacon, 205)

Panel Chair: Laura McClusky, Wells College

“Kitchen Table Politics,” Siobhan K. McCollum, York University

The problems of community conflict and control are felt intimately and individually in small villages throughout Belize, Central America, and specifically in a lagoon-side village in the district of Orange Walk. Through engaging in three months of anthropological fieldwork including participant observation and informal interviews, my research illustrates the myriad complex difficulties a group of Guatemalan refugees experience as they transition from illegal aliens in a narco-economy to Belizean citizens in a village targeted for "development." The political environment of the village is examined from a post-development perspective, where Western-imposed labels are rejected; instead, circumstances are understood through local interpretations and solutions, and actions are considered using local standards. Employing post-development theory allows an analysis of the situation in the village to understand three things: how the Australian millionaire eco-lodge owner keeps the villagers indebted to him through control of the water supply and as the key employer in the village; how the figurehead chairman and his network of family members works to keep the village population small in order to maintain a balance of power in their favor; and how fear and the threat of deportation control the villagers as they vie for their immigration status. The end-result is a community without electricity, without a safe water supply and without a political voice on the larger stage in Belizean politics. Specifically, this research explores the concept of "kitchen table politics" as a means of undermining democracy and exposes the experiences of helplessness of refugees and displaced people as they forge new lives in new places.

You Can Run, But You Can't Hide: Escaping Abusive Husbands in Belize

Laura J. McClusky, Wells College

In the United States, when we discover that someone we know, or even just met, is being abused by their partner, we often tell them to leave that relationship. We emphasize escape as a strategy. It is often a viable option. Examining escape as a strategy outside the US, we find that it can be even more difficult. This paper examines the effectiveness of this strategy in Belize, a small Central American nation on the shores of the Caribbean.

Identities in Exile: Examining Tension and Conflict between Haitian and Dominican Immigrants in New York City, Huewayne A. Watson, Buffalo State College

The island of Hispaniola has historically been plagued by tension and division between Haiti and the Dominican Republic for territorial, political and economic reasons. Interestingly enough, Haitians and Dominicans who migrated to the United States of America, particularly in New York City, have brought with them their hatred and aggression in exile. It becomes observable that the relationship between the second generation of Haitians and Dominicans continue to be shaped by the Haitian-Dominican conflict. The purpose of my study is: (1) to give a quick overview of the history of the island of Hispaniola and the political forces that led Haitians and Dominicans to migrate to the United States; (2) to study where they settled in New York City, particularly if there was any sustained effort for Haitians and Dominicans to live in specific areas of the city; and (3) to analyze the political and cultural origins of the continuing conflict between the two groups. My initial hypothesis is that the division among the two immigrants group stems from the dissemination of racial and ethnic identification as well as cultural values reinforced by family ties.

Panel G: Stereotypes and Representations in the Media (Bacon 220)
Panel Chair-Sarah Smith, SUNY Buffalo

“Troubled Youth”: A Look into the Perceived and Actual Life of Albany’s Youth
Blake Kush – Siena College

What is the media portrayal of Albany’s inner city youth? To what extent does this portrayal match the reality of their lives? In the spring semester of 2008, students from a Sociology senior seminar conducted a research project that looked into both the media representations (and misrepresentations) of Albany’s youth as well as an actual firsthand perception. Using content analysis and focus groups, students compared published news of Albany’s youth with actual experiences of Albany’s youth. We sought to find out what it was like growing up in inner city Albany through the lens of the youth themselves and through the lens of published examples. What stood out most from this entire research project was what was missing. Where were the newspaper articles that encouraged positive behavior from Albany’s youth? Where were the positive role models that the youth need? It is easy to fail when everyone already expects you to.

“Stereotypes and Representations of Aging in the Media,” Susan Mason, Emily Darnell and Krisi Prifti, Niagara University

How are older adult presented in print and in the electronic media? Are they underrepresented? Are they accurately portrayed? Based on our examination of several forms of media over a four-month period, we discuss the role of the media in shaping our views on aging. Quantitative and qualitative analyses reveal that media representations often contribute to misunderstanding and stereotypes. We hypothesize that, as America ages, media representations of aging and the aged will be more accurate, and will lead to a better understanding of the varied interests, abilities and needs of older adults.

Social Construction and Perverted Justice, Sarah H. Smith, SUNY Buffalo

In contemporary American culture there is possibly no more contemptible an act than that of sexual abuse to a child. The reality of adult use of power to enact abuse upon a child is indeed a source of outrage. This paper is an attempt to look more closely at the relationship between popular media portrayals of this phenomenon and contemporary conceptualizations of the actors involved. An important underlying assumption of this paper is that the reactions generated, informed and perpetuated by these media portrayals are culled for interests aligned more with fear mongering than with a protective agenda. The supposed interest of shows such as *Dateline NBC's To Catch a Predator* is the protection of children, or minors who are understood as without capacity to protect themselves.

Sociology Department Reception and Cocktail Hour: 4:30-5:30 PM Campus House
NYSSA Awards Dinner: 5:30-6:45 Social Hall in Student Union
Keynote Speaker: Elijah Anderson, Yale University "Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black and Male," 7:00-8:30 PM Bulger Communications North

Saturday October 18, 2008

NYSSA Business Meeting with Bagels and Coffee: 8:00 – 9:00 AM (Butler Library 210B)
Registration: 9:05 – 12:00 AM (E.H. Bulter- Rm. 210)
Poster and Book Exhibit: 9:05 - 11:30 AM (E.H. Bulter Library 210)

Session III: 9:15 –10:45 AM [Panels 'H' - 'K'] Various Rooms

Panel H: The Legacy of Racism in the United States (E.H. Butler 210)
Panel Chair: Eric Krieg, Buffalo State College

Social Institutions and Environmental Injustice: The Legacy of Racism in New York State and Buffalo, NY, Eric Krieg, Buffalo State College

An abundance of research demonstrates the tendency for working class communities and communities of color to bear a disproportionate burden of ecological hazards. This is true across the state of New York, but not true for all communities. This paper summarizes the toxic waste crisis in New York and presents two portraits of the crisis. The first portrait is based on findings from a New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) study that analyzes racial biases in the distribution of air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites among non-white populations. The second portrait is based on findings from a study of Buffalo, NY that analyzes the lack of patterns of racial bias in the distribution of ecological hazards across zip codes in the city. Despite the differences between these portraits, the racist tendencies of social institutions can be used to explain existing spatial patterns of exposure. The findings offer a framework for future environmental justice activism.

“Opposition to Race-Based Policy: An American Dilemma Exposed,” Timothy D. Levonyan Radloff, SUNY Fredonia

Over the past 50 years, sociological research has shown that even though old-fashioned racism among Whites has declined, support for policy to reduce racial inequality has not increased. The present research utilized social structural variables as well as classical and contemporary measures of prejudice and racism to analyze undergraduate students' racial attitudes toward African Americans and to address why there is a lack of support for race-based policy at a Research I University. The results reveal that even though undergraduate students adhere to the basic American values of equal opportunity, they are less likely to support race-based policy. Egalitarianism and affective prejudice are most consequential in predicting levels of opposition for race-based policy designed to reduce racial inequality.

“An Examination of College Students' Conceptualization of Race and Diversity,” Cymone Bedford, Tiphonie Copeland, Kealy Whiting, and Lumi Zogaj, Wells College

Colleges across the country have made diversity part of their mission statement as an important institutional goal. However, it is not clear that any one definition of diversity is the most useful, nor can we be sure that institutional and student conceptualizations of diversity are the same. Ostensibly, coordinated actions to work towards campus diversity require participants to: 1) agree on what diversity means to the campus community, and 2) engage in productive discourse to work toward diversity goals. We chose to focus our inquiry on race, one possible component of the diversity. We purposely designed our study to inductively examine students' perceptions and attitudes towards race in their own words. Initial analysis of student narratives suggests that, in general, there is a sense of discomfort and awkwardness in students' responses about racially based interactions and discrimination. While there is an overall positive sentiment regarding the conceptualization of diversity in responses, negative responses occurred regarding issues of political correctness. Our findings suggest there is still much to do to get people to talk critically, yet comfortably about race and race-related issues.

“Catholics in the Civil Rights Movement,” Paul T. Murray, Siena College

Roman Catholics were underrepresented among the leaders and participants in the modern Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. African American Protestant ministers, most notably, Martin Luther King, Jr., were among the movement's most prominent figures. White Protestant clergy also made important contributions to the success of the movement. American Jews, although only a small fraction of the white population, were highly visible among civil rights supporters and volunteers. Catholics, the single largest U. S. religious denomination, were conspicuously missing from movement ranks. What accounts for their absence? Were Catholics less likely than members of other faiths to support civil rights for African Americans? Or do other factors account for their lack of involvement?

The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, it will attempt to measure the extent of Catholic participation in the movement. A number of Catholic activists did make important contributions to the success of the movement. Their religious affiliation was rarely noted, however, because they seldom called attention to their faith. It was only during the later stages

of the movement, when priests in collars and nuns in habits joined demonstrations, that Catholic participants were recognized *as Catholics*.

Second, it will explore various hypotheses offered to explain the relative lack of Catholic participation in the movement. Chief among these is the immigrant hypothesis which maintains that because American Catholics were, for the most part, immigrants or the children of immigrants, they were more concerned with assimilating into American society than trying to reform major social institutions. A related hypothesis stresses the large working class proportion of the Catholic population. In urban areas, Catholics often were in competition with African Americans for housing, jobs, and neighborhoods. A third hypothesis emphasizes the generally conservative nature of the Catholic hierarchy during the Cold War era. With few exceptions, Catholic leaders and the institutions they controlled taught unquestioning obedience to those in authority.

Panel I: Identity, Affirmation, Equity, and Navigation in Higher Education (Bacon 202)

Panel Organizer and Chair: Amitra Wall, Buffalo State College

Participants: Satasha Green, Buffalo State College; Hibajene Shandomo, Buffalo State College; Theresa Harris-Tigg, Buffalo State College; Kathy Wood, Buffalo State College

The purpose of this discussion is to showcase personal stories of African and African American faculty members at the largest comprehensive college in the State University of New York System. Stories, comprised of remembered events, are social events that synthesize social processes, social structure, and social situations. The discussion is part of a larger project featuring African and African American female faculty. The intent is to ground personal stories in critical race theory in the hopes of examining the tenure and promotion process. The goal is to organize anecdotal accounts into meaningful episodes. The presenters will make use of individual stories as the lens to provide a description of the roles of women of color in academia. Deconstructing the role of the mentor, defining one's self, and realizing that community service is important to women of color is highlighted throughout the presentation.

Panel J: The Sociology of Sport (Bacon 225)

Panel Chair and Organizer: Tim Delaney, SUNY Oswego

“Origins and Development of Lacrosse,” Peter Milliman, Empire State College

I will cover the origin of the game of lacrosse and its development into what it is today, with a focus on how lacrosse came to be a sport at the youth, collegiate and professional levels, as well as its similarities to other popular sports. I will also address the influences of popular culture and media on lacrosse and how that has changed the game. Most importantly, I will examine the sacred traditions and lessons that have been taught through the game as part of people's heritage.

“Lessons Learned from Sport Films,” Tim Madigan, St. John Fisher College

Films often allow people to watch controversial themes and discuss them in a relatively dispassionate way. In this paper I will present a brief overview of several sports films that have aided in the socialization process by showing characters—some fictional, some based on real-life individuals—whose participation in sporting activities connected with major sociological issues. Topics to be addressed include the role of sport in the community; gender; participation in school sport; religion and sport; sports heroes; and race and ethnicity, as these are dealt with in such films as *Major League*; *A League of Their Own*; *Rudy*; *Chariots of Fire*; *Rocky*; and *Brian’s Song*.

“The Social Aspects of Tailgating,” Tim Delaney, SUNY Oswego

Beyond the game itself, one of the most anticipated aspects of attending a college or professional football game is the tailgate party. This is especially true if the fans involved are cheering for a team with a losing record and/or little chance of winning. The tailgate party is much more than food and drink; it is a social event that provides participants with an opportunity to bond with others. In this regard, tailgaters form a sense of community via tailgate party participation. In this paper, a number of social aspects associated with tailgating will be discussed. Research and first-hand accounts of tailgating will also be discussed.

“The Role of the Press in the Modern Integration of Baseball,” Joseph Marren, Buffalo State College

The signing of Jackie Robinson effectively split baseball history into “before” and “after” eras, with most of the African-American press coverage shifting to the major leagues once Robinson donned a Brooklyn uniform. But what extent did the campaign to integrate the major leagues contribute to the demise of the Negro Leagues? Did African-American journalists think about such an effect, or was the death of the Negro Leagues the price they knew must be paid? After all, not many of the players (only about 60) and perhaps none of the ancillary workers (umpires, stadium staff, front office personnel, etc.) caught on with the big leagues. Or did Lacy, Smith and others think that with the big leagues integrated, the Negro Leagues could function within the structure of white organized baseball? Could the Negro Leagues have become part of the minor league system?

My premise is that America HAD to have a Jackie Robinson, even if America resisted, because of the fight against fascism and racism in WWII and in the Cold War. The press either led the way or came along reluctantly:

1. The African-American press: Led in the 1920s and 30s by Sam Lacy of The Baltimore Afro-American, Wendell Smith of The Pittsburgh Courier, and Joe Bostic of The People’s Voice of Harlem.
2. The socialist Daily Worker began a campaign for baseball integration with sports editor Lester Rodney, and later Bill Mardo, in the 1930s.
3. The mainstream white press, in particular columnists such as Shirley Povich, would sometimes call for abolishing the “color barrier,” but mostly followed the lead of Lacy, Smith, Bostic and Rodney.

Panel K: The Sociology of Addictions (Bacon 211)

Panel Chair: Kornel Kumar, SUNY Brockport

Methamphetamine: Communities in Conflict

Gary J. Metz, MS, MPA, MAC, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Substance Abuse Studies, and Kornel S. Kumar, Associate Professor and Chair of Criminal Justice, College at Brockport, State University of New York

The impact of methamphetamines continues to cause major problems for those in the health and criminal justice professions. Many users develop serious health complications related to their addiction and criminal behavior. These implications extend well beyond the user and into the community and family system. How is the community to respond to this epidemic? Do we approach the problem from a unilateral or a multivariate systemic perspective? Should our efforts be directed from the primary, secondary or tertiary level of prevention? Communities need to be consistent and address this problem from a coordinated, systematic approach utilizing current community based resources and funding opportunities. This presentation will begin to address several of these questions and examine possible options for communities to consider.

“Addicted Families: From Conflict to Collaborative Change,” Patti Follansbee, and Gary Metz, SUNY Brockport

One of the most critical components within our society, the family, continues to decline from the use of legal and illegal substances. This is clearly one of the many endemics facing our community today. Often we hear about the individual addiction but seldom do we approach the subject of family addiction. Our focus for this presentation will be on the family, the dynamics of families with addiction problems, stages families encounter when struggling with addiction and family empowerment. Participants will also explore community based resources for intervention, referral and treatment networking purposes.

Buzzed: Comparing Profiles for Energy Drink, Coffee, and Drug Consumption among Musicians, Kathleen Miller and Brian Quigley, SUNY Buffalo

Consumption of energy drinks (e.g., Red Bull, Monster, or Amp) is a rapidly growing but understudied phenomenon. In this analysis, we examined correlates of energy drink, caffeine, marijuana, and other illicit drug consumption in order to explore the question: Do energy drink consumption patterns more closely resemble illicit substance use (e.g., marijuana) or licit

caffeine use (e.g., coffee, tea, soda)? Self-report survey data from a convenience sample of 226 Western New York musicians (age 18-45) tested relationships between substance use and personality traits, gender attitudes, and preferences for a range of musical genres. Linear regression analyses indicated that the frequency of energy drink consumption was positively associated with the personality trait of sensation-seeking, inegalitarian gender attitudes, and a preference for intense/rebellious musical genres (e.g., alternative, punk, rock, or heavy metal) and negatively associated with a preference for reflective/complex musical genres (e.g., blues, jazz, classical, or folk). Energy drink consumption was also higher among males and nonwhites (compared to females and whites) and decreased with age. In contrast, coffee and other caffeine use was not predicted by any of the variables tested in this analysis, while marijuana use and other illicit drug use were positively associated with sensation seeking and negatively associated with a preference for upbeat/conventional musical genres.

“Factors Associated with Alcohol Abuse Among High School Seniors,” Jordan Willis, SUNY Buffalo

This paper examines the problem of alcohol abuse among adolescents in the United States. The primary focus of this investigation includes family structure and parental education levels, student academic performance, race, gender, religiosity, and self-reported illicit drug use. The secondary analysis used data from a 2005 survey administered to 15,378 students in 130 U.S. high schools. A series of twelve linear regression models identified several demographic and social factors associated with self-reported alcohol abuse among high school seniors. While race and gender were demonstrated to be significant across all models, the effect of family structure and parents’ education levels were inconsequential. Most models showed a significant inverse relationship between self-reported GPA and alcohol abuse, and self-evaluated intelligence levels were shown to be consistently associated with lower levels of alcohol abuse. The initially strong negative effects of the importance of religion were made insignificant after controlling for illicit drug use. Self-reported use of other drugs had a very strong association with alcohol use, even after controlling for all other variables used in the analysis. The findings suggest the importance of further investigation of factors predicting illegal drug use among adolescents.

Coffee Break: 10:45 – 11:00 AM

Session IV: 11:00 –12:30 PM [Panels ‘L’ - ‘Q’] Various Rooms

Panel L: Social Movements and Activism (E.H. Bulter 210)

Panel Chair: Michael I. Niman, Buffalo State College

“Society, Space and Direct Action,” Zac Moore, Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF

In this paper, I examine several theoretical developments over the last 20 years regarding definitions of social space and new social movements as they inform or fail to inform our understanding of actually lived struggles. In particular, I will contrast these understandings with the experience of employing community organizing tactics of direct action within an

environmental justice campaign in Syracuse, NY, to prevent the siting of an above-ground sewage plant in a neighborhood. Residents from the neighborhood who were actively involved in the struggle are encouraged to participate in the discussion of the paper (contingent upon their ability to travel due to health conditions).

“Liberating Time and Space: The Rainbow Utopia,” Michael I. Niman, Buffalo State College

Since 1972, the nonhierarchical nomadic Rainbow Family of Living Light has been holding large gatherings in remote forests around the world to pray for world peace and to create a model of a functioning utopian society. The reoccurring temporary Rainbow city, wherever and whenever it sprouts up, models what anarchist theorist Hakim Bey terms a “Temporary Autonomous Zone” (TAZ). Revolutions, Bey writes, seek permanent change, and in doing so, lead to violence and martyrdom. Revolutionaries aim to hold territory. The TAZ, by contrast, does not directly engage the state, but instead “liberates an area (of land, of time, of imagination) and then dissolves itself to form again at another time or place.” Unlike immigration or other migrations, the TAZ moves by dissolving into the larger society (what Rainbows call “Babylon”), and reconstituting in another time and space, practicing what demographers refer to as “fission-fusion. This chapter examines the Rainbow Family as a TAZ, proposing that its ability to survive and prosper for well over a generation is the result of this fission-fusion strategy.

“Making Community through Ritual and Symbolism: A Case Study of Labyrinth Building, Marilyn Bell, D’Youville College

This case study documents the building of a labyrinth in the summer of 2003. A group of approximately 40 volunteer builders gathered for a ritual of dedication, of both the workers and the site, prior to any bricks being laid. The work progressed throughout the summer with builders gathering every Saturday morning. The completed project was dedicated in September. Follow up interviews have been conducted with many of the builders to determine the impact of beginning with ritual and the use of symbolism to facilitate the work and unite the workers. The findings from these interviews highlight the importance of the ritual of dedication to the successful completion of the work. As one builder noted, “We weren’t just a group of individuals who had volunteered for something; we were a committed group with a purpose.”

“Community Participation as Political Engagement,” Megan Weaver, Buffalo State College

In this study I examine the relationship between formal political participation (i.e. voting) and community participation in informal forums (i.e. block clubs, local business organizations, etc.). I argue that as Americans, we are schooled by formal institutions to believe that political engagement is expressed through the act of voting and participation in formal political parties. However, a very low percentage of the American public votes or attends political party

committee meetings. To clarify these issues, a variety of random interviews will be conducted with 20-50 community members of the Grant-Amherst neighborhood within Buffalo, NY. I hypothesize that most current active political engagement in the Grant-Amherst neighborhood is largely unrelated to voting or formal political participation, but instead exists in an organic, fluid, changeable, informal forum as represented by block clubs, community activists, local business organizations, and community cooperatives. Implications for future research and public policy will be discussed.

Panel M: Media, Popular Culture and Ideological Frames (Bacon 225)

Panel Chair: Paul Fuller, St. John Fisher College

“The Truman Show” at 10: A ‘Reality’ Show Ahead of Its Time, Tim Madigan, St. John Fisher College

In this presentation I will discuss the 1998 film *The Truman Show* and the continuing relevance it has to sociological themes. In particular, I will compare the film to the sociological theories of Erving Goffman and his concept of “role playing.” *The Truman Show* is the story of a young man who doesn’t realize that his entire life has been filmed from birth, and that all of the people he thinks are his friends and family are really paid actors. His life is the number one show throughout the world, and the viewers live vicariously through the scripted adventures and his spontaneous reactions. The entire situation is manipulated and controlled by a mysterious figure known as Cristof. There are many sociological themes in the movie: the desire to be authentic; the growing overlap between entertainment and reality; the performative aspects of everyday life; and the search for truth in a world of illusions. The film also anticipates the actual popularity of so-called “reality shows” such as *Survivor* and *Big Brother*, and the increasing use of unseen video cameras to capture people’s movements, with or without their knowledge. *The Truman Show* was filmed in Seaside, Florida, a planned community in the “New Urbanism” style, and is also a criticism of such utopian ideals. I will also explore in what ways the movie was ahead of its time and how it can continue to be utilized in courses as a means of connecting popular culture with the philosophical and sociological analyses of personal identity and social influences.

“Attitudes towards Censorship on the Radio,” Diane Carvagno, Siena College

What are the attitudes of college students toward censorship of the radio? Censorship of the radio is not something that is studied frequently. It is important to study attitudes toward censorship and who is more likely or less likely to support it. The sample used for this study consisted of 379 students in attendance at Siena College. A link to an online survey was sent to every student. The questionnaire included an eight item attitude scale. Responses to the eight statements were combined into one variable named censorship which was the dependent variable. The eight demographic questions asked at the end of the questionnaire were the independent variables. All hypotheses held true except: independent and other political identities (not Republican) are actually less likely to support censorship than Democrats. Also,

middle class students are more likely to support censorship than any other class. In general, it was found that students from Siena College did support censorship.

On Scale, Extra-Local Relations, and Ideological Frames: Investigating Globalized Interaction Using Institutional Ethnography, Zac Moore, Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF

In this paper, I investigate the complex relationship between Dorothy Smith's conceptualization of relations of ruling at the locally experienced level on one hand and "regulatory frames" (Smith 2005) and "ideological codes" (Smith 1999) involving textual, "extra-local" relations of power and coordination on the other. This discussion is located within an examination of discursive institutions such as international or "global" publishing houses and their relationships to discursive practices of academic and professional communities. This paper also examines similarities and differences between Institutional Ethnography studies that focus on so-called "local" communities and recent studies that examine "global" communities.

Panel N: Sociology of Health (Bacon 211)

Panel Chair: Patricia E. Neff, SUNY Buffalo

**"The Metamorphosis of a Monster: Changing Images Associated with Cancer,"
Christopher Gallant, Hilbert College**

Traditionally disease, more specifically cancer, is associated with a set of images that visually attempt to define illness. Historically these images illustrated cancer as a "death sentence" or "a monstrosity", primarily because of the medical institution's ineffectiveness in controlling disease (Stacey, 1997, p vi). These images, in many ways, have morphed into mythologies that have outlasted their life expectancy, especially in light of vast improvements in cancer treatment. Even today, it is these outdated images that still settle into the consciousness of cancer patients; imagery deeply rooted in the human psyche and associated with representations of fear and death. This paper strives to critically investigate traditional and contemporary images of cancer. Drawing from a broad set of literature, I will investigate imagery associated with cancer, historically and within popular culture.

**"Neighborhood Design and its Influence on Physical Activity," Annemarie Franczyk,
Buffalo State College**

My research examines how neighborhood design factors influence residents' physical activity by studying and comparing two distinctly different urban communities. The residents of the two study areas are demographically similar while their built environments are distinctly different.

Participants in my study recorded their physical activity during a two-day period. My results demonstrate how participants from the neighborhood designed for greater density typically pursued physical activity with at least one other person, while the residents of the less-dense neighborhood often sought physical activity alone. The level of density inherent in neighborhood design emerged as a significant influence on both physical and social activity.

My paper will discuss both my methodology and the results of my study, focusing on linkages between urban density and physical health.

“ADHD and Maternal Stress: A Closer Examination of Problematic Behavior,” Patricia E. Neff, SUNY Buffalo

Previous research indicates that mothers of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) experience more emotional stress and strain than mothers of non-ADHD children. The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of having an ADHD child, as compared to a non-ADHD child, on maternal well-being, and to assess whether there are differences for Canadian and U.S. mothers. Unlike related studies based on small clinically referred samples, the use of two nationally representative samples may provide more insight into this matter. This research also considers the behavior of the child as an important contributing factor to maternal well-being. In particular, the influence of having an ADHD child with higher behavioral problems as compared to lower behavioral problems is addressed. For instance, it might be that the effect of having an ADHD child with a higher level of behavioral problems will have a stronger negative impact on maternal well-being than the effect of having an ADHD child with a lower level of behavioral problems. Comparable data from the 2001 U.S. National Health Interview Survey and the 2000-2001 Canadian National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth is used to determine the influence of having an ADHD child as well as the importance of behavioral problems. Results suggest that Canadian and American mothers of ADHD and non-ADHD children are uniquely influenced by the level of behavioral problems displayed their child. The implications of these findings will be discussed.

**“Utilizing Art Therapy to Benefit the Mental Health of Adults with Learning Disabilities”
Rob Rein**

In this paper, I propose a research design which will examine whether art therapy is a positive way of promoting the mental health of adults diagnosed with learning disabilities. , using the available research from the Learning Disabilities of WNY, which has a arts therapy program called Starlight Art studio. This is a New York State OPTS funded program which is based around the concept of using art as a recreational therapy for Adults with Learning Disabilities. I plan on examining the effects of Art therapy on the quality of life of participants through the use of participant satisfaction surveys. Specifically, my research question will be; “Does art therapy provide a pathway to a better quality of life for adults with Learning Disabilities?”

Panel O- The Object of Auto-ethnography (Bacon 205)

Panel Chair: Allen Shelton, Buffalo State College

“ Introduction to the Existential Phenomenological Sociology of Agape Love, Caring, and Leadership,” John Ernest Seem, St. John Fisher College

The existential phenomenological sociology perspective begins as “I am. While bracketing out the superfluous, these are how things appear in my life-world.” The life-world is a person’s conscious understandings of self and his/her social world. A person’s life-world includes I am and other essences, which are simple nodes to complex clusters of related lived experience and associated intention, belief, emotion, value, and desire. I am acts through particular essences within its life-world to initiate, define, shape, maintain, change, and/or terminate a line of social interaction with other(s). The life-world and its I am and other essences emerge and change through socialization, social interaction, and lived experience in groups, communities, and cultures which are socially constructed by people who act through and from their life-worlds to socially interact with one another. The I am participates in the construction of its own life-world through the interpretation of its own lived experience and the process of looking-glass self. Using this perspective, I begin to develop a theory of agape love, caring, and leadership.

“The Army of Sorts”: A Philosophical Graphic Novel,” Nicholas Coulter

“Today abstraction is no longer that of the map, the double, the mirror, or the concept. Simulation is no longer that of a territory, a referential being, or a substance.”

“The territory [the tangible] no longer precedes the map [intangible], nor does it survive it. It is nevertheless the map that precedes the territory--precession of simulacra—that engenders the territory”

It is the real, and not the map, whose vestiges persist here and there in the deserts [our minds] that are no longer those of the Empire [the system], but ours. *The desert of the real itself.*”

-Jean Baudrillard

Having defined the real and its connection with the map as well as our basic life existence (series of strings) the palette constructs itself. We see colors materializing in our minds and we formulate the idea of existence as a human, not outside of itself, beginning to secure your questioning mind in a plane that spreads as far as ones mind can see; beginning withone body--structuring it, developing its inner and outer form, and placing it at a point of *interest*: a space in time. *the memoir.*

The memoir, I feel, is the closest scientific space to our past history. It is ornate and descriptive, as well as an element of wonder. Unlike quantification it lends itself to the written word, filled with emotion (quantifying in its own respect) and an element that speaks to validity. This memoir, in respect to myself, is not unlike Einstein’s hyperspace, or wormholes. The memoirs that ensue are collections of spaces with which make up a congruent thought

process that represents the 'self' that I was during that particular space in time. The analysis of that space is then incorporated as a window into that self through my written word and others. Be it there are many many 'self's' with in this space, this space is created with a thematic tone about it. Fear. Not just fear, but the undertone of fear somehow carries the tone of this piece well. It is often that the piece carries itself, weaving the string that is my minds thoughts and the connections of thoughts. If letters could be considered the atom's smallest particle and the atom is the word, then it is the sentence, and thoughts made up of sentences that make up the element of nature. The memoir. Given each element has separate and unique characteristics but are all connected, it is these separate and unique characteristics that make up the memoir.

**"The Pharmaceutical Monument: An Analysis of the New Infrastructure of Power,"
Wendy Hilleren, Buffalo State College**

Just outside Philadelphia, a statue of Ulysses S Grant stands like a watchman over the city. In a medicine cabinet a few miles away, a bottle of Lexipro keeps guard over a household. Both of these have become monuments of my father. After he was prescribed an anti-anxiety medication, my mother started calling him "The General". For each bottle my father is prescribed, a new Grant keepsake enters the house- a postcard, his memoir, a ceramic mug from a battle site. As my father's temper becomes more placid, the shrine to Grant becomes larger.

Pharmaceuticals are the new infrastructure of crowd control. Like Grant, Lexipro sends an army of chemicals to suppress an uprising of anxiety. It infiltrates the interior of bodies and dominates exterior relationships. Lexipro has become Grant's double. Pharmeceuticals are the new heroes.

"Eiffel Towers: Notes on Coffee, Sugar and Palm trees." Matthew Dore, Buffalo State College

Marx said that once an object steps forth as a commodity, it becomes something transcendent and takes on spiritual qualities. Social action becomes the action of objects: objects rule over people instead of people ruling over objects. "Eiffel Towers" tells the story of an afternoon at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens where shoes speak with coffee creamer and tables exchange niceties with trees and sweaters. Underneath a glass and photosynthetic umbrella, Marx's ideas of the commodity fetish come to life.

**Panel P: Reconciling the American Dream and Institutional Inequality (Bacon 209)
Panel Chair: Timothy McCorry, Buffalo State College**

"Cotton Mather, Benjamin Franklin and "Helping Yourself" to a Slice of the American Dream," Ken Baker, Elmira College

The principle mindset held by Americans towards self-improvement, in all but a few aspects of the term, has gone relatively unchanged since first our Puritan, and then our Utilitarian, economic forefathers. That is, Americans continue to seek self-improvement for self-improvement's sake, without an apparent end in sight; but why? This paper examines the

precursors leading up to our society's apparent obsession with self-improvement (and, in turn, its links to consumerism). The journey, not the destination, has become our moral and economic trend, and ironically – in terms of this journey's thrifty Puritanical and Utilitarian beginnings – consumerism may have emerged as a related phenomenon. Puritan preacher Cotton Mather and followers, it will be argued, set the stage for what Benjamin Franklin and other Utilitarian minds would help to transform into the consumer-based economy (also known as the “American Dream”) that Americans know and love today – that is, those that can afford the chase. Using examples from modern day self-help literature it will be shown that both the Protestant Work Ethic and *Poor Richard* continue to influence us to this day, both at work and even in play.

“Primitive Consumption,” Watoii Rabii, Buffalo State College

In this paper, I present a theory I have formulated based on readings I did the first semester of my freshman year with the Naked America Learning Community. The name of the theory is Primitive Consumption. The basic idea of the theory is that capital and commodities transcend the physical commodities such as money and objects and take on a more mental context in the form of what Sigmund Freud calls wish fulfillment. In this paper I focus on advertising and how it invokes wish fulfillment within the individuals who see them. Before a person buys a product they must buy into certain ideas, images and impressions about the product and that the product can fulfill a wish whether it is a better body, a cleaner house or a fancier car. Once the image of the unfulfilled wish is in the consumers head along with the idea that the product can fulfill that wish the consumer then seeks to purchase the product. The ideas of this paper have been influenced by Karl Marx, Marshall McLuhan and Sigmund Freud.

The Influence of Role on the Social Reproduction of Class, Benjamin Currens, Tompkins Cortland Community College

The ideas expressed within this proposal are built upon the social reproduction question, specifically the passing, between generations, of social class position. This paper approaches and contributes to the larger theoretical discussion on social reproduction by examining the factors, cultural and structural, that have influenced one research subject. The main assertion is that the intellectual abilities and patterns of social interaction that are acquired within the environments (spheres of interaction within interconnecting personal orbits) people experience from early childhood through college shape the personal orbits people occupy later in life. I propose that the development and growth of intellectual and social networking skills help those that acquire them to successfully navigate the structural “stepping stones” (elite preparatory schools or high expectation classes within public schools, etc.) needed to achieve or maintain an elite social class position.

“Institutional Inequality in Education,” Emily Lalka, St. John Fisher College

Discrimination against people because of their race is not just something that individuals take part in. Racism has worked its way into this society from its conception and

institutional racism affects every level of contemporary society. Institutional racism works against African Americans gaining higher socioeconomic status – some different areas where institutional racism affects our society are: in the housing market, job opportunities, wages, and the labor market, and in education. These institutionalized forms of discrimination form a broader, interlinked pattern. This paper focuses on institutional racism in education – an institution that operates as a gateway to the labor market. The paper argues that by reducing institutional racism in education – inequalities in other institutions can be reduced.

Panel Q: Sociology of Education (Bacon 207)

Panel Chair: Julia Hall, D'Youville College

“Public Schools & Privatized Spaces: Notes on an Urban High School,” Julia Hall, D'Youville College

This presentation reflects a larger, multi-year study, conducted in the urban, postindustrial midwest, in which I explore the historical economic and social conditions that have resulted in the building of a fully privatized “public” high school. The school which is now several years old, was designed with an emphasis on technology “...to help better prepare students for the jobs of the future.” The student body includes mostly poor and working class European American and African American students. Research methods include three years of formal observations of town meetings, civic functions, and youth interaction in the city; document analysis of school promotional materials, area records, local newspapers, and other forms of media; historical analysis of city social, economic, and demographic trends; and formal interviews with citizens. For one year, informal observations of spaces in the school, and informational interviews with teachers have also been conducted. Findings suggest the “technology” theme in the school often resembles “surveillance,” with a corporate-military subtext of video cameras, identity checks, metal detectors, and computer tracking software. I will describe the research and findings and will make connections to global neoliberal policies and agendas.

“High Stakes Testing and Teacher Resistance: New York City Schools in Era of Increased Accountability,” Bart Liguori, Cornell University

The New York State Regents Exams have served for over a century in dictating the higher education aspirations of youths statewide. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 and various state laws have mandated a renewed emphasis on testing. This paper studies the effects of these new laws and standards on teachers in New York City and how they cope with pressures that are placed on them by students, parents, administrators, and other teachers and how that is played out within the organizational framework of the school. Another concept this paper builds upon is test score pollution. Test score pollution focuses on teachers and administrators rather than students and is used to describe factors that affect the validity of test scores. Some test score pollution strategies include: “teaching to the test,” dismissing low-achieving students on the day of the test, and teachers altering response sheets or their interpretation of a response while scoring. One type of test score pollution that is reported to occur in the state of New York is “scrubbing,” where teachers change the outcome of a student’s regents exam grade from failing to passing while grading these high stakes exams. A better definition of the term scrubbing along with gradations is introduced. It is alleged that scrubbing is used in order to

improve the passing percentage of schools on regents exams. Another goal of the study is to determine to what extent and under what circumstances scrubbing occurs.

Understanding Children’s Literacy: The Influence of Parenting Style,” Rachel La Touche, SUNY at Buffalo

Using data from the Child Rearing Values and Practices survey, my research explores the relationship between family characteristics and parental investment in their children’s literacy. For Blacks and Whites, regression models estimate whether variations in parental investment are moderated by sex, marital status, income, education, and career role. My findings show that racial differences in parental investment are not entirely mediated by family characteristics, despite their evident significance. Overall, the evidence is consistent with an explanation that suggests racial differences in parental investment regarding literacy are real between Black and White respondents.

“The Effects of Multicultural Literature on the Reading Motivation of West Indian Students,” Marilyn Sohan, Buffalo State College

The purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions of West Indian college students on multicultural literature as it relates their reading motivation. This study focused on West Indian undergraduate students at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. In recent years, researchers have examined the importance of motivation in determining reading achievement. However, studies examining reading motivation have not explored the use of multicultural literature within the West Indian student population. Keeping students motivated academically is a major challenge for educators because of the discontinuity of home and school cultures. Many West Indian students have to become bi-cultural to be successful within American schools. Therefore, strategies are needed to reduce students’ boredom and to connect student’s home and school cultures which enhance student motivation. One way to do this is by providing students with Multicultural Literature. Students come to school with many diverse cultural and ethnic identities, which forces the teacher to be more culturally aware of the diversity within the class to ensure that the needs of all students are met (Banks, 2001; Gay, 2002; Rhee, 2002). This research project utilized a quantitative research design with West Indian undergraduate college students between the ages of 18-25.

Luncheon: 12:45 - 1:45 PM Albright Knox-Clifton Hall

Plenary Address 1:45-3:15-Peter St. Jean, SUNY at Buffalo, “Lessons from Homicides: The Implications for Community, Conflict, and Control.”

Albright Knox Op-Art Exhibit Tour: 3:15 – 4:30 PM