

Spring 2012
Newsletter

Rutgers-Camden Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice

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Philippe Bourgois to Speak at Annual Urban Research Speakers Series

As part of our Urban Research Speakers Series, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, along with the Department of Public Policy and Administration, The Center for Urban Research and Education, and the Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be sponsoring a visit from acclaimed scholar Philippe Bourgois, who will talk about his work on the moral economy of inner-city violence in North Philadelphia. His talk is titled "The Moral Economy of Violence in the U.S. Inner City: An Ethnography in Puerto Rican North Philly."

Philippe Bourgois is the author of *In Search of*

Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio and *Righteous Dopefiends*, among other works. He has conducted fieldwork in Central America and in the urban United States. In Central America his research addresses the political mobilization of ethnicity, immigration and labor relations, political violence, popular resistance, and the social dislocation of street children. His research in the U.S. confronts inner-city social suffering and critiques the political economy and cultural contours of U.S. apartheid. His most recent work focuses on substance abuse, violence, homelessness, and HIV-prevention.

The Masters program

in Criminal Justice Urban Research Speaker Series brings graduate students, advanced undergraduate students, faculty, and researchers together in a collegial forum to discuss ideas and issues relevant to conducting criminal justice and related urban research in Camden. It is designed to make connections among researchers and to engage our students in urban research.

Mark your Calendar!

Thursday, April 12, during the free period (12:20-1:20) **Philippe Bourgois** will speak in the Multi-purpose Room in the Campus Center.

Faculty News

Professor **Ted Goertzel** met with President Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic and gave a talk to an enthusiastic audience at the Santo Domingo Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo about the emergence of Brazil as a model for global development. His paper, "Twenty-five Years of Democratic Presidential Leadership in Brazil," highlighted the role of presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Professor Goertzel has published biographies of both of these presidents. He spoke in Spanish, with some difficulty, mixing in some Portuguese vocabulary.

Cati Coe presented at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington DC in September 2011 and the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in November 2011 on her work on Ghanaian transnational families. For the Migration Policy Institute's project on Black Immigrant Children, she examined why Ghanaian immigrant parents send their infants and toddlers, born in the United States, back to Ghana to be raised by kin, and as part of a panel on Time at the American Anthropological Association meeting, she analyzed how immigrants manage the

various (and contradictory) temporalities of immigration law, the growth and development of their children, and the decline of their parents.

Dr. Coe also published an article in the journal *International Migration* in December 2011, about how love in Ghanaian transnational families is evaluated through the idiom of material support, thus making separation more emotionally easy to deal with, and has two articles coming out in the near future: a historical article which examines transformations in child debt pawning in Ghana in the early twentieth century (forthcoming in the journal



Dr. Michelle Meloy
2011 Choice Award

Faculty News (continued)

Africa in May) and another about Ghanaian children's socialization into a culture of migration (forthcoming in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* in July).

Professor **Michelle Meloy's** new book, *The Victimization of Women: Law, Policies and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2011), co-authored with Susan L. Miller, was chosen as an "Outstanding Academic Title" for 2011 by *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. *Choice* is the premier source for reviews of academic books for higher education. Each year, it reviews more than 7,000 titles, selecting about 10% for the designation Professor Meloy's book received. Kudos to Professor Meloy for this recognition!

Cindy Dell Clark published the article, "Asthma Episodes: Stigma, Children and Hollywood Films" in the March issue of *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. Sixty-six movies - from *Goonies* to *Signs* to *Jimmy Neutron* -- were analyzed, revealing systematic, boilerplate ways of portraying asthma on film. Characters with asthma, according to typical Hollywood movie scenes, are misfit wimps who react to stress with debilitating attacks.

To gauge how children 9 to 12

years old interpret the social meanings of movie scripts, a sampling of movie scenes were shown to kids with asthma, as well as to their best friends. Friends and asthma sufferers agreed that some scenes were inaccurate and violated youthful standards for kind social behavior. In the common motif of a stress-related asthma attack, however, some peers accepted as fact the simplistic psychosomatic portrayals, which asthma sufferers resented as stigmatizing and untrue.

Clearly, stigmatization is a complex social process among school-age children. Movies can play a pivotal role in shaping selfhood in asthmatic children, not only by influencing asthma sufferers, but by shaping the social expectations of peers.

Professor **Jane Siegel** chaired a panel entitled "Families and Transitions from Incarceration" at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in November, where she also presented a paper entitled "Youth and Family Involvement in Re-entry Planning."

In October, Professor Siegel was an invited speaker at the

Centerforce Summit 2011 in San Francisco, where she participated in a panel on mothers in the criminal justice system and another on children, families and prisoner reentry.

Professor Siegel was selected to participate in the upcoming Summer Research Institute sponsored by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect at Cornell University.

Dr. Katrina Hazzard-Donald published an article in the *Journal of Pan-African Studies* this past fall. Entitled "Hoodoo and American Dance Traditions: Rethinking the 'Ring Shout'" this refereed publication appeared in the September 2011 issue.

Dr. Hazzard-Donald presented a paper at the National Council for Black Studies in March 2012.

Dr. Hazzard-Donald initiated and organized selection and funding for an award for outstanding popular culture research. The Harry Shaw Award will be presented at the Popular Culture Association April in Boston.

"Characters with asthma, according to typical Hollywood movie scenes, are misfit wimps who react to stress with debilitating attacks."



"Over the past decade it has become quite evident that adolescent females engage in sexual activities and experiment with illicit substances at rates on par with adolescent males."

Faculty Member Awarded Rutgers Grant to Study How African-American and Hispanic Female Adolescents Navigate Risk in Impoverished South Jersey Neighborhoods

Risk behaviors represent a serious public health and criminal justice issue among female adolescents, particularly minority youth. Over the past decade it has become quite evident that adolescent females engage in sexual activities and experiment with illicit substances at rates on par with adolescent males. However, the prevalence of sexual activity is higher among African-American and Hispanic adolescents than non-Hispanic White adolescents. Further, Hispanic adolescents have the highest rate of illegal drug use for the most dangerous substances, and both African American and Hispanic females living in disadvantaged urban areas experience particularly high rates of victimization.

Funded by a \$45,000 Rutgers University Faculty Research Grant, Stacia Gilliard-Matthews (Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice; Principal Investigator) will collaborate with Robin Stevens (Assistant Professor of Childhood Studies, Co-Principal Investigator) to interview and survey African-American and Hispanic female adolescents about how they negotiate risk-taking behaviors within the context of their low and high poverty neighborhoods.

The Navigators Project will aid the researchers in developing a deeper understanding of the subjective and objective circumstances surrounding female adolescents' foray into risk-taking behaviors. It will not only identify protective factors that can be leveraged in future interventions with this population, but it will also identify the effectiveness of existing neighborhood based strategies and programming.

Summer Course Notes

Stimulate your mind this summer! The department is offering 15 courses this summer, some of which have not been offered for a long time, are being offered for the first time or introduce new adjunct faculty to the campus, including:

Special Topics: Children and Families of the Incarcerated 50:202:356

This course provides a framework for understanding and responding to the needs of children and families of the incarcerated, focusing on emerging best practices in systems that serve them such as Corrections, Education, and Child Welfare. It will examine the impact of parental incarceration on children at various ages in the context of current studies on brain development, trauma, toxic stress, attachment and resilience theories. Includes discussion of the impact of race, culture, family dynamics

and coping styles in families impacted by the criminal justice system.

Special Topics: The Death Penalty in America 50:202:355

Hybrid course with Sakai component. The course will examine the history of capital punishment, the evolving public policy toward it, and the U.S. Supreme Court's opinions concerning the constitutionality of the death penalty. The course will examine the death penalty with respect to race and class, mental capacity, juveniles and the risk of executing the innocent. We will also examine the issues of deterrence, incapacitation, life imprisonment without parole, state death penalty moratoriums, and the future of the death penalty. Students will be exposed to arguments for and against the death penalty and will be encouraged to critically assess their own feelings toward capital punishment.

Special Topics: Women, Men & Work 50:070:385

This course will take an anthropological look at the paid and unpaid work that women and men perform in Western and non-Western cultures around the world, including the United States. The course will analyze the effects of gender on the work people do, and its rewards, hardships, and implications for family living. It will also consider how people's race, ethnicity, and class profoundly affect the shape of male and female labor. It will ask how work roles have varied throughout history, and how current economic and technological changes are affecting equality between women and men, here and abroad. We will examine historical and cultural context, empirical research findings, and theoretical developments as we study issues relevant to understanding women's and men's work experiences.



ST: Children and Families of the Incarcerated

Fall Course Notes

Registration for fall 2012 classes is underway. For a full list of our course offerings go to <http://sis.rutgers.edu/soc/> Below are a few courses that haven't been offered lately.

Anthropology of American Culture 50:070:323

Examines unity and diversity of American culture; methods of study; class, race, and ethnicity; marginal and central groups; and community studies and ethnography.

Organized Crime 50:202:324

Historical development of national and international criminal organizations and organized crime core groups/syndicates. Also presents tactics to combat organized crime. Prerequisite: 50:202:201.

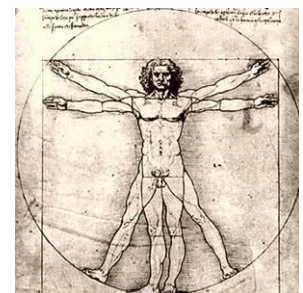
ST: Forensics 50:202:457

Since the late 19th century, forensic science has played an important role within criminal justice. Recent media attention has thrust forensics reluctantly into the spotlight to both positive and negative effect. This course aims to introduce the theoretical framework of forensic science from both an academic and practitioner viewpoint. Students will be familiarized with a range of forensic techniques, forensic jargon, and forensic procedures and protocols. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of a number of common forensic techniques as well as the pitfalls of relying too heavily on forensic evidence. Finally, we will consider a number of related disciplines and issues, such as evidence admissibility, the CSI effect,

human rights, and forensic regulation to gain a broader understanding of forensics' modern role and future development within criminal justice.

Medical Sociology 50:920:418

Examines the distribution of health and disease and looks at the social organization of the health care system in contemporary society. Takes up the sociology of healing and therapy techniques and the interaction of patients and practitioners. Because it covers illness, healthcare systems and the lives of medical professionals, this course can appeal to both social science students and those in the healthcare professions.



Masterton Award Winners!



Matt Covington

Each year, the department confers the George Masterton Award (named for the department's first chair) on graduating seniors for outstanding academic achievement, significant contributions to the department and campus, and for intellectual promise. Congratulations to this year's Masterton recipients.

Michelle Barbaccia is a Criminal Justice major. During her time at Rutgers as an under-graduate, Michelle assisted Dr. Michelle Meloy with her research on sex offender legislation. Currently, she works at The Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs on a project headed by Dr. Jane Siegel studying the Juvenile Justice Commission's re-entry programs. She also works as an investigator for the Rutgers Law School Clinical Practicum. After graduation, Michelle will pursue a career as an investigator and hopes to continue her training in circus arts to become an aerialist.

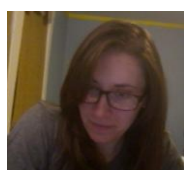
Matt Covington is a Criminal Justice major who transferred here from Gloucester County Community College. While attending Gloucester County, he earned the President's Medallion for Criminal Justice for his academic excellence and 4.0 GPA. During his studies at Rutgers, Matt consistently earned a position on the Dean's List. Matt has started putting his classroom experiences to real life with his internship for the New Jersey State Police this semester. Matt served as a teaching assistant for Dr. Caputo his final two semesters at

Rutgers. Matt also served five years of active duty service as a military police officer in the United States Army. With his knowledge gained from the classroom, internship, and military service Matt plans on pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer.

Jennifer Hayes is a sociology major who completed a Bachelor of Arts degree after transferring from Camden County College. As an undergraduate student, Jennifer received consistent recognition as a Dean's List scholar. From the Fall 2010 semester until the semester of Spring 2011, she conducted an independent research project under Dr. Siegel entitled "Smile Now, Die Later: The Emergence of a Gang Society in the United States." This project focused on the history and characteristics of gangs in America, in addition to current programs for youth gang members. As a result, Jennifer received a certificate of participation from CURCA, "A Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity." Jennifer's desire to work with children has led to opportunities such as volunteering with one of LEAP Academy's pre-kindergarten classes, resulting in a certificate of participation from the Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership. Her current volunteer time is spent with a program called "BookMates", which allows adults to read to elementary-aged children to help improve their reading-comprehension skills and encourage an enjoyment for

reading. After graduation, Jennifer will continue to work on her creative writing projects, including children's books and an assortment of short stories focusing on issues such as racial identity and the self-esteem of children and youth.

Amy Sobotka is a Criminal Justice and Sociology major who transferred to Rutgers-Camden from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. During her two years at Rutgers she has spent a portion of each week as a work-study student at the School of Law's Admissions Office. In Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters, Amy sought out and maintained an internship position within Rutgers School of Law's Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project. In addition, she has served as Dr. Mazelis' Spring 2011 teaching assistant for Urban Sociology and Social Stratification. It is with genuine and heartfelt gratitude that Amy would like to thank all of the professors and administrators who have guided, encouraged, and inspired her to pursue and attain her goals. Graduating this May as a proud member of the Rutgers-Camden family, she is the first member in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. In Fall 2012, Amy will be attending law school.



Michelle Barbaccia



Amy Sobotka



Jennifer Hayes

Student News

Careerquest

Two dozen or so students and faculty attended Careerquest on February 10. The assembled group heard tales of careers from former majors in sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice. The speakers included an owner of a research firm (Ted Reed), a City of Camden official (Iraida Afanador), a professional in loss management at Wegman's (Michael Nelson) and a non-profit field coordinator (Jessi Avril, of Philabundance). The event included informal presentations as well as a chance to talk to two of the speakers on a more intimate, small group basis.

Students attending were pleased with their experience. "I liked the fact that I could sit down with someone who is currently working in a field of my interest," one student said in

praise of the small group portion of the lunch event. "I thought that the aims of Careerquest resonated well with many uncertain about the future; it provided much needed guidance [about] how my education at college could be extended into the workplace."

Careerquest was developed with the help of undergraduates Amanda Edmondson, Karin Fortin and Samantha Mitchell-Hope. Amanda was the adept mistress of ceremonies. Faculty members Cati Coe and Cindy Dell Clark contributed by organizing and arranging the event.

Annual Poster Session

The 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Poster Session, co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, will be held Tuesday,

April 24 during the free period in the Multipurpose Room of the Campus Center. A light lunch will be provided. All students and other interested persons are invited. If you plan on presenting please be sure to email your name and poster title to Sherry at pisacano@camden.rutgers.edu

Commencement

Rutgers-Camden will hold its commencement ceremony for Arts and Sciences at the Susquehanna Bank Center, on Thursday, **May 17** at 6:00 p.m. For complete information on graduation for graduating students go to <http://advising.camden.rutgers.edu/students/seniors.html>

Congratulations to all graduates!



Previous Poster Session

Summer and Fall 2012 Registration

Registration for fall courses began April 1 at 10:00 p.m. for undergraduate students with 90+ credits earned and all graduate students, April 2 at 10:00 p.m. for undergraduate students with 58+ credits earned and April 3 at 10:00 p.m. for all students. Go to <http://soc.ess.rutgers.edu/soc> for the complete schedule of courses. For more written guidance about course selections, sociology

majors should go to <http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/advising.htm> and criminal justice majors should go to <http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/advising-cj.htm> We suggest that students see their faculty advisor before registering for courses. If you are unsure who your advisor is, contact our department secretary, Sherry Pisacano by email pisacano@camden.rutgers.edu, by phone at

856-225-6470, or stop by the office at 405-407 Cooper Street, room 108.

Registration for summer courses is also underway. For a full schedule of summer courses go to <http://summer.camden.rutgers.edu/>

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