

COLORADO COLLEGE SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2008

ANNA WOOL WINS 1ST PRIZE IN AKD NATIONAL PAPER COMPETITION

Anna Wool '08 won First Prize in the Alpha Kappa Delta Undergraduate Paper Competition! For her hard work, she has a place in the ASA Honors program, which takes place at the ASA Annual Meeting this August in San Francisco.

Wool's paper entitled, "Like Water off a Duck: Stigma and the Jewish Assessment of Christian Public Religious Displays in an Alabama City" came out of her senior thesis work. "What made it enjoyable," she says, "Was that I picked a topic that was personally relevant. So I wasn't just working for a good grade, but I was working to learn something that actually meant something to me."

She conducted 21 individual interviews in a small southern city with a few Protestants for comparison and primarily Jewish adults. Two distinct cohorts emerged within the Jewish group which corresponded with age; Wool called them the

"Civil Rights Cohort" and the "Generation Whys." "Mixed allegiances" to both southern and Jewish subcultures in addition to "self defense" enabled each cohort to co-exist with predominant displays of Christian culture.

Wool's thesis advisor, Professor Gail Murphy-Geiss, calls Wool a "bright thinking and a beautiful and careful writer." Regarding Wool, she says: "Anna didn't just ask about Jewish perspectives on the ubiquity of southern Christianity, but she developed a full understanding of Goffman's notion of stigma and formed her project as a test and application of that theory. That is sociology at its best — the perfect integration of theory and method."



STUDENT PUBLISHED IN UNDERGRAD JOURNAL

The second (2009) edition of the Rocky Mountain Undergraduate Review features Calen Hall ('09)'s senior thesis entitled, "Are Immigrant Neighborhoods Really Food Deserts? Immigrant Food Culture in a Latino Enclave."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

- *Collective Creativity: Art and Society in the South Pacific* by **Professor Kathy Giuffre** is now available through Ashgate Publishing. The book explores the construction of art in the context of social networks. In praise of *Collective Creativity*, Professor Emirbayer of the University of Wisconsin-Madison says, "This wonderful book will become an indispensable point of reference for cultural analysts, students of art worlds, social network researchers, and sociologists of modernity and globalization."
- **Professor Sandi Wong** has been awarded the Robert J. Fox Distinguished Service Professorship.
- During the month of April **Professor C.J. Pascoe** was quoted in two well-regarded newspapers. A *Wall Street Journal* article by Carl Bialik, "Which is Epidemic — Sexting or Worrying About It?", called upon her research in a discussion about "sexting" among youth. Just a week later, Judith Warner's *New York Times* column, "Domestic Disturbances" featured Pascoe in a masculinity piece entitled, "Dude, You've Got Problems."

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THREE 2009 SENIOR THESES

Tabitha Hrynich

Confessions of a 9/11 Truther: A Case Study in Conspiracy and Credibility

In the wake of 9/11, a movement emerged calling into question the official version of the events leading up to and on 9/11. Calling themselves the “9/11 Truth Movement,” their ranks continue to grow and encompass a hodge-podge of diverse organized groups and individuals espousing an equally diverse array of ideas and goals. However, they are often misrepresented and stigmatized by the existing academic literature and the popular culture under the generalized umbrella of “conspiracy theory” and are ever engaged in a battle for the credibility of their ideas and goals. Through in-depth interviews with “truthers,” I have constructed a more precise look at this movement from the inside out. Contrary to popular opinion and the stereotypical view of the “conspiracy theorist,” the truthers come from all walks of life, and tend to be well off and well educated. They are fully aware of their social marginalization and perceive the forces behind it to be corporate media, mainstream politics, psychological resistance among the populace and attempts by an unseen enemy to sabotage the movement. They are mentally engaged in working against these obstacles.

Kelsey Pullar

Heteronormativity in the High School: Adolescent Status and Views of Sexuality

High school is a time of intense social stratification and identity formation, but the influence of such a system on adolescents' opinions of sexuality has yet to be investigated. This thesis combines quantitative and qualitative methodology to examine the relationship between high school status groups and opinions about sexuality. Through surveys and interviews, respondents described their high schools and the social stratification systems that serve to separate and rank students. The heteronormative structure of high school itself and the ways in which it is (often unknowingly) reproduced by students and administrators is also investigated. Results from the quantitative analysis reveal a significant correlation between status rank and views of sexuality. Those respondents with high status during high school had more conservative opinions about statements addressing sexuality while their lower-status peers held more liberal views about nonheteronormative sexualities and behaviors. Qualitative data provided through interviews underscore heteronormativity and peer policing as fundamental elements of the typical high school. Specifically, Prom and other school rituals provide opportunities for reinforcing expectations of heterosexuality, and the importance placed on such events underscores their salience for adolescents.

Emily Schneider

Ethnic and Civic Nationalism in Jewish-Israeli Identity

This study seeks to fill the apparent gap in current research on Israeli nationalism. Studies on Israeli nationalism have been heavily dominated by works that focus on the two radical ends of Israeli society, the post-Zionists and the neo-Zionists. Post-Zionists represent a modern, civic nationalism that supports a democratic state for both Arabs and Jews. In contrast, neo-Zionists are characterized by a primordial religious attachment to the historic land of Israel, which has resulted in an often violent and racist form of ethnic nationalism. For this study, secular, center- left Jewish Israelis were interviewed on questions of national identity and political opinion in order to determine how those Israelis who are caught in between these contesting paradigms construct their national identities. The results of this study showed that these Israelis exhibit both ethnic and civic nationalist qualities. However, they fundamentally maintain an underlying commitment to an ethnic nationalist identity that positions them in line with the neo-Zionist plan for Israel's future as an undemocratic, ethnic state.

STUDENT NEWS

Michael Freeman '10 is currently studying development through the School for International Training (SIT) in Kenya. His program culminated with a month long independent study. Michael chose to investigate the impacts, both intended and unintended, of international volunteers working in the coastal city of Mombasa.

B Torres '10 is currently studying in San José, Costa Rica.

She is pursuing an independent study on femicide.

Zoe Wick '10 will serve on the State of the Rockies research team this summer.

Elle Villalva '11 will be interning with CC Summer Programs and is heading to Chicago for the ACM Urban Studies Program in the fall.

SOCIOLOGY SENIORS TAKE ON THE WORLD

Robert Andre: This summer I will work at the Bohemian Grove. Next year I'll be a preschool teacher in Kansas City.

Alex Barse: I will be in Boulder working at Avery Brewing Company in the tap room.

Duncan Forbes: I'm working for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains as an Education Program Specialist teaching sexual health education around Colorado Springs.

Tabitha Hrynick: I don't know what I'm doing next year exactly, but I am really excited about going on tour with the Bowed Piano Ensemble all around Europe right after graduation. We'll be playing in Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Italy, among other countries.

Sophie Kauffman: I plan on working for an organic farm in the North Kitsap area of Washington state. With a renovated barn doubling as event venue and commercial kitchen, my employment there is split between the outdoor component of cultivating the land and the indoor component of partnering with caterers to prep and serve for events such as weddings, corporate gatherings, wine tastings, and cooking classes. In October I plan to travel to Central America to see family friends and volunteer. In the following year I hope to apply and be accepted to a graduate studies program in either public administration or food culture with the intention of helping to make America's food systems more sustainable and transparent.

Irene Lilly: I'll be teaching English next year in Andalucía, Spain.

Brittany Linton: I'm going onto graduate school at University of Texas - Austin in a PhD program in Counseling Psychology. My research will focus primarily on women's mental health concerns, psychological and sociological considerations to be given to criminal populations, and assessing the mental health needs of LGBT populations.

Astrid Martin Baldera: After graduation I'm going to go back to Venezuela and search for a job. I will be applying for graduate school, which will start in March. The two programs I'm interested in are anthropology and global development. Both are in Caracas. I will probably spend a few years there for a change, doing research if all goes well!

JJ Osterweil: I am headed back to camp for the summer in California. After that, I am not quite sure, but I'll be looking for a job in Africa.

Ariel Price: I'll be taking science and business classes at the Community College of Denver to work toward a career as a funeral director.

Krystle Richman: I'll have a teaching position with Teach for America. I am placed in Hawai'i teaching secondary mathematics. While in Hawai'i, I will also participate in an MAT program.

Emily Schneider: After CC, I will be interning with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions in Jerusalem, with a grant from the Transitions Fellowship Program. After that I am planning to work for a human rights organization in the region.



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POST-BACCALAUREATE RECEPTION FOR SENIORS AND FAMILIES



Congratulations, Graduates! We invite you to bring your families and celebrate with the department. The event will take place just after Baccalaureate on May 17th from 4-6pm in the Loomis lounge.

SOCIOLOGY MAJORS' FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Logan Bennett '09 : the Abel J. and Lucy Phinney Gregg Award

Sarah Diefendorf '09 : the Abbott Prize in Sociology; the Colorado College Prize on War, Violence, and Human Values

Anais Gude '10 : the Crown-Goodman Scholarship Award

Caroline Hodge '09 : the Public Interest Fellowship Program with Colorado Legal Services

Lauren Hughes '09 : Phi Beta Kappa

Sophie Kauffman '09 : the Abbot Prize in Sociology, Phi Beta Kappa

Britt Landis '11 : the Public Interest Fellowship Program with the National Conference of State Legislatures Education Program

Holly MacBride '10 : the Dreamkeeper Award

Genai Odhner '09 : the Wilbur Wright Memorial Prize in Physics, Phi Beta Kappa

Krystle Richman '09 : Involved Student Organization of the Year Award for her work with Relay for Life; the Outstanding Commitment to Social Change Award

Emily Schneider '09 : the Abbott Prize in Sociology; the Colorado College Prize on War, Violence, and Human Values

Julia Sick '11 : the Public Interest Fellowship Program with ACLU of Colorado

Christina Yong '10 : the Crown-Goodman Scholarship Award

Ashley Young '09 : the Anabel and Jerry McHugh Director's Award

Excellent work! Congratulations!