

SOCIO-PATHS

A Quarterly Undergraduate Newsletter from the Department of Sociology

By S.G. & K.K

UCSD Department of Sociology

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Winter

PLEASE MEET THE NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER IN THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

*A Letter of Introduction from
Prof. Charles Thorpe*

It's wonderful to be back here at UCSD and in the vibrant environment of the Sociology Department. After studying for my BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, I came here in the mid-1990s to do a doctorate in Sociology and Science Studies. Having got my PhD, I returned to the United Kingdom, where I taught in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, Wales, which has one of the largest sociology departments in the UK, and a strong group working on sociology of science. I then moved to the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London. Much like the Science Studies Program here at UCSD, this is an interdisciplinary unit involving philosophers, historians, and sociologists, and communication scholars interested in studying scientific and technological practices. Here at UCSD, I will be working both in the Department of Sociology and in Science Studies. My main interests are in sociology of science and technology and social theory. My book *Oppenheimer: The Tragic Intellect* was recently published by the University of Chicago Press. This is a study of the life and career of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, who played a central role in the development of the atomic bomb during World War Two. It is a somewhat unusual work in that it combines biography with sociology, which are usually taken to be opposing genres. I aimed to develop a sociological approach to biography – treating the individual as shaped by social and institutional contexts and interactions. My interest in Oppenheimer was also due to his reputation for taking a moral position against nuclear weapons development. In fact, his position was ambivalent, and these moral tensions are a reason why he remains so fascinat-

ing. A key theme in the book is the relationship between technology and human values, in particular to what extent it has been possible to resist destructive technologies on moral grounds.

This theme of the relationship between technology and values will be central to the two undergraduate classes I am teaching this year – **SOC 168T *Sociology of Technology***, and **SOC 167 *Science and War***. Understanding the character of social life demands an appreciation for how our lives and relationships are structured by the technologies we use: whether new and hyped technologies, such as the iPod, or technologies we've come to take for granted, such as the automobile and the freeway system. *Sociology of Technology* introduces the rich tradition of critical social thought about technology and explores these ideas in relation to topics such as changing patterns of work and consumption, factory farming, reproductive technology, the automobile, and technological disasters. The relationship between technology and values, and what values (or lack thereof) our technological developments express is also central to my course on *Science and War*. This takes a sociological approach to the history of the weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical, biological. These weapons were an outcome of the increasing interconnection between science and the military in the 20th century. We look sociologically at these connections, and at key historical examples such as the Manhattan Project which developed the first atomic bombs. We also explore themes such as how scientists have questioned work on such projects, human experimentation as a hidden dimension of these projects, and at the discourses that have shaped the way we think about such weapons developments.



Welcome Prof. Thorpe!

New Faces



You may have noticed a few new faces in the Department of Sociology main office, due to some recent staff changes. Located in the Social Sciences Building main office,

you will find Susan Taniguchi, the new Fiscal Assistant along with Beverly Bernhardt, the new Assistant to the Chair and Personnel Specialist. We are happy to welcome our newest staff members and introduce them to you. Do say hello, when you see them in their offices or in the halls.



Greetings! My name is Susan Taniguchi and I am the Fiscal Assistant for the department. I have worked in the financial area at UCSD for over 14 years; however, this is my first full-time position at the University. I worked part-time so I could be home for my two daughters; the older of the two is now a kindergarten teacher in National City and my “baby” is a full-time student at SDSU. I figured if I worked part-time for the rest of my life I would be around 80 years old before I could retire and I didn’t want that to happen! Prior to coming to Sociology I worked in the History Department for seven years and before that I was in the Pharmacology Department (School of Medicine) for seven years. I am a native of Los Angeles but moved to San Diego almost 27 years ago when I got married. I look forward to meeting and working with every one of you.



Hello, my name is Beverly Bernhardt and I am the new Administrative Specialist in Sociology. I will be working with Academic Personnel, Staff HR, and as the Chair’s Assistant. I transferred to Sociology from the Jacobs School of Engineering, Dean’s Office,

where I worked in the capacity of Academic Personnel/Staff HR/Payroll Assistant. I have also worked for the School of Medicine here at UCSD. I previously worked several years in a County Treasurer’s Office/County Attorney’s Office in Colorado and began my employment in higher education at the University of Northern Colorado as the Office Manager/Chair’s Assistant in the History Department where I was for nine years. My husband and I moved to beautiful San Diego four years ago from Greeley, Colorado--(GO ROCKIES!—*I did really hate that the Rockies beat the Padres—if you can believe that?!*) I love being outdoors—so when I’m not at work, I enjoy flower gardening, walking on the beach and toasting to the beautiful sunsets. I’m very excited about my new position here in Sociology and I look forward to meeting all of you!



The Undergraduate Advisor, Shannon Fore has recently undergone a change. A name change that is. She has officially switched over to her married name, Shannon Goodison and can now be contacted at sgoodison@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-4628.



Have you tried the **Class Planner** yet?

The Class Planner is a personal scheduling tool that saves you time! With this handy unofficial scheduling tool, you can arrange your quarterly class schedule **online** with access to the UCSD catalog, the current class schedule, and instructor evaluations. This application works best with Internet Explorer, Safari, or Firefox. Please note that the Planner will not add classes with a TBA time. **It does not** – guarantee your enrollment in a class, enroll you in classes, or warn you about prerequisites, co-requisites, or other restrictions. Check out the Class Planner located on the main page of TritonLink under Tools.

Faculty News

Prof. Tomás Jiménez became a fellow at the New America Foundation, where he will write about immigrant integration. He has also published a paper in the *American Journal of Sociology* entitled “Mexican-Immigrant Replenishment and the Continuing Significance of Ethnicity and Race.” Professor Jiménez has enjoyed having the chance to work with so many wonderful immigration scholars in the department. He is also publishing an article with **Prof. David Fitzgerald** in the *DuBois Review* called “Mexican Assimilation: A Temporal and Spatial Reorientation,” and he and **Prof. April Linton** presented a paper at the ASA meeting in New York called “Context for Bilingualism Among US-born Latinos.”

Prof. Bud Mehan was awarded a \$450,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation to study "the adaptation of principles of learning developed at the Preuss School UCSD to Gompers Charter Middle School and Lincoln High School." Both schools are in Southeast San Diego.

Prof. Steve Epstein's book *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*, which was published by the University of Chicago Press, was awarded the ASA's Robert K. Merton Award for the best recent book published in science and technology studies.

Prof. Isaac Martin wrote a book titled, *The Permanent Tax Revolt: How the Property Tax Transformed American Politics*, which will be published by Stanford University Press in March 2008. He was also awarded an Outstanding Faculty Award from Thurgood Marshall College in June 2007.

Prof. Richard Madsen's book, *Democracy's Dharma: Religious Renaissance and Political Development in Taiwan* will be published by UC Press this Fall.

Prof. Andrew Scull consulted extensively on (and will appear in) a PBS documentary on lobotomy that will be broadcast on January 28th, 2008. Following the broadcast, he will also be participating in an on-line forum for viewers.

HONORS PROGRAM



The Department of Sociology offers an Honors Program to students who have demonstrated excellence in the sociology major. Successful completion of the program allows participants to graduate ‘With Highest Distinction,’ ‘With High Distinction,’ or ‘With Distinction,’ depending upon their performance in the program. Candidates must have an overall GPA of 3.2 together with a 3.5 GPA in the major.

The honors program is available to majors in their junior or senior year. The two-seminar honors program is held consecutively every Fall and Winter. It provides participants an opportunity to receive guidance on research and writing techniques, to work on a thesis paper of their choosing, and to receive valuable feedback from their peers. Students will develop their own unique ideas and theories, as they research a topic of interest to them. The two-quarter sequence allows ample time to develop ideas in outline form, conduct research, and prepare the final thesis.

Graduating with honors provides some very important benefits. A huge benefit to the program is that students have the opportunity to do in-depth research on a topic of special and personal interest - in effect, students are given the opportunity to become an *expert* on a particular topic. Beyond this, graduating with honors also provides some very practical career benefits, indicating to potential employers that the student is highly motivated, shows initiative, and is capable of designing and executing a large-scale research project. Should the topic be specifically related to a student's career choice, the “extra edge” should seem even more obvious. Above all, the completion of the honors thesis provides concrete evidence that a student has PRACTICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE—and have applied the skills a student has developed as an undergraduate. The thesis itself often provides an excellent example of a student's academic writing abilities when applying to graduate school.

Applications for next year's Honors Program (Fall 2008/Winter 2009) must be turned in by May 7, 2008. The application forms are now available in the main sociology office, SSB 401. If you need more information on this exceptional program, please see Shannon Goodison during her office hours; M-F, 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00.



The new Director of Undergraduate Studies for the 2007-2008 academic year is Prof. Christena Turner. Christena got her Ph.D. in Anthropology at Stanford U. Her areas of research interest are Japanese Society, Culture, Everyday Life, Organizations, Work, and Chinese Society. She will be available during her office hours to answer your questions regarding transfer course credit, study abroad, the graduate school application process, career choices, etc. Prof. Turner's office is located in the Social Sciences Building (SSB), room 486. Please check outside the main office (SSB 401) for her office hours each quarter. You may contact her at (858) 534-0490 or by email at chturner@ucsd.edu.



Tracking Your Sociology Major

With the exception of an independent study, which can only be taken pass/no pass, **all course work for the major must be taken for a letter grade.** Grades of C– or better are required in all courses in the major.

Four lower division courses are required for the Sociology major. They are: **SOCL1A, SOCL1B, SOCL20, and SOCL60.** It is essential to plan ahead, so you don't come up missing a required course that won't be offered for several quarters. L1A, L1B, and L20 are offered only once each year, while L60 is generally offered twice a year.

A total of twelve upper division courses are required for the Sociology major. **SOCA100** must be taken by all majors. This leaves eleven upper division courses, of which one must be from each of the clusters a-method, b, c, and d. The remaining seven courses, referred to as electives, may be chosen from any cluster.

Winter's course offerings will include the following required courses for the major: SOCL1B and SOCL60.

???? Sociology Q & A ????

What sociology courses will best help me get a job after graduation?

One answer is "the ones that most interest you," because you're likely to do best in those courses, and thus be in a better position to get recommendations from professors, impress prospective employers, and get into a good professional program or grad school. Remember that sociology, like most liberal arts majors, doesn't fit you directly into specific jobs. Instead, it gives you general skills for a wide range of entry-level positions, or a springboard for further training in law, social work, education, etc.

Now, if you have some career goal in mind, you can select courses accordingly. So, if you're interested in education -- whether teaching or policy-making or consulting -- it would make sense to take courses in areas like inequality and urban sociology as well as in the sociology of education.

If you're interested in counseling, consider courses on the family and on mental illness. Better still, combine these sorts of courses with relevant volunteer work or an academic internship, which give you both practical experience and help build your resumé.

How can I get more advice on planning out my coursework?

Both Shannon and Prof. Turner would be happy to talk with you about your interests and how to match them with courses. If you have gotten to know any other professors in the department, they would also be willing to give you some advice. The department is also going to be reorganizing the curriculum to highlight particular specializations -- law and society, for example, or international studies -- and the courses offerings suitable to each of them. That will also help provide guidance as well as "certify" students as having an especially strong background in a particular area. And if you have any suggestions for specializations we should include in the program, please let them know.

“WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY?”

Sociology provides a broad liberal arts base from which to explore a world of job opportunities.

⇒ It provides knowledge and analytical skills needed to pursue a professional degree in **law, business, education, health & medicine, social work, or counseling.**

⇒ It offers preparation for fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse people, such as **journalism, politics, public relations/marketing, business, or public administration.**

⇒ It provides the strong liberal arts preparation needed for entry-level positions in the **criminal justice system, business, social service, and government.**

⇒ It’s a first step for future graduate work in sociology in order to become a **professor or researcher.**

In the next few weeks, plan to take advantage of the many seminars and workshops that the Career Services Center provides. A few that are well suited for Sociology majors are:



Ads, Fads and Advertising Careers
November 1 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Peace Corps Information Session
November 6 11:30-1:00 p.m.

Law School Information Fair
November 7 10:30-2:30 p.m.

Interviewing for Internships
November 8 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Going Abroad for Graduate School
November 15 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Undergraduate Sociology Association

Are you interested in meaningful discussions on topics in the social sciences and in learning more about scholastic and pre-professional opportunities? Join the Undergraduate Sociology Association (USA).

The main goals of the club are to promote the study of Sociology, facilitate undergraduate opportunities and enhance the undergraduate experience in the Sociology department by hosting special academic and social events with faculty, graduate students, and outside speakers.

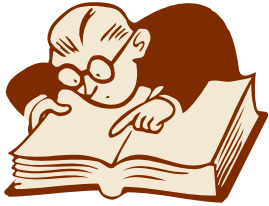
If you want to be involved, the club meets every other Thursday at 5pm. For further information please email ucsdusa@gmail.com

All students are welcome!



THE HANDBOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY MAJORS is available on the department’s web site.

<http://sociology.ucsd.edu>; then click on Undergraduate Program.



“Society is an asylum
run by the inmates”

- Erving Goffman

Keep Information Current!

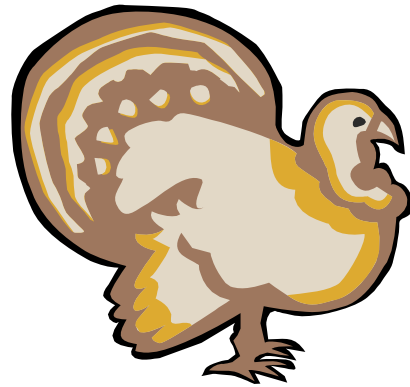
Please keep your directory information current on TritonLink. The department uses TritonLink to send email messages to all sociology majors and your instructors may use TritonLink to send messages to the students enrolled in their classes. Check your UCSD email account regularly so that you receive important information in a timely manner.



Check tritonlink for the latest information on important dates and deadlines.

Upcoming Holidays

- Nov. 12, 2007 Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 22–23, 2007 Thanksgiving
- Jan. 21, 2008 Martin Luther King
 Jr. holiday
- Feb. 18, 2008 President’s Day
- Mar. 30, 2007 César Chavez Day



Happy Thanksgiving

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