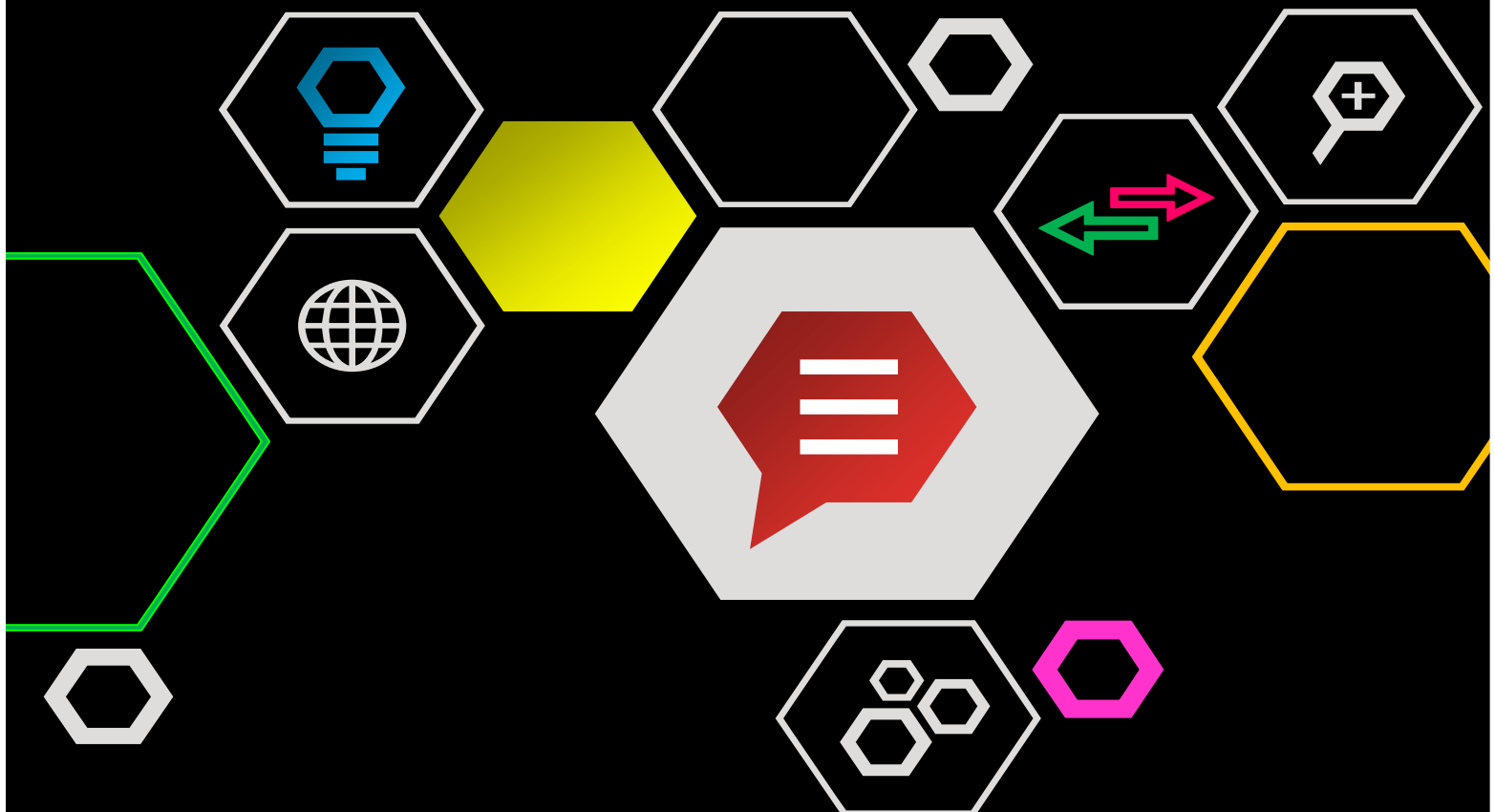


Borderlands in Academia, Activism and Policy

Second Annual Public Sociology Graduate
Conference

George Mason University
Fairfax, VA

October 20, 2012



Program Summary

8:30–9:00	Registration (Research Hall Lobby)
9:00–9:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks (Research Hall 163)
9:15–10:45	Session 1 (Research Hall 163) Session 2 (College of Science Showcase) Session 3 (Research Hall 161)
11:00–12:30	Session 4 (Research Hall 163) Session 5 (College of Science Showcase) Session 6 (Research Hall 162) Session 7 (Research Hall 161)
12:30–1:00	Lunch
1:00–2:00	Keynote Address (Research Hall 163) Gary Rhoades, University of Arizona
2:15–3:45	Session 8 (Research Hall 163) Session 9 (College of Science Showcase) Session 10 (Research Hall 161)

General Information

Conference volunteers are available to help with any questions, just look for the “Ask Me” buttons.

Restrooms and water fountains are located on the same floor as Research Hall Rooms 161 and 162.

There is a lactation room located on the lowest level of Research Hall in Room 91.

Guest Internet Access

Select Mason Wireless account, generally labeled as ____

Open internet browser and click on guest access...

2012-2013 Flagship Cause

INEQUALITY IN THE LECTURE HALL: THE PERILS OF CONTINGENT FACULTY ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Each year the Public Sociology Association chooses a cause to focus on for the academic year. This year we have decided to spotlight the issue of contingent faculty rights in higher education. Contingent faculty include adjuncts, lecturers, instructors, non-tenure track research and teaching faculty, postdocs, and teaching assistants. According to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), what all contingent faculty have in common is that “they serve in insecure, unsupported positions with little job security and few protections for academic freedom. And they are the vast majority of U.S. faculty today.” Not only do contingent faculty make up the majority of college and university faculty, but they also teach the majority of courses offered in U.S. colleges and universities. Many contingent faculty do not make a living wage and though adjunct, lecturer, and instructor positions were established in many universities to bring full time professionals into classrooms to share their “real world” experiences, many of these positions are now held by graduates of doctoral programs who have faced and continue to face bleak tenure-track job markets.

The PSA is focusing on this cause this year because there is a national movement ramping up and calling for educational reform starting with addressing why colleges and universities are depending so heavily on adjunct and other contingent labor. In the D.C. metro area, the word about this hidden inequity is getting out and students and their parents are starting to question how institutions that continue to raise tuition can pay those who are teaching their students so little. The heavy reliance on contingent labor is not in the best interest of colleges and universities as it impacts student learning and achievement, it weakens faculty confidence in administrative decisions, and it undermines higher education’s campaign for relevancy in the modern world. This year at George Mason, the Public Sociology Association has positioned ourselves, with the help of research and advocacy organizations such as the New Faculty Majority Foundation and the Center for the Future of Higher Education, to lead an awareness campaign on our campus in hopes that administrators will take note of the problems that arise with a growing reliance on contingent faculty.

If you are interested in finding out more about this year’s cause, please check out our website:
<http://gmupublicsoci.wordpress.com/public-soci-initiative/>

New Faculty Majority

Related to our Flagship Cause, we are happy to welcome representatives from the New Faculty Majority at our conference. NFM is dedicated to improving the quality of higher education by advancing professional equity and securing academic freedom for all adjunct and contingent faculty. For this purpose, NFM engages in education and advocacy to provide economic justice and academic equity for all college faculty. NFM is committed to creating stable, equitable, sustainable, non-exploitative academic environments that promote more effective teaching, learning, and research.

Goals of New Faculty Majority:

- ◇ Job Security: Automatic Contract Renewals after Probationary Period
- ◇ Academic Freedom: Freedom from Retaliation in All Teaching and Research
- ◇ Faculty Governance: Right to Participate Equally for All Faculty Members
- ◇ Professional Advancement: Progressive Salary Steps and Equal Access to Professional Development Opportunities for All Faculty
- ◇ Benefits: Access to the Same Health Insurance and Retirement Benefits for All
- ◇ Unemployment Insurance: Access to the Same Benefits as Other Seasonal Employees

Stop by and Visit our Table in the Lobby throughout the conference for more information about contingent faculty and NFM.

More information can be found at NFM's website:

<http://www.newfacultymajority.info/equity/>

Keynote Speaker



Gary Rhoades, University of Arizona

We are honored to have Dr. Gary Rhoades as our 2012 Public Sociology Graduate Conference Keynote Speaker. Dr. Rhoades received his doctorate from the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles and was chosen to be our keynote speaker because of his continued commitment to bridging academic scholarship and public engagement. He is currently the Head of the Department of Educational Policy Studies & Practice, Professor of Higher Education, and Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. From January 2009 to December 2011 he served as General Secretary of the American Association of University Professors in Washington, D.C. Rhoades' scholarship focuses on the restructuring of academic institutions and of professions in the academy, as well as on science and technology policy, and comparative higher education. That scholarship informs the work he continues to do with the AAUP. In addition to his books, *Managed Professionals* (1998, SUNY Press), and *Academic Capitalism and the New Economy* (with Sheila Slaughter, 2004, Johns Hopkins University Press), Rhoades is now working on an updated book on faculty, tentatively titled, *More (or Less) Managed Professionals*, and a volume on management, tentatively titled, *Managing to be Different: From Strategic Imitation to Strategic Imagination*.

Borderlands in Academia, Activism and Policy

9:15–10:45 Sessions 1, 2, 3

Session 1 The Front Line: Participatory Action Research at Bread for the City (Research Hall 163)

Moderator: Andrea Robles, George Mason University

- ◇ Panelists: Anderson Bean, Melissa Gouge, Sahar Haghighat, Jessica Hopson, and Catherine Imperatore, George Mason University, with Bread for the City staff and clients

Session 2 Activist Academics and Their Responsibilities (College of Science Showcase)

Moderator: Dr. Amy Best, George Mason University

- ◇ Jennifer Grubbs, American University
“Anthropocentric Anthropology and the Neo-Liberal Academy: A Critical Reflection”
- ◇ Michael Loadenthal, George Mason University
“From Academic Isolation to Direct Violence: Researching Animal Liberationists & Palestinian Nationalists”
- ◇ Ryan Thomson, North Carolina State University
“The Emerging U.S. Student Movement and the Responsibility of Public Intellectuals”
- ◇ Corey Waters, Temple University
“Deconstructing Privilege: Veganism, Whiteness, and Narrative Co-Construction”

Session 3 Health and Welfare Policy (Research Hall 161)

Moderator: Sara Moore, George Mason University

- ◇ Sarah Simon, Virginia Commonwealth University
“The Role of Minority Physicians in Class- and Race-Based Health Disparities in the United States”
- ◇ Craig T. Dearfield, Anthony Justin Barnum, and Robin H. Pugh-Yi, Howard University and Akeso Consulting
“Adopting Paulo Freire’s Pedagogy for Health Literacy and Patient Navigation Interventions”
- ◇ Lindsay Stevens, Rutgers University
“Disentangling Poverty and Sexuality: Messages about Class in Federally-Funded Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs”

11:00–12:30 Sessions 4, 5, 6, 7

Session 4 Consequences of the Diminished and Defended Borderlands (Research Hall 163)

Moderator: Stephanie E. Trapnell, George Mason University

- ◇ Anne Bloomberg, University of Virginia
“Are You My Brother? Constructing the U.S. State and American Society 1845-1875”
- ◇ Emily Hallgren, University of Arkansas
“Narrative Identity of the Undocumented Immigrant Worker”
- ◇ Catherine L. Thorkelson, Princeton University
“Shifting Identities: Determinants and Outcomes of Ethnic Identification in the Second-Generation”
- ◇ Jee Jee Kim, George Washington University
“Into Freedom? Human Trafficking in Sino-North Korean Border Regions”

Session 5 Labor, Class, and Cultural Footprints of Capitalism (College of Science Showcase)

Moderator: Joanna Kling, University of Maryland

- ◇ Jean Boucher, George Mason University
“Class Hybridity”
- ◇ Tiamba M. Wilkerson, Virginia Commonwealth University
“‘Mules uh de World’: Examining the Labor Market Position of Black Women”
- ◇ Calvin Alexander Sutton, Virginia Commonwealth University
“Men Seeking Men for Fun(ds) and Profit: A Marxist Critique of Pornography and Capitalism”

Session 6 Perils and Promises Faced by Modern Families (Research Hall 162)

Moderator: Dr. Angie Hattery, George Mason University

- ◇ Colleen E. Wynn and Cecelia K. Satterly, Western Kentucky University
“Incarceration and Insecurity: An Examination of Incarceration’s Impact on Housing Insecurity for Low-Income Urban Fathers”
- ◇ Angelique Nevarez Maes, University of Texas at El Paso
“The Strength of Family Bonds: A Look into the Lives of a Family That Has Overcome Diversity and Marginality”
- ◇ Sasha M. Rodriguez, Stony Brook University
“Engaging in All Sides of the Gay Marriage Debate”

Session 7 Navigating Borders and Structures Around Race and Ethnicity (Research Hall 161)

Moderator: Jason Smith, George Mason University

- ◇ Billy D. Holcombe, Howard University
“African-Americans, Coping Mechanisms, and Inflammatory Markers”
- ◇ Zachary J. McKenney, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
“The Impact of Racial Differences on Orientations Towards Labor Unions”
- ◇ Camille Solá, George Washington University
“Racism-Consciousness as an Alternative to Race-Conscious Policymaking”

12:30-1:00 Lunch

Boxed lunches will be provided and available for pick-up in the lobby area of Research Hall, where registration was located. There are vegetarian boxed lunches available, but due to the limited quantity we ask that you refrain from selecting one if you are not a strict vegetarian. There are a variety of benches and tables located around Research Hall if you would like to eat outdoors. If you have any further questions about where to get certain food items on campus feel free to contact a conference volunteer.

1:00–2:00 Keynote Address

Keynote (Research Hall 163)

- ◇ Dr. Gary Rhoades, University of Arizona

2:15–3:45 Sessions 8, 9, 10

Session 8 Institutionalization of Social Movements in Higher Education (Research Hall 163)

Moderator: Randy Lynn, George Mason University

- ◇ Jennifer Maloney, George Mason University
“An Ethnographic Case Study of Cultural Fusion: A Site for Student Leadership, Activism, and Scholarship”
- ◇ Amie Lipscomb, Eastern Michigan University
“Queer Assumptions: An Outcome-Based Program Evaluation of Eastern Michigan University’s LGBTQ Safe Campaign Training Program”
- ◇ Hannah M. Jefferies, Clemson University
“Incorporating Legitimacy Theory into the Study of Social Movements: A Research Proposal”

Session 9 Complex Connections of Environments and Societies (College of Science Showcase)

Moderator: Joshua Tuttle, George Mason University

- ◇ Dionne Banks, University of Florida
"A Sociological and Agricultural Partnership to Benefit Small Farmers"
- ◇ Erik Kojola, American University
"Greening Labor Unions? Environmental Attitudes of Union Workers"
- ◇ Adam Yates and Erin Shealy, Clemson University
"Changes in Public and Private Environmentalism by Gender: Results from the 1994 and 2010 General Social Survey"
- ◇ Rachel Madsen, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
"Competing Themes of Discrimination and Economic Woe in a Municipal Landfill Controversy"

Session 10 Undergraduate Roundtable Session (Research Hall 161)

Moderator: Katie Kerstetter, George Mason University

- ◇ Rafee Al-Mansur, Johns Hopkins University
"Ulterior Motives of the National Defense Authorization Act and the Rise of Secondary Consciousness"
- ◇ Adam Bethke, George Washington University
"Trends and Traction: Examining Shifts in Sentencing Policy"
- ◇ Sunny J. Thapa, George Mason University,
"Private Property and Governance: Managing Tenant Behavior Through Residential Rules"
- ◇ Amelie Rives, Roanoke College
"Women, Abortion Legislation, and Reproductive Health Care"

Conference Committee

Marisa Allison	LuLu Géza	Sara Moore
Julie Anderson	Sahar Haghighat	Jason Smith
Jean Boucher	Catherine Imperatore	Joshua Tuttle
Marcus Boyd	Katie Kerstetter	Victoria Hoverman
	Randy Lynn	

About the Conference

The first conference took place in 2011 at George Mason University, spear-headed by students in the Sociology program, with a simple goal to get graduate students from other schools together to explore research as relevant to public issues and concerns. Out of these sessions came thoughtful discussions on how to use research for proposed solutions to social problems. Thus, the Public Sociology Graduate Conference was designed for graduate students who are attempting to bridge their sociological knowledge and research with important and ongoing social inequalities. Taking a page from Michael Burawoy's call for a Public Sociology, the need to create and develop spaces within the professional areas of the discipline are key to fostering this public aspect. The conference serves this goal by creating a space where students can present research and ideas that blend sociology with activist, progressive, and policy- and community-centered goals. While no solution is short of its own complexity, we are committed to utilizing the skill sets and ways of thinking about the social world that our discipline allows us and engaging those solutions in a open and democratic manner.

About the PhD Program at George Mason University

Our Ph.D. program has at its core the emerging field of Public and Applied Sociology. Begun in 2008, it is the first doctoral program in sociology of its kind. The program was specifically conceived to address an unmet need throughout the region for sociologists with advanced training in substantive and methodological fields who can directly engage problems confronting decision makers and the public. Students in the program choose from two areas of concentration: Institutions and Inequality and the Sociology of Globalization. It calls for sociologists to bring the distinct skills of the discipline to bear on matters of great public concern within academic, policy, and applied research settings.

