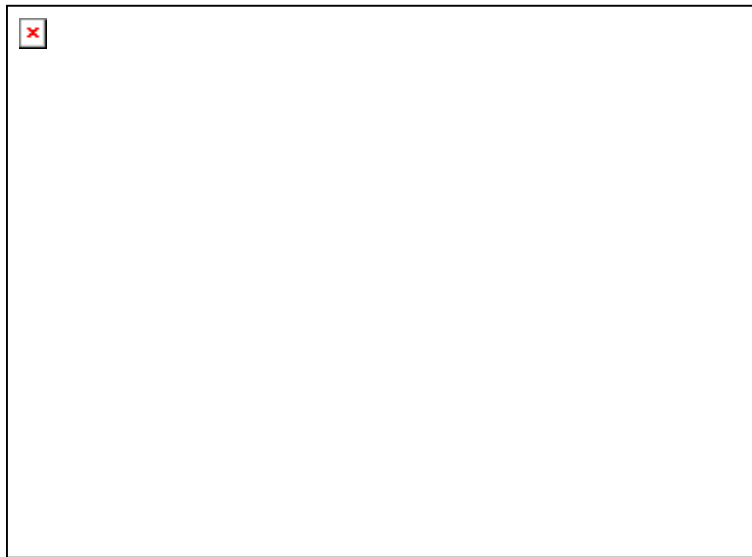


The Sociology and Anthropology
Department of
MUHLENBERG

COLLEGE

presents

The 4th Annual
Senior Research Symposium



Thursday, May 3rd 2007

*The Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Welcomes You!*

Dr. William Abruzzi, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Interim Chair

Dr. Tammy Lewis, Associate Professor of Sociology & Chair (on leave, 2006-07)

Dr. J. Christopher Kovats-Bernat, Assistant Professor of Anthropology


Dr. Janine Chi, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Dr. Amber VanDerwerker, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Anne Esacove, Assistant Professor of Sociology (on leave, 2006-07)

Dr. Gregory Wilson, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology

Mrs. Tracy Kline, Department Secretary



Schedule of Speakers

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Janine Chi

How Art is Redefining Itself for Social Change

Kerin Backhaus

Race, Gender, and Policy for All: Determining Policy Support for Black and White Working Women in America

Joanna Kling

Do the SATS Have More of An Influence Than We Think?: SATS Effect on Academic Self-Efficacy

Katie Thone

A Study in the Decline in Membership in Pennsylvania Masonic Lodges and Its Relationship to a Global Decline in Civic, Religious, and Fraternal Organizations

Mark Bober

Concluding Remarks

Dr. Janine Chi

Ms. Kerin Backhaus



Daughter of Dorothy Reigner and Dr. Gary Backhaus, stepdaughter of Don Reigner and Suki Parks.

Kerin is a major in both Sociology and Studio Art.

After graduation, Kerin plans to move to the mountains of Vail, Colorado for a year, and then to apply to graduate school for photography.

Her department mentor is Dr. Janine Chi.

How Art is Redefining Itself for Social Change

Recent art literature, artists, and art theorists view contemporary public art as means of creating open space by which information, ideas, and concepts can be exchanged freely. However, this work tends to fall short of explaining why this space is created. Although the literature on social movements recognize the importance of art as a cultural product that can mobilize resources, frame national and international contention, and social movement identity, social movement scholars do not discuss the active role of the artist in creating art. Building on the two bodies of literature, I claim that the interaction between politics and culture is established by public artists consciously choosing to emphasize functional over formal aesthetics in their artwork. This study examines the ways in which artists transform their role from artists to activists through the creation of their art. Relying on secondary sources, a content analysis of ten cases of public art was conducted. Results indicate that public art does not necessitate the redefinition of aesthetics to raise public awareness and direct social change. This study demonstrates how the dynamics of cultural production have the potential to



The Senior Seminar Class



From left: Mark Bober, Katie Thone, Dr. Janine Chi, Kerin Backhaus, and Joanna Kling.

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April 18, 2007

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Senior Symposium in Sociology and Anthropology. This year's student projects truly represent the ideals of a liberal arts education; students have successfully employed multiple perspectives in their research, and made important theoretical and empirical connections in their work. The presentations you see today provide only a fleeting glimpse of the amount of time and energy that each student has put into conducting their research. As the faculty supervisor of our department's capstone Senior Seminar this year, I am very pleased and excited to introduce their work to you.

This year's presenters – Kerin, Joanna, Katie, and Mark – in many ways represent the embodiment of an excellent liberal arts education. Each presenter has successfully married diverse interests and interdisciplinary training into a cohesive empirical project, ranging from an examination of the relationship between public art and social movements to the investigation of membership within the secret halls of the Freemasons in the Lehigh Valley. Each student's research and presentation represents not only a pursuit of individual interests, but also a quest for scholarly knowledge and understanding. I am very proud to have been a part of their individual intellectual experiences but, more importantly, I am very thankful to have witnessed their coming together as a mutually supportive community of critical thinkers and writers. They have helped each other tease out the intricacies of theory-building and given each other critical advice on data collection and analysis. Needless to say, their individual perseverance and their collective commitment through this process have been more than commendable, and I am honored to have been a part of their individual journeys and collective growth.

Thank you for coming to support these students and their work.

Best,

Janine Chi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology



Mr. Mark Bober



Son of William E. Bober (dcd.), and Mary E. Bober.

Mark is a major in Anthropology and a minor in Religion Studies.

After graduation, Mark plans to attend graduate school for Anthropology.

His department mentors are Dr. Christopher Kovats-Bernat, Dr. William Abruzzi, and Dr. Amber VanDerWarker.

A Study in the Decline in Membership in Pennsylvania Masonic Lodges and Its Relationship to a Global Decline in Civic, Religious, and Fraternal Organizations

Freemasonry has seen fluctuations in membership throughout its existence. During the 19th and early part of the 20th Century countless fraternal organizations were formed. During the Second World War fraternal and civic organizations saw dramatic membership surges. By 1960 membership on a national level had peaked to an all time high. Since that time there has been a slow progressive decline in membership reported by fraternal and civic organizations. This study specifically examined the reasons for the decline in membership in Masonic lodges through exploratory interviews of members and participant observation. The results of this study show that the overall disenfranchisement of members is caused by negative views of fellow members' behaviors rather than dissatisfaction with the fraternity's rituals and goals.



Special Thanks to:

The Spring '07 Anthropological Theory Class:

Elizabeth Cady

Mallory Carey

Amanda Gable

Angela Lucarini

David Scheule

Jena Stauffer

Kelly Turner

Dr. J. Christopher Kovats-Bernat,
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Janine Chi,
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Tracy Kline, Department Secretary



Ms. Joanna Kling



Daughter of Jackie and Arnold Kling.

Joanna is a Sociology major.

After graduation, Joanna plans to conduct social science research as a research assistant before going on to graduate school.

Her department mentors are Dr. Janine Chi and Dr. Tammy Lewis.

Race, Gender, and Policy for All: Determining Policy Support for Black and White Working Women in America

Federal employment policies attempt to address occupation segregation and inequalities between race and gender. This research looks specifically at federal policies as a macro-level factor affecting inequalities in women's labor force experiences. Research has shown that variations of family structures create different experiences in the labor market for white women and women of color. These differences are in terms of wages, participation rates, and type of work. Given these different labor force experiences, this research investigates the extent to which, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 accounts for women's varying experiences. Existing secondary data that demonstrate the existing realities of women's experiences in the workforce was compared with results from a content analysis of the federal policy. Results suggest that the Family and Medical Leave Act reinforces gender roles by focusing on a nuclear family structure.



Ms. Katie Thone



Daughter of Lynda and Richard Thone.

Katie is a major in both Psychology and Sociology.

After graduation, Katie plans to pursue her Ed.M. in School Psychology at Columbia Teachers College.

Her department mentors are Dr. Janine Chi and Dr. Tammy Lewis.

Do the SATS Have More of An Influence Than We Think?: SATS Effect on Academic Self-Efficacy

Research was conducted to investigate the relationships between the SATs, SAT preparation courses and academic self-efficacy. Previous research indicates a significant link between academic self-efficacy and academic achievement. This study leads to a better understanding of the effects of SATs and SAT preparation courses on academic self-efficacy. A survey assessing academic self-efficacy measured at distinct points in the standardized testing process was distributed to a random sample of Muhlenberg students. Results indicate that SAT preparation courses do increase an individual's academic self-efficacy. The results of this study suggest that access to SAT preparation courses improve one's confidence in academic performance in college, which may in turn affect overall academic achievement.



NOTES

