

**Wichita State University
4th Annual
Sociology Symposium**

October 28, 2016



Shocker SOC Club

WSU Sociology
Department

A Special Thank You to:

LaDawna Hobkirk,
Sociology Administrative Assistant

Wichita State University
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

*Sponsored by Shocker SOC Club and
The WSU Sociology Department*

October 28, 2016
Friday 9:30 am—3:15 pm
107 Clinton Hall

9:30-10:00 Morning Mingle
(coffee provided)

10:00-11:30 Session 1

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-1:30

Keynote Speakers
Danielle Johnson & Natalie Toney

1:45-3:15 Session 2

Visit the
Shocker SOC Club
page on the
Sociology Department website
at:
www.wichita.edu/sociology



And follow us on Facebook:
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Save the Date!

Friday, March 3, 2017

**4th Annual
Gender & Sexuality Conference
at Wichita State University**

*Sponsored by the
Department of Sociology
and the
Shocker SOC Club*

Keynote Speakers: Danielle Johnson & Natalie Toney

As Program Coordinator and Retention Coordinator at WSU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Danielle and Natalie are dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment and supporting the success of underrepresented students.



“Recognizing Microaggression”

The microaggression training introduces the concept of microaggressions. Microaggressions are covert and unintended discrimination towards socially marginalized groups. Participants will learn the types of microaggressions and reflect on ways to address them and foster an inclusive environment.

9:30-10:30 Session I

Ericka Feltrop
rika16@cox.net

Sex Ed and Adverse Health Outcomes In Emerging Adults

How does the type of sexuality education course (abstinence-only vs. comprehensive vs. none) received in high school impact safe sex practices among Wichita State University students aged eighteen to twenty-four? As one of the most diverse universities in the Mid-West, Wichita State University students would be the ideal population to compare sexuality course backgrounds. In recent years, conservative states have begun limiting sexuality education classes to exclude any discussion of sex except within the context of abstinence. Parents also have the option to have their children opt-out of the sexuality course. The USD 259 school district has an opt-in program, which means that children cannot take sex-ed unless their parents sign and return a form allowing their child's participation. Previous research has shown a higher likelihood of adverse health effects and lack of safe sex practices as a result of abstinence-only sexual education. The researcher designed a study that looks at the relationship between condom usage, birth control usage, and sexually transmitted infection rates among students who received abstinence-only, comprehensive, or no sexuality education course.

Dr. Chase Billingham
chase.billingham@wichita.edu

Locating the City Limits: Community Characteristics and the Mental Boundaries of Urban Identity in Eight U.S. Metropolitan Areas

The growth of American suburbs in the 20th century was, in part, a result of white middle-class Americans attempts to find alternatives to inner-city congestion, crime, and educational failure. In recent decades, though, central-city gentrification and increasing poverty within inner-ring suburbs have contributed to a blurring of the boundaries between the urban and the suburban in American metropolitan areas. In this paper, I examine one aspect of this blurring process by investigating how metropolitan residents describe the communities they inhabit. Using data from respondents in eight metropolitan areas in the Soul of the Community Survey, I note a disjuncture between many respondents geographic residence and their characterizations of their communities, many central-city residents claim to live in a suburban area, while many inhabitants of suburbs describe their homes as urban. I explore some potential factors related to this disjuncture, finding that peoples perceptions of two local community characteristics, public safety and school quality, affect the labels that they attach to the places they call home. Controlling for where respondents actually live, logistic regression results indicate that those who perceive their communities to be unsafe and to have low-performing schools are significantly more likely to claim to live in an urban environment. I discuss some of the implications that these findings have for theories about space and place.

Lisette Garcia

lxgarcia1@shockers.wichita.edu

Kaylee Walker

Mosaic Griffin

Social Action Campaign: Stay at Home Dads

In Dr. Herzog's Sociology of Gender course, we are required to develop a social action campaign on a gendered issue. The issue we are centering our campaign around is the stigma directed towards stay-at-home fathers. The concept of stay at home dads illustrates a big change to traditional gender roles tied to parenting. Step 1 in a social action campaign is defining the issue. How does society view stay at home dads? They are often seen as lazy, a freeloader, playing outside of their gender role, and often criticized on their masculinity. This presentation will provide an overview of some of the research on stay at home dads, and discuss the process of developing a campaign to raise awareness of stay at home dad experiences using the hashtag #fightingforfathers.

Karson Quinn

krquinn@shockers.wichita.edu

Agencies Serving Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence; A Community Assessment Report

This is a report about agencies serving survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Wichita, Kansas. Interviews were conducted with four major agencies in Wichita to assess the resources provided to survivors of IPV. The interviews covered questions regarding their definition of IPV, services, agency connections, funding, and the gaps in services and resources. Also included in the report are Kansas statistics on IPV, the gaps in Wichita services, and intervention suggestions on how this community can better alleviate gaps in IPV services. Many gaps were found, and were rooted in lack of funding or our culture. This discussion will revolve mostly around the gaps and how we can help to alleviate them.

Jamie Wooley-Snider
jamielynsnider@yahoo.com

A Holistic Approach: Reconnecting with Spirit, Identity, and Community in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment

Historically, mental health and addiction treatment services have been delivered in Indian Country through community-based mental health centers funded by Indian Health Services. The prevalence of alcoholism, drug abuse, victimization by domestic violence, and complication of mental health diagnoses due to the effects of historical trauma create a unique set of circumstances and values that must be acknowledged within these communities. The literature review of both qualitative and quantitative methods reveal that intersecting identities, including race/ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, socio-economic standing, sexual orientation, and exposure to an Indian Boarding school experience by caregiver or self, further affect clients who are American Indian/Alaskan Native. Urban Indians face a separate set of challenges in accessing and retaining mental health or addiction treatment services because of their separation from their Indigenous community of origin, which creates a deep sense of isolation for many, further complicating feelings of hopelessness and raising recidivism for addiction treatment services. The best practice for serving clients in Indian Country is a holistic model; one that addresses spirit, identity, community, and a shared sense of trauma. This holistic model is best practice because it addresses the intersectionality of the American Indian/Alaskan Native population, shared traumas and experience, and unites clients with peers in urban centers to assist in their adjustment to being away from their family support system and tribal community.

Brynn Thompson
brynneveer@gmail.com

College for Convicts

In 1993-1994, under the Clinton administration, American prisoners were stripped of their eligibility to receive federal financial aid. By the end of the 90s, most post-secondary correctional education programs were eliminated due to the drastic decline in the number of inmates able to afford such programs. Despite the multitude of studies that demonstrate the link between higher education and reduced recidivism, there are still few effective, low-cost programs available to those imprisoned. Currently there are more than 2 million Americans in state and federal correctional facilities. In my research I examined the circumstances, supported by sociological theories of deviance, which keep the uneducated trapped in the prison system. Adult education programs including high school completion, vocational training, and collegiate courses provide convicts/ex-convicts with hope for their future as well as other beneficial effects while still incarcerated such as reduced prisoner misconduct. But there is resistance to these types of programs due to public outrage that criminals are receiving education on the tax-payers' dime but annual housing of an inmate ranges from \$25-45K, as much as four times the amount of correctional education. In my research it seems the benefits outweigh the costs to both the prisoners and the community into which they are returning. I propose that federal aid for inmates and correctional adult education programs be supported.

2:15-3:15 Session 2

Jacob Erickson
jacobe@iastate.edu

Suspended and on Track (to Prison): An Analysis of the Effect of Suspension on Dropping Out Using Propensity Score Matching

Research suggests students who have received exclusionary discipline like suspension are at risk for a number of scholastic issues, including dropping out. Moreover, it has been suggested that students excluded from school are more likely to become entangled in the criminal justice system. This pathway out of school and into criminal justice involvement has been coined the school-to-prison pipeline. However, research on this topic has struggled to show the isolated effects of suspension on dropping out, as suspension and dropping out are associated with a number of the same factors. This analysis utilizes the Educational Longitudinal Study (ELS: 2002) to attempt to tease out the effect of suspension on dropping out using propensity score matching. The use of propensity score matching should allow for the elimination of the impact of confounding variables when testing for the influence of suspension on dropping out. Initial findings show notable difference in rates of dropping out between those who have been suspended and those who have not, despite having similar propensity scores. These results provide strong support for the assertion that suspension is causally related to dropping out.

Amanda Johnson
ajxl32@gmail.com

Alternative Spring Break: Exploration of Homelessness and Food Insecurity in NYC

This presentation explores the contributing factors of homelessness and food insecurity in New York City, New York through an Alternative Spring Break's service-learning experience. This experience finds that an evident progression of capitalistic principles are infiltrating the lens that we see people, which is leading towards the dehumanization of marginalized individuals. In addition, factors such as rising cost of living, decline in public assistance, lack of mental facilities, and affordable housing are exacerbating the issue. Through community initiatives, this presentation highlights how community involvement can combat hunger and homelessness, despite imperfect policies. Furthermore, the presentation investigates how cities play an instrumental role in change and how cities can alter the world we live in.