Wichita State University
5th Annual
Sociology Symposium

A Special Thank You to:

LaDawna Hobkirk,
Sociology Administrative Assistant

Wichita State University

October 6, 2017

Sponsored by

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Sociology

Shocker Sociology
Student Affiliate of
Wichita State University's
Deptartment of Sociology

October 6, 2017
Friday 9:00 am - 3:15 pm
LAS Dean's Conference
Room - Lindquist Hall

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

9:30-10:30 **Session I**

10:45-12:30 **Session II**

12:30-1:00 **Lunch (on your own)**

| 1:00-1:45 |
| **Keynote Speaker** |
| Natasha Stephens, Title IX |

2:00-3:00 **Session III**

3:00-3:15 **Concluding Remarks**

Visit
Shocker SOCIOLOGY
on the
Sociology Department website at:
www.wichita.edu/sociology

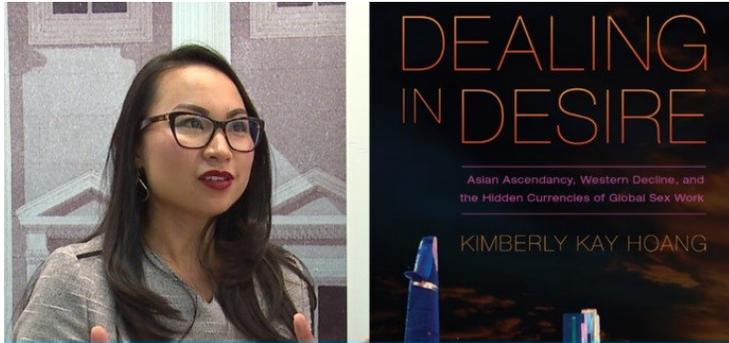Connect with us on Facebook:

Sociology Department:
https://www.facebook.com/WSUsoc1/

Shocker Sociology updates:
https://www.facebook.com/ShockerSocClub/

Shocker Soc Club closed group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/shocker
soc/

Save the Date!

Friday, March 30, 2018

**5th Annual
Gender & Sexuality Conference
at Wichita State University**

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Kimberly Kay Hoang
University of Chicago

*Sponsored by the
Department of Sociology,
Shocker Sociology Club, AKD
Office of Diversity & Inclusion & others*

Keynote Speaker:
Natasha Stephens, Ph.D.
Title IX Coordinator

Title IX in the face of Changing Federal Policy Q&A

Dr. Stephens has a master's degree in higher education and a Ph.D. specializing in educational leadership. As Title IX coordinator, her role includes increasing awareness of and compliance with Title IX regulations on campus. In addition, she is faculty mentor to the Title IX Alliance (student organization), and is a member of the President's Diversity Council.

9:30-10:30:

Session 1

Session 3

Daniel Saunders
djsaunders@shockers.wichita.edu

Durkheim's Relational Account of Social Ontology

It is widely held that Emile Durkheim is a realist about society. However, working out precisely what this means has been a enduring problem for Durkheim scholarship, in particular, and sociology, in general. Secondary authors (and to a superficial degree, Durkheim himself) regularly put forward inconsistent explanations of what Durkheim's position on the reality of society really is. This situation is further complicated by the fact that much of the discussion of Durkheim has fixated on his notion of social facts, at the expense of his notion of social entities. This paper describes and clarifies the status of social entities in Durkheim's ontology. I argue that the best explanation of his position is that society is to be conceived of as a real relation rather than as a substance or a collection of individuals. The paper proceeds by reviewing several accounts found in the secondary literature and evaluating how well they match up with a close reading of Durkheim's primary writings on the matter. In philosophy of social science, interest in social ontology is especially high at the moment, which means a reexamination of the theoretical writings of a key historical figure is both timely and relevant.

Dr. Chase Billingham
chase.billingham@wichita.edu

Groundwater Pollution and Tax Decrement: Financing in Wichita

Tax increment financing (TIF) is a common mechanism used to finance urban building projects, particularly infrastructure upgrades and redevelopment efforts, yet substantial debates persist among researchers and policymakers over whether TIF produces tangible benefits for municipalities that would have been unattainable in its absence. Despite a wide-ranging literature evaluating the effectiveness of TIF, little research has investigated the political strategies used by developers to popularize TIF and to campaign for its adoption. This paper addresses that gap in the literature. Drawing on archival research, I present a case study of a hectic campaign in the early 1990s in Wichita, Kansas to persuade government leaders to allow for a unique implementation of TIF designed to finance a brownfield remediation project. Since its approval, a shift has occurred in supporters' arguments in defense of this TIF district. While originally floated as a necessary tool for environmental cleanup, today the district is largely defended as a catalyst for downtown redevelopment. I discuss the implications for the shifting rhetoric underlying TIF for sociological theory related to redevelopment and gentrification.

Session 3

Kallie Kimble

Kethompson@shockers.wichita.edu

Desegregation, Resegregation, and Back? School Segregation in Wichita, KS, Past, Present, and Future

This is a project that I completed as an undergrad in Soc. 534: Urban Sociology in the spring of 2016. This research looks back through the history of the racial segregation of public schools in Wichita, KS as well as where the district is currently and where it might go in the future regarding this topic. This was done by collecting data from the Wichita Eagle as well as books that were read as part of the class. Racial segregation in urban public schools has been an important area of research over the last few decades. Through a series of supreme court decisions, starting with the infamous Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education, racial segregation in public schools was found unconstitutional and districts were ordered to desegregate. Once schools began working towards racial integration, many different and some controversial means to accomplish this were implemented across the country. In this presentation, I will discuss how the Wichita school district, USD 259, worked through this process, whether or not it was effective, and where the district stands on this issue today.

Session 1

Derek Wilson

dawilson6.wichita@gmail.com

Introducing the Future: Why Ignoring Transhumanism is a Social Issue

Technology has been advancing at an exponential rate. With this rapid advancement, it is time to address potential future issues that could develop from the introduction of new technologies. One area of technological advancement that is quickly rising is that of Transhumanism; specifically, biocybernetics. Transhumanism is the idea or belief that humans will eventually advance our biological bodies via augmentation using robotics (biocybernetics) or genetics. This research paper aims to predict social issues that could develop with the implementation of biocybernetic augmentation to the human body. Three major social issues that were predicted were prejudice towards augmenters, segregation based on ability, and who will be able to receive these augmentations as they become available. The three social issues are observed and explored through Otherness, Fluidity Theory, and Technological Determinism. Otherness adequately addresses the possibility of segregation based on body augmentation, while fluidity points out the ever-changing idea the use for prosthetic, and technological determinism accurately examines the possible future course change for the motivation to develop biocybernetics. Biocybernetics will soon impact our society with the rate of technological advancement. Although social issues are bound to develop, there are possible ways to preemptively address said issues. The concept of biocybernetics must be introduced to society soon and the possible issues must be closely monitored as they develop.

Session 1

Ericka Cameron
edfeltrop@shockers.wichita.edu

Abortion Rights and Artificial Wombs: An Exploration of our Post-Modern World

On April 25, 2017 doctors and scientists announced their findings that an artificial womb has been successful in keeping a lamb fetus alive for four weeks. This trial represents the longest time in which an animal fetus has been kept alive outside of its mother's womb (Engelhaupt 2017). This technology will be ready for human trials in the next two to five years (Stein 2017). Annually, over thirty-thousand infants are born at or before twenty-six weeks in the United States (the average human gestation period is about forty-weeks) (Khazan 2017). Human infants born at or around the twenty-four week mark only have about a fifty percent chance of survival (Khazan 2017). The development of this technology could radically increase the vitality of premature infants (Khazan 2017). However, it could also drastically limit women's ability to choose what to do what the fetus(es) growing inside of her (Stein 2017). . Given that science is continuously advancing, the time period in which a fetus is viable outside of its mother's womb is lengthening, which can- and probably will- shorten the period of time in which abortions are legal, or else eliminate legal abortions entirely. In order to fully explore the social issues arising from this developing technology, the theories of post-modernity, technological rationality and instrumental domination are applied.

2:00-3:00pm:
Session 3

Jamie Wooley-Snider
jlwooley-snider@shockers.wichita.edu

Continued Segregation: The Economic, Physical, and Psychological Toll of Institutional Racism on Urban African American Progress

This historical comparative analysis draws on existing data from qualitative inquiries, quantitative research, and historical documents to assess the impact of institutional racism on urban African American progress. Examining institutional and facilitative aspects, this analysis chronicles impactful developments from Reconstruction to the present. The current condition of African American neighborhoods in urban centers can only be addressed on the premise that certain truths are accepted. The failure of Reconstruction legislature, persistent institutional racism, economic embargo, environmental racism, the ghettoization of African Americans in the New Deal, the post WWII economy, and following the Community Reinvestment Act provided the American Dream for white Americans at the expense of urban African Americans.
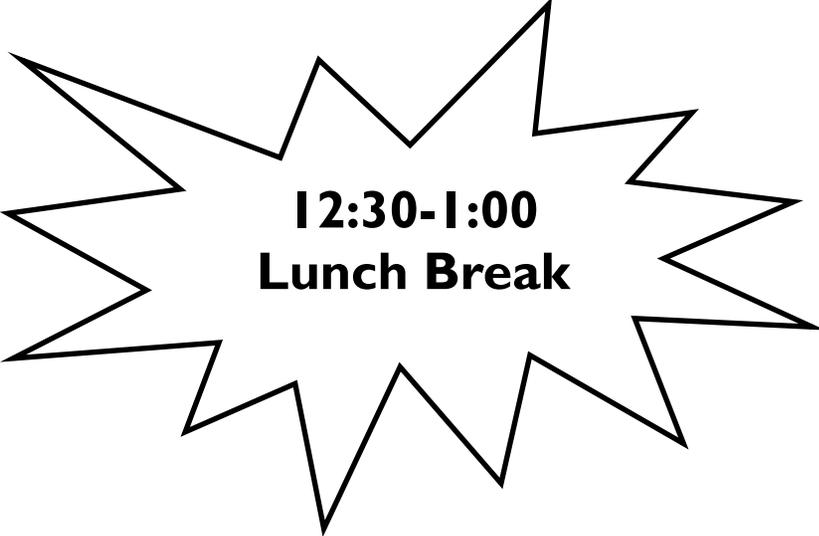
Session 2

**12:30-1:00
Lunch Break**

**1:00-1:45 pm
Keynote Speaker:
Natasha Stephens**

Brittany Spires
bnspires@shockers.wichita.edu

The Effects of Hypermasculinity

For most people, when they think of gender, they automatically think male or female, or perhaps masculine and feminine. I have found that it is important to see gender as an act or way of life. Gender socialization is a part of our daily lives and because we have become accustom to certain behavior, we fail to see the harmful effects gendering has on our children. I have chosen to present on Hyper-masculinity, focusing on how society rears young boys to become men, and what we are really teaching them. I have included research from a few different articles, along with data gathered from an ethnography report, media analysis and interview I conducted for my Men & Masculinities class. The basis of this project was to identify ways society practices gendering, explain how young boys learn to behave and how this affects them as they become adults. Power, Violence and Sexuality are the three areas that I focus on. When amplified, these become the very definition of hyper-masculinity. You will see how power is glorified and how boys feel the need to be dominant, whether it's in relation to women or other social groups such as minorities and homosexuals. I also examine how we encourage violence by telling boys to "be tough" or to "be a man." This may be expressed in boys through fighting in school, playing contact sports or even playing violent video games on a regular basis.

Henry Postoak
kmpostoak@shockers.wichita.edu

Masculine Interpersonal Communication

What I wanted to examine in my final project for Men & Masculinities this summer was the ways in which masculinity is performed through intimate communication and emotional expression, or lack thereof. I began with themes explored in my sociological interview and pulled from class readings, additional library research, and especially my other summer class- Interpersonal Communication. I contrasted some of the dominant values of hegemonic masculinity (toughness, status orientation, and anti-femininity) with relationship theories and other sociological findings concerning the importance of communicative openness. I found that many of the most stereotypically masculine behaviors, such as taking a James Bond approach to relationships or refusing to talk to a doctor about personal health symptoms, involve some of the most inhibiting communicative styles which has important ramifications for mental and physical well-being. An important focal point was self-disclosure, the manner and extent to which we share personal thoughts, feelings, and experiences with others. Self disclosure allows for the deepening of friendships and a sense of human connection and understanding essential to emotional health, but crucially necessitates expressiveness and vulnerability- the antithesis of traditional male emotional repression. I suggest that these norms, the negative sanctions men face in violating them, and the effects of this deficit in open or emotional communication result in a feedback loop where the ongoing performance of traditional masculinity precludes the practice of the relevant interpersonal skills such that expressiveness or self-disclosure becomes increasingly difficult.

Carrie Van Dusen
cbmeadows@shockers.wichita.edu

Autism and Relationships: The Joys of Dating

Autism Spectrum Disorder has went from 1 in 150 down to 1 in 68. While the diagnosis rate for boys is 1 in 42 the rate for girls is much lower at 1 in 189. The research looked at sexual education for adolescents with developmental disorders and why problems may develop in relationships over their lifetime. In an article by Bertilsdotter (2014), they looked specifically at a magazine titled, Empowerment, written by a person with autism. The findings stated that people with autism want healthy and safe relationships in the same way that neurotypical individuals do. Overall this paper found that individuals with autism are more similar to neurotypical people than society likes to claim.

Jessica Schachle

jlschachle@shockers.wichita.edu

What's Your Status?
A Look at How Social Media
Affects Romantic Relationships

From arranged marriages, to courting, to Tinder, romantic relationships have evolved drastically with the times. In the more recent years, relationships have become rooted in technology, making it harder to separate a relationship from things such as social media. While social media has opened the horizon for quick and constant communication, it has also proved to be fatal to some relationships. Social media has proven to be a breeding ground for jealousy, whether it be a message sent that appears to be too friendly, or a significant other showing someone else's posts more attention, jealousy is a by-product of social media usage. Romantic relationships are at jeopardy in the hands of social media. This is because one is more readily available to outsiders other than ones significant other. This constant presence on a website or app can lose the sacredness that is privacy of the person. This study examines the relationships of 10 individuals (five couples), all who were administered a set of questionnaires over the course of three days which asked how often they and their partner used social media. On the final day, participants were asked to forgo all social media outlets and take the final questionnaire. Although the original hypothesis was disproved, there were correlations between social media usage and how trustworthy an individual found their partner.

Lisa Moritz
lmmoritz@shockers.wichita.edu

Fatherhood and Masculinity

Throughout the Summer 2017 Men & Masculinities course, my focus was on how men relate to and interact with their family unit, specifically, wives and children. My hope was to gain insight as to the "why" behind the way men act and to potentially understand men I know who play the roles of father and husband. My thesis for the final project was that interaction between fathers and their children are greatly influenced by gender roles, with fathers yielding responsibility of caretaking and parenting to mothers or other women. My research involves an ethnographic observation, media analysis, and peer reviewed journal articles.