

A Special Thank You to:

LaDawna Hobkirk,
Sociology Administrative Assistant

Michelle DeHaven

Dr. Ron Matson

LAS Deans Office



**Second Annual
Sociology Symposium**

**Friday, October 24, 2014
Wichita State University
Lindquist Hall**

Sponsored by Shocker SOC Club and Sociology Department

October 24, 2014
Friday 9:15 am—3pm
200 Lindquist Hall

9:15-9:30 **Welcome**

9:30-10:30 **Session 1**

10:45-11:45 **Session 2**

12-1:15

Lunch with Keynote Speaker
Dr. Ron Matson

1:30-2:30 **Session 3**

2:30-3 **Reception**

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



Save the Date!

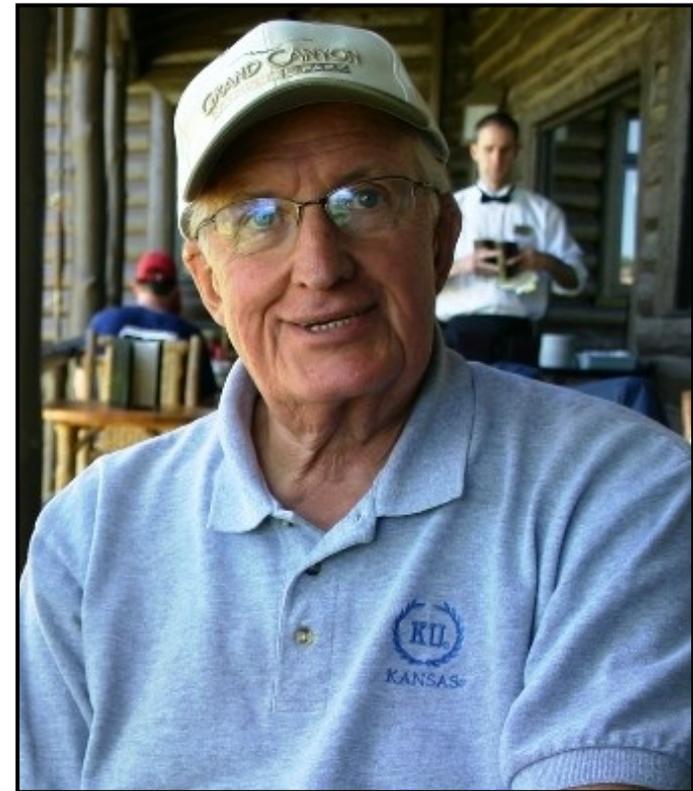
Friday, April 3rd, 2015

**2nd Annual
Gender & Sexuality Conference
at Wichita State University**

**With Keynote Speaker
Robyn Ochs**

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

**Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Ron Matson**



**Discovering Masculinities for Thirty-five Years:
Some New Learning**

9:30-10:30 Session I

Stephanie Rubinetti Wilde
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Social Media and Its Powerful Role Within a Society

In South-American countries, it is commonly known that the media is the most powerful communicator and that it can have a great impact on the society as a whole. For this reason, the purpose of this research is to explore the influences and consequences of women's images portrayed through the media in the Paraguayan society. Not only do images displayed on popular magazines are barely or sometimes explicitly show women's attributes but they are also mostly appealing to sexuality. It is worth noting that such magazines are intended for a wide audience and there is no control over who has access to them.

Furthermore, the intentions of these images portrayed in such magazines not only delimit the perfect bodies every woman wants to achieve but also, the perceptions of women in the Paraguayan society. From a young age, girls and boys are socialized to consume what the media sells. On the flip side, other social media types such as television, newspapers, and billboards also follow the same parameters as magazines. Nevertheless, the problem really boils down to what type of images they use to sell these products, which are mostly women's bodies.

Dr. Chase M. Billingham
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White Enrollment and Racial Segregation in American Urban Public School Districts, 1990-2011

Recent research has found that racial and ethnic segregation within school districts has decreased over the past two decades, even as segregation between school districts has persisted. As accounts of white families' return to previously stigmatized urban public schools circulate, it is important to know how segregation patterns have evolved within inner-city school districts. Drawing on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, this paper examines enrollment data from the public school districts of the 100 largest cities in the U.S. to determine trends in demographic composition and within-district segregation in urban school districts. The trend of white return is extremely limited in scope; in most of the nation's largest cities, white enrollment declines have persisted. Moreover, segregation within urban districts has not decreased; rather, I find modest increases in racial segregation in recent decades. I discuss the implications of these findings for urban education policy.



Gentrification in Williamsburg

This paper examines gentrification in general, and specifically, in relation to the neighborhood of Williamsburg in Brooklyn, New York. Williamsburg is often referenced in discussions of gentrification both for its prototypical gentrification process and its relevance in the debate over whether gentrification causes displacement. This essay explains what gentrification is and how it arises from both the “supply” and “demand” points of view. The “demand” side of the argument believes gentrification is caused by the changing tastes of the middle class who want to move out of the suburbs and into the city. The “supply” side argues gentrification is the product of macro level changes such as real-estate developers buying properties in depressed areas, rejuvenating the properties and then renting them out, often to young professionals seeking a “hip” place to live. Regardless of what initially stimulates gentrification, it often occurs in waves, first starting with artists before finally transitioning to the stereotypical “hipster”. This paper also spends time discussing the positive and negative benefits of gentrification with special attention paid to the issue of displacement. This essay further discusses the gentrification process in Williamsburg by briefly talking about its history as a manufacturing area and its transitions from a working class neighborhood, to a crime ridden one, to one synonymous with gentrification. This paper uses data from the 1970 and 2010 census to track economic development in Williamsburg throughout that time. Williamsburg does have many of the economic markers we would expect to see in a gentrified area, specifically a drastic increase in median household income and median rent. The author concludes that Williamsburg while still retaining some of its old ethnic enclaves, such as the Latino and Hasidic Jew communities, is well on its way to being fully gentrified even if it does not fit that classification yet.

In addition, further investigation is intended to explore if the portrayed image of women as sexual object is one of the reasons why men and women still objectify women. Also, how men perceive these images and their expectations of an average woman. The hypothesis of this project is that images of almost naked women in popular magazines severely harm women in Paraguay and their societal role within the culture. These images indirectly portray such expectations and negative stereotypes that are associated to Paraguayan women in general. Additionally, this country still lives under a patriarchal system where women are not supported in having professional careers and higher education in contrast to men, who are allowed to get much more benefits without any repercussion or questioning. As a consequence, the system itself diminishes what women can do and are capable of doing.

In conclusion, the images of women in magazines are only one piece of the culture that negatively contributes to gender inequality in the Paraguayan society. Nowadays, the younger generation of women do study, work, and try to have a professional career first before having a family. The media instead of supporting the value of the hard working woman, aggressively endorse voluptuous bodies of women. Finally, this would be just the beginning of an investigation that I plan to expand to other Latin American countries and the image of Latinas in the United States.

Brittany Thompson
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Natural Hair in the Workplace: “Acceptable”

My name is Brittany Marie Thompson and I am senior here at Wichita State Majoring in Art illustration with a minor in women studies. I would like to submit my video Documentary that I filmed for my Women’s Studies 387 course. This documentary features seven African American women who speak about their experience going natural in the workplace. For many years, women of color have had to hide their natural kinks, curls, and ringlets, under wigs, weaves, and sewins just to be considered acceptable in the workplace. Having straight European hair in corporate America is often considered to be professional, clean, and well put together. Due to the constant manipulation to African American hair, women have experienced hair loss, permanent damage, and a blow to their self-confidence. In 2010, the Natural Hair Movement took the world by storm. This movement was created to celebrate women of color and their natural hair.

1:30-2:30
Session 3

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Gentrification of Williamsburg

This paper serves as an overview of the term “gentrification” and how it applies to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Through an examination of the many working definitions of gentrification, it is determined that gentrification is an evolutionary process of an area in which any combination of population shifts regarding race, age, and household status, changes in employment type, housing prices swell, social establishments such as restaurants and coffee shops abound, and a push for local consumerism grows. Though aided by government intervention, such as zoning laws, the alterations present in gentrifying neighborhoods are driven by people whose influence is easily observed. This paper will demonstrate these changes which are transpiring in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Examination of gentrification from a scholarly approach, census data from Census Tract 553, and evident changes to the neighborhood, including home values and occupations, will show that Williamsburg is in the process of gentrifying.



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The Effect of Runaway and Throwaway Experiences on Unmet Medical Needs

Authors: Lisa E. Thrane (Wichita State University) & Xiaojin Chen (Tulane University)

This study assesses the impact of runaway and throwaway experiences on unmet medical needs among a nationally representative sample of 9,095 young adults. A path model was fit and provides supportive evidence that runaways and throwaways were less likely to have health insurance in 2001. The absence of health insurance was then associated with both higher depressive symptoms and lower self-rated health and in turn increased the risk of unmet medical needs in 2008 after Wave 1 controls were considered. In addition, disrupted transitions also had direct effects on mental and self-rated health, but only throwaway experiences increased the odds of unmet medical needs. In sum, early disrupted transitions created a chain of economic adversity and poor health outcomes for young adults.

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The Effects of Victim and Perpetrator Gender on Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence

Previous studies suggest that perceptions of intimate partner violence (IPV) are largely influenced by victim and perpetrator gender. Studies suggest that this bias translates to the criminal justice system and may have a negative consequence on help-seeking behavior, rehabilitation of perpetrators, and victim safety. The purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of IPV perceptions to increase help-seeking behavior and reduce prevalence. 82 participants enrolled in psychology courses were recruited from Wichita State University's SONA system to read one of four IPV scenarios online. The scenarios were identical with the exception of victim and perpetrator gender. Participants then completed a survey with four categories of questions. The categories included: violence/responsibility, appropriate victim response, appropriate perpetrator consequence, and obstacles. Results indicated significant differences in likelihood of participants to call police, perceptions of past occurrences, and likeability of the victim. Overall, results indicated that the situation was viewed equally violent regardless of victim or perpetrator gender. However, harsher punishments were recommended for male perpetrators, while "no penalty" was recommended for the majority of female perpetrators, regardless of victim gender. In addition, male victims were viewed as less likable and less in need of assistance or counseling. However, fear and denial were considered the greatest obstacles for all victims regardless of perpetrator gender.

10:45-11:45

Session 2

Lydia D. Ibarra
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Shaping the Ideal Stepfamily: Myths and Stressors

The purpose of the study is to investigate the myths that shape college student perceptions about the ideal stepfamily. Drawing on previous literature, the relationship between the myths that cause unrealistic expectations and the stressors that shape stepfamily dynamics are explored. It is these two factors that create many challenges faced by the stepfamily, specifically the challenge of staying together. The study identifies past predictions that fail to support the functioning of the stepfamily and identifies the role of expected norms of the traditional family, fairytales past and present, and the media has contributed to the stigmatization of the stepfamily. Based on these findings, the stepfamily myth questionnaire of 19 questions was developed and administered online using Google Docs to 100 Wichita State Psychology and Sociology college students. The findings indicate members of the traditional nuclear family perceive stepfamily myths to hold more truth than those members of the stepfamily.

Keywords: stepfamily, myths, challenges, misconceptions, dynamics

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The Relationship between Religion and Older Adults' Physical Health

Many studies have argued that religiosity has a favorable effect on prolonged continuation of life, particularly for the older population. At the same time, researchers argue how significant of an influence religion may be on health. The purpose of this ongoing study is to examine the influence of religiosity on physical health in older adults. A literature review was conducted to explore what aspects of religion have an impact on people ages 65 and older. Previous research has debated which aspects of religion such as service attendance, frequency of prayer, importance of a higher being can predict levels of physical health. Social resources like church membership, social relationships (marriage, friendships, etc.) is also suggested to be a mediating factor. Previous research also suggests that health behaviors such as smoking, and functional limitations act as mediating variables between religiosity and health. Age, gender, socioeconomic status differences also have an influence on the relationship between religiosity and physical health. Preexisting chronic conditions like heart disease or cancer will also be discussed as a factor affecting religiosity and health of the elderly population. Data from the Health and Retirement Study information will be discussed as well as the variables of interest for the study.