

# Child and Youth News

The Newsletter of the  
Sociology of Children &  
Youth Section of the  
American Sociological  
Association

## A Message from the Chair

With the end of the spring semester, most of you are now breathing a sigh of relief, and are putting your teaching responsibilities behind you (at least for a while). Those of you who are in academic positions well understand the value of the summer – it is a time to decompress, a time to rest, and a time to simply allow your mind and body to recharge. I regret to inform you, though, that the time for doing so will pass very quickly, and before you know it, August and the ASA meetings will be upon us!

Our program for this year's meetings will include some very intriguing sessions. On Monday morning (August 16), at 8:30, our session on "Policy Research on Children and Youth" will take place. This session was organized by Nancy Marshall, and will feature Elizabeth Cooksey as the presider and discussant. This session will feature a terrific selection of papers, all of which focus squarely on the real-life applications and impact of research on the quality of children's lives. All too often, the policy implications of research are overlooked, or even outrightly ignored. The papers in this session will include: "Re-focusing Upstream": Federal Research Policy Related to Children's Mental Health," by Lynn M. Falletta; "Understand the Sociology of Race in Child Welfare



Reform: Racial Disproportionality, Differential Response, University Partnerships," by Jennifer Richardson; "The Food Availability Myth: Local Food Environments' Limited Role in Explaining Childhood Obesity Risk," by Helen J. Lee; and "Food Subsidies for Child Care Providers: Correlates of Program Participation and Child Outcomes," by Rachel A. Gordon, Robert Kaestner, Sanders Korenman, and Kristin Smith Abner.

At 10:30 on Monday, our next session will address the topic of "Children in Global Perspective." This session was organized by Elizabeth Heger Boyle, and will feature a selection of papers which focus not just on the international nature of research on children, but which also illustrate the intertwined nature of children's lives and experiences around the world. The founder of our section, Gertrud Lenzer, will serve as the presider. The papers in this session will include: "A Global Perspective and Call to Action Regarding Children in Street Situations," by Maria Schmeekle; "Children First: Importing Global Childhoods into a Chinese State-Run Orphanage," by Leslie Kim Wang; "Gender Inequality

and Child Health in Less Developed Countries: A Multilevel Analysis," by Rebekah Burroway; "The Role of U.S. Migration and Remittances on the Educational Attainment of Children in Mexico," by Gabriela Sanchez Soto; and "What Does it Take for Children to Have Rights?" by Brian Gran.

Our roundtable sessions will take place on Monday at 2:30. The roundtables were organized by Cynthia A. Osborne, and will feature nine different tables, with table topics ranging from stratification in the lives of children, to juvenile delinquency, to immigration and education, and many more. I wish to particularly applaud Cynthia's tremendous efforts in putting together the roundtable sessions, as it is a daunting task, and requires a great deal of time and energy.

The roundtable sessions will be followed immediately by our business meeting (in the same room) at 3:30. As always, everyone is very much encouraged to attend the business meeting. It is a great opportunity for you to learn more about how the section functions, and especially how YOU can become actively involved.

[Read the rest of the Letter to the Chair, featuring news about Annual Meeting section events, on the back cover of this issue]

Spring 2010

### SECTION OFFICERS 2009-2010

#### CHAIR:

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#### CHAIR-ELECT:

Robert Crosnoe  
University of Texas, Austin

#### PAST CHAIR:

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Graduate Center, CUNY

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#### STUDENT REPS:

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Elizabeth Vaquera  
University of South Florida

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Margaret Hagerman  
Emory University

## Annual Meeting in August!

See [the ASA website](#) for info on registration and the program!



## Member News!

Section member **Laurie Schaffner** (UIC) published an article drawing from her research with young people in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, regarding poverty, citizenship, and children who labor in the street.

See Schaffner, Laurie. 2010. "Pobreza y ciudadanía," Estudios Jalisiences, Special issue: "Juventud y Ciudadanía." Zapopan: El Colegio de Jalisco, mayo, 80:16-25.

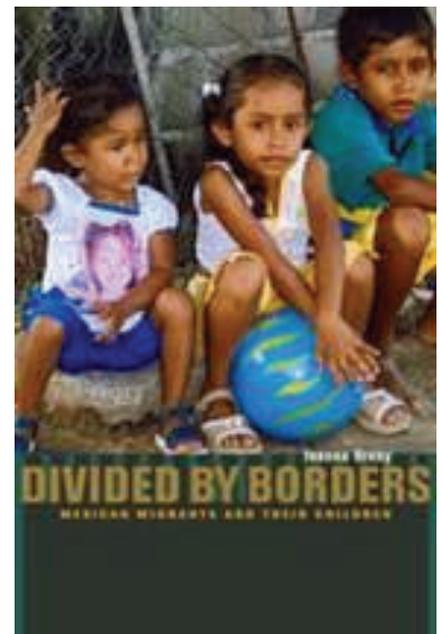
## Relevant New Ruling on Juvenile Justice

On May 17th, the Supreme Court ruled on *Graham v. Florida / Sullivan v. Florida* with regard to life sentences without parole for juveniles. [Read more here.](#)

## New Book by Section Member Joanna Dreby!

Since 2000, approximately 440,000 Mexicans have migrated to the United States every year. Tens of thousands have left children behind in Mexico to do so. For these parents, migration is a sacrifice. What do parents expect to accomplish by dividing their families across borders? How do families manage when they are living apart? More importantly, do parents' relocations yield the intended results?

Probing the experiences of migrant parents, children in Mexico, and their caregivers, **Joanna Dreby** offers an up-close and personal account of the lives of families divided by borders. What she finds is that the difficulties endured by transnational families make it nearly impossible for parents' sacrifices to result in the benefits they expect. Yet, paradoxically, these hardships reinforce family members' commitments to each other. A story both of adversity and the intensity of family ties, *Divided by Borders* is an engaging and insightful investigation of the ways Mexican families struggle and ultimately persevere in a global economy.



## Member News!

**Leslie K. Wang** published "Importing Western Childhoods Into a Chinese State-Run Orphanage" in *Qualitative Sociology* (2010, 33, 2: 137-159).

In addition, Leslie will become a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia this fall.

**Ethel Kosminsky**, Professor of Sociology at the Social Sciences Graduate Program, São Paulo State University (UNESP) – Marília, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology at Queens College /City University of New York (CUNY), published three new pieces on children and families, from an international perspective.

- de Castro, L. R., & **Kosminsky, E. V.** Childhood and its Regimes of Visibility in Brazil: An Analysis of the Contribution of the Social Sciences. *Current Sociology*, 58(2), 206-231.  
<http://csi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/58/2/206>
- **Kosminsky, E.V.** Recent History of Child Labor in Brazil. Edited by Hugh D. Hindman. *The World of Child Labor: An Historical and Regional Survey*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2009. Pp. 340-344.
- **Kosminsky, E. V.** Grandmothers and Grandchildren in Transnational Families. *Supplement to International Journal of Behavioral Development*. V. 33, Issue 6, November, 2009. *ISSBD Bulletin*, N. 2, Serial No. 56. University of Jena, Germany. Pp. 22-27.  
[http://www.issbd.org/resources/files/ISSBD0911\\_Issue.pdf](http://www.issbd.org/resources/files/ISSBD0911_Issue.pdf)

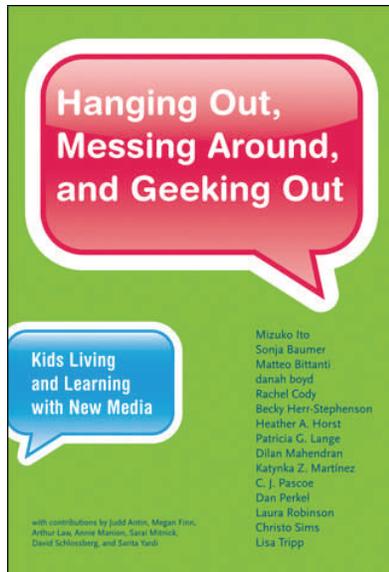


**Amy Schalet**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for Research on Families at UMASS Amherst, published "Sexual Subjectivity Revisited: The Significance of Relationships in Dutch and American Girls' Experiences of Sexuality" in *Gender & Society*, Vol. 24, No. 3.

In-depth interviews with white middle-class Dutch and American girls demonstrate two important differences in the cultural beliefs and processes that shape their negotiation of heterosexuality. First, Dutch girls are able to integrate their sexual selves into their relationships with their parents, while reconciling sexuality with daughterhood is difficult for the American girls. Second, American girls face adult and peer cultures skeptical about whether teenagers can sustain the feelings and relationships that legitimate sexual activity, while Dutch girls are assumed to be able to fall in love and form steady sexual relationships.

This research suggests important differences in institutionalized forms of heterosexuality. It also suggests the significance of girls' relationships, and the cultural perceptions and processes that shape those relationships, for their sexual subjectivity.

## New Book by Members!



### **Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with New Media**

#### Authors:

Mizuko Ito, Sonja Baumer, Matteo Bittanti, danah boyd, Rachel Cody, Becky Herr-Stephenson, Heather A. Horst, Patricia G. Lange, Dilan Mahendran, Katynka Z. Martinez, C. J. Pascoe, Dan Perkel, Laura Robinson, Christo Sims and Lisa Tripp

Conventional wisdom about young people's use of digital technology often equates generational identity with technology identity: today's teens seem constantly plugged in to video games, social networks sites, and text messaging. Yet there is little actual research that investigates the intricate dynamics of youth's social and recreational use of digital media. *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* fills this gap, reporting on an ambitious three-year ethnographic investigation into how young people are living and learning with new media in varied settings—at home, in after school programs, and in online spaces. By focusing on media practices in the everyday contexts of family and peer interaction, the book views the relationship of youth and new media not simply in terms of technology trends but situated within the broader structural conditions of childhood and the negotiations with adults that frame the experience of youth in the United States.

Integrating twenty-three different case studies—which include Harry Potter podcasting, video-game playing, music-sharing, and online romantic breakups—in a unique collaborative authorship style, *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* is distinctive for its combination of in-depth description of specific group dynamics with conceptual analysis.

This book was written as a collaborative effort by members of the Digital Youth Project, a three-year research effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and conducted at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California.



## Call for Papers—*Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*

The editors of SSCY (annual volume published by Emerald Publishing, UK) invite completed papers focused on children and youth for volume 14, to be published in the Spring of 2011. The Series Co-editors, David A. Kinney and Loretta E. Bass, seek to include papers that are timely and in need of critical examination in the areas of research, theory, and policy regarding children and youth.

The SSCY volume has a history of publishing work from diverse theoretical and methodological orientations, and welcomes contributions by scholars from around the world.

Contributions are peer-reviewed by the series editors, members of the editorial board, and other researchers. Submission deadline is June 1, 2010. Submit papers electronically (less than 30 manuscript pages in length) to Loretta Bass at [Lbass@ou.edu](mailto:Lbass@ou.edu), or in hardcopy to SSCY, Loretta Bass, 780 Van Vleet Oval, 331 KH, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019.

Recent editions of the volume may be found at the following URL:

<http://info.emeraldinsight.com/products/books/series.htm?PHPSESSID=jp7bitpdj0gsbq5nc3pkkg120&id=1537-4661>.



### Upcoming Conference, July 17-18, 2010: Fatherhood in the 21st Century Asia: Research, Interventions, and Policies

This conference will provide a platform for scholars and policy makers to discuss issues related to the trend, determinants, and consequences of father involvement, as well as policies and interventions that engage men in family lives in Asia. We aim to gain a better understanding about (1) the nature of Asian men's diverse roles and challenges they face in becoming involved in their children's lives, (2) diverse policies and practice-based interventions related to fatherhood in Asian countries.

A number of profound demographic and socioeconomic transformations in the second half of the 20th century have significantly altered men's roles in the family. There is a heightened expectation of men's family involvement as the gender ideologies become more egalitarian, labor market attachment among women with young children strengthens, marital dissolution rates rise, and the geographic mobility increases as the globalization forces unfold.

Previously expected to be primarily an economic provider and a moral teacher, the "new fathers" are now expected to also provide day-to-day physical and emotional care to children as an equal partner of the mother. Despite findings of a considerably lower level of physical involvement by fathers in the child rearing activities than mothers, recent studies have demonstrated that father's involvement, both in absolute and relative terms, has increased in many western industrialized countries.

Little systematic work has been conducted on fatherhood in Asia where family research has traditionally focused on mother's roles. There is a need to understand whether and how men's family roles has changed, how they differ from those in the western societies, and what consequences such changes have on the well-being of family members. In Asia, families are experiencing rapid transitions under diverse cultural, demographic, socioeconomic, and policy contexts.

**Admission is free.** Register early as seats are available on a first come, first served basis. RSVP to Miss Sharon Ong via email: [arios@nus.edu.sg](mailto:arios@nus.edu.sg) indicating your name, email, designation, organization/affiliation and contact number.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Conference Convenor:

Prof W. Jean Yeung

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## Pre-conference at ASA: A Celebration of Life Course Studies Honoring Glen Elder's Contributions to Sociology

Friday, August 13th, 1pm, Atlanta  
Marriot Marquis (L401/402)

Plan to arrive early in Atlanta to attend an exciting afternoon of sessions examining the way in which the life course perspective has influenced scholarship in a wide range of areas within Sociology.

A reception will follow.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

**Introductions:** Robert Crosnoe (UT Austin) and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson (Washington State Univ.)

### **Session 1: Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course**

- \*Population— Dennis Hogan (Brown University)
- \*Social Psychology—Linda George (Duke University)
- \*Medical Sociology and Mental Health—Blair Wheaton (University of Toronto)
- \*Criminology—Robert Sampson (Harvard University)
- \*Discussant: Eliza Pavalko (Indiana University)

### **Session 2: Life Course Stages and Contexts of the Life Course**

- \*Children and Youth—Jeylan Mortimer (Univ. of Minnesota)
- \*Aging—Angela O'Rand (Duke University)
- \*Schools and Education—Barbara Schneider (Michigan State Univ.)
- \*Family —Arland Thornton (University of Michigan)
- \* Discussant: Richard Settersten (Oregon State University)

**Closing Remarks:** Michael Shanahan (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

### Featured Department: Children's Studies Program & Center at Brooklyn College, CUNY

Brooklyn College launched a **Children's Studies major** in September 2009 and currently has a first-year graduating class of 15 majors. The program has seen 150 new students declare majors this year! A new class for the Fall 2010 will be offered entitled, "Child Well-Being in a Global World: Focus on the United States."

The center is also preparing to publish the proceedings of their *Fourth Child Policy Forum of New York*: "The Human Rights of Children on the 55th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the 20th Anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child."

In addition, on May 25, 2010, Gertrud Lenzer, Founding Director of the Children's Studies Center, was invited to speak at the *10th Anniversary commemoration of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child* event. This was in special recognition of the work the Center has been doing in the area of the human rights of children and in particular their *3rd Child Policy Forum of New York* on the "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography" (OPSC). Professor Lenzer also worked with the U.S. official who prepared the *US Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child* on the implementation of the *Optional Protocols*. The US Report was officially released on January 22, 2010.

To view the center's website link on the Human Rights of Children, visit:  
<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/1648.htm>

Information on these and other center news and events can be found on the department website:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/1541.htm>

On Monday, May 17, 2010, children's rights advocates witnessed a landmark Supreme Court ruling on *Graham v. Florida* with regard to life sentences without parole for juveniles who had not committed or been involved in cases of homicide.

The Children's Studies Center at Brooklyn College, CUNY has been working on issues related to this case, and this ruling represents a major development with respect to the juvenile justice system in the United States.

Thank you, Professor Lenzer, and to all section members who advocate for children's rights for your passionate dedication to such important issues.



## Letter from the Chair continued

Our section membership is comprised of individuals who obviously care about the needs of children and their welfare. What better way can you engage in those activities than by becoming more directly involved in the operations of the section itself?

At 4:30 on Monday, our session on "Race and Ethnicity in the Lives of Children" will take place. This session was organized by Holly E. Heard (she will also preside over it), and will feature Adrienne Frech as the discussant. This session will investigate more precisely how race and ethnicity impact the lives of children, in terms of education, developmental issues, and peer relations and interpersonal communication. The papers will include: "Child Health, Race, and Early Educational Outcomes," by Jamie L. Lynch; "Immigrant Adolescents' Academic Self-concept: Generational Status, Race/Ethnicity, Country of Origin, and School/Community Context Influences," by Jacob Hibel and Matthew S. Hall; "Race Matters: Tween-Agers' Race-Talk In a Post Civil Rights Society," by Pallavi Banerjee and Barbara Jane Risman; and "School Racial Composition and Racial Preferences for Friends among Adolescents," by Jennifer Flashman.

Our section reception will be held from 6:30 until 8:15 on Monday evening, in the Marriott Marquis (please check the final program for the room number). Refreshments will be served, and we very warmly invite everyone in the section to attend (and to bring along a friend, if you wish). Our reception will give you the opportunity to mingle with some of the day's presenters, presiders, organizers, and discussants. It is a great time for all, and you will be surprised at just how many more friends you will have after attending. The reception will also feature the announcement of our award winners, and their awards will be presented at that time. Again, I heartily invite everyone to attend. At the very least, the air-conditioned reception will provide you with a nice respite from the August humidity of Atlanta! See y'all there!

### *Next Issue:*

The Summer issue of Child & Youth news is scheduled to be published in July 2010. Please send your submissions to Lara at [larap@uchicago.edu](mailto:larap@uchicago.edu). And, if you would like to be interviewed, please let the publications committee know! We would love to feature you. Also, please check out and submit material to the website!

<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionchildren/index.htm>

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Lara



Elizabeth



Maggie

### *Publications Committee*

Lara Perez-Felkner (Chair)  
*University of Chicago*  
Elizabeth Vaquera  
*University of South Florida*  
Margaret Hagerman  
*Emory University*

### *Mission Statement:*

*The purpose of the Section on Children and Youth is to encourage the development and dissemination of sociological perspectives on children in the areas of research, theory, policy, practice, and teaching. Here, the term "children" includes every human being from infancy through the transition to adulthood.*