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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology

Winter 2013

The Socializer

A Newsletter for Friends of the Western Michigan University Department of Sociology

“All together now...”

by Dr. David Hartmann

There are of course, exceptions, but it is fair to say that working with others is something academic sociologists study more than practice. We are a solitary breed by training and perhaps by temperament and our particular versions of scholarship are compatible with these predispositions. But some aspects of the academic role do, more or less, require collaborative effort. Remarkably few, by the way, but some...



The co-authored paper comes to mind but that can, to its detriment, be managed without much physical or even intellectual interaction. Hierarchy and good fences (in Frost's sense) are serviceable substitutes for collaboration in a remarkably wide range of settings. But a more intense collaboration is sometimes required¹ – often for what is too dismissively called departmental business which includes the fundamental tasks of curriculum, the care and feeding of graduate students, and maintaining the institutional apparatus of the university and the professional discipline. So how can busy and independent minds come together around such tasks – and even occasionally around the creative intellectual tasks of scholarship? What is the basis for such work or at least for its potential?

In simplest form, collaboration requires dialogue and dialogue is enhanced by trust. How far reaching, how searching, how challenging is that dialogue? These may mark the qualities – and the quality – of the collaborative enterprise. Of course, I am using the word dialogue as if its meaning is clear while also relying (too) heavily on the allusive nature of the term. Perhaps we can better explore what dialogue contributes to collaboration by starting with the (apparently) less complex category of internalized

dialogue. Absent a potential external collaborator, trust is not obviously necessary and in the case I will use, extreme distrust in fact marks the dialogue.

In a review of the work of South African poet Breyten Breyenbach, who lived and worked in conversation with the agencies of censorship, Coetzee (1996) quotes Bakhtin's famous essay on Dostoevsky:

By no means all historical situations permit the ultimate semantic authority of the creator to be expressed without mediation in direct, unrefracted, unconditional authorial discourse. When there is no access to one's personal "ultimate" word, then every thought, feeling, experience must be refracted through the medium of someone else's discourse, someone else's style, someone else's manner. (p. 223).

To a sociologist the implication that there could ever be "historical situations" in which the unmediated authorial discourse could occur is a non-starter. Writing is productively understood as inherently reactive and creative – Harold Bloom would say agonistic but the Oedipal tone at least is not, I think, necessary. But to be in dialogue with "the other" as internalized - other authors (preferably dead or at least physically remote) or other

¹Remember Frost's point, too often forgotten, in *Mending Wall*:

He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors'.

Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder

If I could put a notion in his head:

'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it

Where there are cows?

But here there are no cows.

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know

What I was walling in or walling out,

And to whom I was like to give offence.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

That wants it down.'

Continued on page 4

The American Society of Criminology 2012 Conference WMU Sociology Department Participants

Bauer, Tim. *Bad Apples in the Food Industry*

Bradshaw, Elizabeth. *Criminogenic Industry Structures: Environmental Harm and the Offshore Oil Drilling Industry*

Caringella, Susan. *Roundtable: Teaching about Race, Class, and Gender in Criminology*

Carlson, Susan M. *In the Wake of Disaster: Hurricane Katrina Victims' Attempts at Righting the Wrongs of the State*

Crawford, Charles. *Coverage of Federal Law Enforcement in Criminal Justice Curriculum, Discussant*

Goetz, Barry. *Community Policing and Contradictions of the Welfare State*

Bakken, Nicholas W., Christy Visher, and **Whitney D. Gunter.** *Fatherhood and Incarceration: The Role of Children and Familial Attachment in the Transition from Prison.*

Gunter, Whitney D. and Nicholas W. Bakken. *Applying New Self-Control to Multiple Deviant and Criminal Behaviors.*

Zaykowski, Heather. V. and **Whitney D. Gunter.** *Victimization and Offending Trajectories: Insights from the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey.*

Kramer, Ronald and Raymond Joseph Michalowski. *Thematic Panel Session: Causes of Crime and Criminal Behavior/Critical, Conflict and Feminist Perspectives*

Kramer, Ronald and Raymond Joseph Michalowski. *Climate Change Denial, Corporate Criminality, and Cultural Cognition Contemporary Issues in Green Criminology*

Kruse, Lisa Marie and Greg Howard. *Reality Television, Privacy, and Surveillance.*

Marson, Jennifer Jean. *Theological Roots of Restorative Justice*

Moe, Angela M. and Catherine L. Kothari. "He Tried to Beat the Baby Out of Me": Maternal Health and Intimate Partner Violence.

Smith, Amanda Marie. *Applying "Bordering" to Cyberspace: An Analysis of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement.*

Verheek, Andrew. *But Does It Work? An Examination of the Effectiveness of a Midwestern CBT Program.*

Verheek, Andrew and Lisa Marie Kruse. *Level of Education and its Impact on Felony Offender Recidivism.*

Dr. Lewis Walker

Emeritus in sociology and former chair of the department, has won the 2012 Humanitarian Award from the Kalamazoo branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He received the award during the organization's 32nd annual Freedom Fund Banquet Nov. 3 at WMU. Walker joined the faculty in 1964. The NAACP said his life as a professor and his passion for justice made him the "go-to" leader for civil rights and activism in Kalamazoo.

City officials tapped him to conduct the first police-community training for police, and he chaired the task force that ultimately led to the creation of Kalamazoo's Citizens' Public Safety Review and Appeals Board. WMU's Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, a research center that Walker helped to create in 1990, is named in his honor.

Special Event Announcement

"More Than Just Race: A Pathway to the Future"



A dinner in honor of Lewis Walker, WMU's first African American PhD faculty member, with special guest speaker **Dr. William Julius Wilson**, a distinguished Harvard professor and preminent scholar on the impact of inequality and poverty concentration on racial and ethnic relations, family structure, and joblessness, is planned for Friday, March 15, 2013, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Western Michigan University's Bernhard Center North Ballroom. Registration and Sponsorship information is available at www.mywmu.com/walkerinstitute.

ideas and points of view - is one thing. Breytenbach in dialogue with "the censor" as an abstracted point-of-view for example may have much in common with Breytenbach in dialogue with his own whiteness or Afrikaans heritage. But to be in dialogue with the other as embodied and present and active – and moreover as a person recognized as such - is quite another thing altogether. These various dialogues may imperfectly mirror (Coetzee's phrase) each other as our multiple selves always do. And it is perhaps in direct proportion to the fullness of this engagement that creative energy is available. That is the potential (the potential energy) of dialogic communication but also its threat. Without the protections of sectionality (Frost's word "departmental" from his poem of that name is particularly resonant to our academic applications) or hierarchy or a focus limited to style, not only the work but the self are at risk. With low trust or even active distrust, work will still occur but is less likely. Silence rather than compromised work is the ultimate goal of the censor and is always to some extent in the interest of hierarchy. If too much energy is used to edit and compromise rather than to create, the capacity of the network is drained.

In relatively trustful conditions, a fuller and more present dialogue is possible, but has its own risks. Self-awareness is scary enough.

Awareness of the other as knowing one's self doubles down on the vulnerability.

Gary Gutting's remarks on Sartre's being-for-others are instructive: "In particular, I am aware of the other as a freedom other than my own. This is especially important because ... to be free is to give meaning to the world. The other's freedom is, therefore, a challenge to my hegemony over my world." (p. 146). Indeed, it is no leap at all to Sartre's dictum, "Conflict is the original meaning of being-for-others" (BN p. 475). If all this inevitably follows from just the look (the gaze) of the other, how much more is risked by effortful engagement with the other?

This line of reasoning, if reasoning has much of anything to do with it, explains the morbid insight of the composer John Adams on collaboration: "It has occurred to me that next to double murder-suicide, it might be the most painful thing two people can do together." (quoted in David Hajdu's review in the

NY Times Book Review 10/26/08, p. 15). A much milder version from our own field is offered by C. Wright Mills: "Now I do not like to do empirical work if I can possibly avoid it. If one has no staff it is a great deal of trouble; if one does employ a staff, then the staff is often even more trouble." (The Sociological Imagination, p. 205).

So why on earth would one subject oneself to such anxiety? Following the trust theorists I have been implying it is because the payoff might be quite grand. I suppose that is the logical explanation but I suspect the felt explanation for collaborative endeavor is and must be quite different. People work together and become more open and therefore more creative because, perhaps only because, it feels good – it is euphoric. It is a version of human satisfaction that can only come through sociability, connection - authentic dialogue. That this is rare is interesting. That it may vary by discipline or by the social characteristics of the collaborators (for instance, does a pre-existing relationship of trust make intellectual collaboration safer and therefore more likely?) suggest there is sociological work to be done on this topic. I may even pursue it... most probably by myself.

²Again, the dependency of collaboration, dialogue and freedom can be approached through the concept of trust. Coleman said that trust is required in situations where actors must rely on others in conditions of uncertainty, of risk. By contrast, where rules are clear and observation and enforcement are thorough, trust is unnecessary. Of course, despite the best efforts of bureaucratic minds and modern technology, we are still largely spared from the panopticon and must therefore, trust. To some extent, then, trust is a concomitant of freedom – if I am capable of not living up to expectations of reciprocity, rationality or even of simple sociability then you must, to some extent, trust that I will or cease to do business with me. What the social capital theorists understood quite well was that work often needs to be done collaboratively and that it is risky to do so. Norms, laws, affective and contractual bonds are all created and maintained in and for an atmosphere of trust.

Where are they now? Alumni Updates

Dr. Adrienne Trier-Bieniek

Adrienne is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Wlencia College in Orlando Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Western Michigan University and an M.S. in sociology and graduate certificate in women's studies from Virginia Tech. She writes "Someone gave me my own radio show. Yes, you read that correctly. It is called 'Presence of Pop' and will be on Tuesday nights at 8pm. I plan on using the show to talk about my love of pop culture and to talk about pop culture's impact on society. My upcoming guests are listed on the website: www.pwrtalk.com/page/a-t-bieniek, and you can get directions to listen to my program live as well."

Dave Barenberg

Graduated with his BA from Western Michigan University, and an MS from University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois in Advertising. He has continued his study at Indiana University in economics. He has worked at Northern Illinois Gas Company, Xerox Corporation, and Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate Services, Inc. for 29 years doing office and industrial space leasing and sales. Dave is currently self employed at Barcorp Commercial Real Estate Service doing office and industrial space leasing and sales. Thank you Dave for keeping us updated on your whereabouts!

Living with Lupus

Women and Chronic Illness in Ecuador



ANN MILES

Congratulations! A New Book by Dr. Ann Miles

Dr. Miles recently completed her book, *Living with Lupus: Women and Chronic Illness in Ecuador* (University of Texas Press, 2013).

Award Winning Faculty:



Dr. Chien-Juh Gu received the Research Development Award to work on a new project concerning young Asian American women's mental health issues.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu also received the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching and Research Award to support her research on immigrant women's self-concepts, a project funded by the Support for Faculty Scholars Award.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu was selected by the National Women's Studies Association to participate in the Women of Color Leadership Project, 2012-14.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu was promoted to Associate Professor in 2012.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu was granted sabbatical leave 2013-14 to work on a book manuscript, *Resilience and Suffering: Gender, Self, and Psychological Well-being in the Lives of Taiwanese Immigrant Women*.

Dr. Whitney Gunter Discovery and Dissemination Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University, October 2012.

Dr. Ron Kramer received the "Larry T. Reynolds Award" for Outstanding Teaching of Sociology from The Michigan Sociological Association, October 2012.

Dr. Ann Miles is the recipient of this year's College of Arts and Sciences Women's Caucus Gender Scholar Award. To qualify for this award Miles had to have demonstrated excellence in gender-related research and scholarly activities that were judged on their relevance to gender studies and on the overall quality of the scholarship.

Dr. Timothy Ready received the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Award. He will be honored at an awards ceremony on Thursday, March 21 at 3:30 p.m. in the Humanities Center, Knauss Hall.

Dr. Yuan-Kang Wang, has received the first Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant. Wang received \$3,000 for his project titled "The Art of Domination: Managing Regional Hegemony in Qing China and the United States." It will result in a book and fill an important gap in international relations literature by providing a comparative, historical perspective on China's rise and dominance in the international system.

Presentations:

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu 2012 "Glass Ceilings and Glass Walls: Taiwanese Americans' Experiences of Otherness in the White-collar Workplace." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Denver.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu 2012 "Middle-class Immigrant Housewives: An Exploratory Study of Self-concepts in Life Transitions." Inaugural Meeting of the Work and Family Researchers Network. New York.

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Dr. Chien-Juh Gu 2012 "Culture and Gendered Distress among Taiwanese Americans," invited to talk at the Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies, Western Michigan University.

Dr. Whitney D. Gunter and Kevin Daly. (2012, August). "Of Video Games and Violence: An Empirical Link of Unknown Nature and its Effect on the Law". Presented at the 62nd annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Denver, CO.

Publications:

Qiong Wu, Barry Goetz, David Hartmann, Yuan-Kang Wang. 2012. "Income Inequality in Transitional Urban China: the Effect of Market Versus the State." *Sociology Mind* 2, No. 4, pp. 1-9

Dr. Susan M. Carlson, Elizabeth A. Bradshaw (PhD, 2012) and Carrie L. Buist (PhD, 2011) (2013) "Bringing 'the poor' back in: regulation and control of surplus populations in Finland and the Nether lands." *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu. 2012. "Women's Status in the Context of International Migration." *Sociology Compass*, 6(6): 458-471.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu. 2012. "Contextualizing Vocabularies of Motive" *International Migration: The Case of Taiwanese in the United States. International Migration*. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2435.2011.00729.x

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu. 2012. Review of Doris T. Chang, "Women's Movements in Twentieth-Century Taiwan." *Gender & Society*, 2012. 26(1): 154-56.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu. 2012. "Interviews" *In International Handbook of Migration Studies*. Edited by Steven J. Gold and Stephanie J. Nawyn. London: Routledge.

Dr. Whitney D. Gunter and Nicholas W. Bakken. 2012. "The Many Measurements of Self-Control: How Reoperationalized Self-Control Compares." *European Journal of Criminology*, 9, 309-322.

Dr. Whitney D. Gunter and Joel Best. 2012. "Debating Empirical Questions on the Internet: Rival Claims about Crowd Sizes of the Glenn Beck/Stewart-Colbert Rallies." *Sociological Research Online*, 17 .doi:10.5153/sro.2545

Dr. Whitney D. Gunter and Kevin Daly. 2012. "Causal or Spurious: Using Propensity Score Matching to Detangle the Relationship between Violent Video Games and Violent Behavior." *Computers in Human Behavior*, 28, 1348-1355. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2012.02.020

Dr. Ron Kramer 2012. "Carbon in the atmosphere and power in America: climate change as state-corporate crime." *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 1-18.

Dr. Ron Kramer 2013. "Public criminology and the responsibility to speak in the prophetic voice concerning global warming." *State Crime and Resistance* Edited by Elizabeth Stanley and Jude McCulloch, (Routledge).

Dr. Ron Kramer and Raymond J. Michalowski. 2012. "Is Global Warming a State-Corporate Crime?" *State Crime and Resistance*. *Climate Change from a Criminological Perspective*. Edited by Rob White, (Springer).

Community Involvement



Dr. Angie Moe was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council.



Learn more about the council at www.kalamazoocan.com.

Funded Projects - Dr. Whitney D. Gunter:

Kalamazoo Public Library Community Survey, Principal Investigator, 2012-2013. Kercher Center for Social Research, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Public Library.

Drinking Water Protection Survey of Kalamazoo County, Principal Investigator, 2012. Kercher Center for Social Research, Western Michigan University. City of Kalamazoo Wellhead Protection Committee. Wellhead Protection Program Grant, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.



Upcoming Event:
Screening of the Oscar nominated Best Documentary:

"The Invisible War"
a documentary that deals with the issue of sexual assault within the military. April 15, Monday at 6:30 pm in the Little Theatre.

A Panel discussion will follow. Board of Trustee Mary Asnonga-Knapp is spearheading the screening. Dr. Angie Moe is handling the production. President Dunn's office is providing all of the financial support.

Recent PhD Grads

Dr. Elizabeth Bradshaw

EDUCATION: PhD conferred December 2012. **Employed:** Tenure Track Faculty Member, Central Michigan University

Dissertation: "Deepwater, Deep Ties, Deep Trouble: A State-Corporate Environmental Crime Analysis of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill"

Committee Chair: Dr. Ronald Kramer

Dr. Jacquelynn A. Doyon

EDUCATION: PhD conferred December 2012. **Employed:** Tenure Track Faculty Member, Grand Valley State University

Dissertation: "End of the Line: Tracking the Commodity Chain of the Electronic Waste Industry"

Committee Chair: Dr. Paul Ciccantell

Dr. David M. Barry

EDUCATION: PhD conferred December 2012. **Employed:** Visiting Assistant Sociology Professor, Indiana University - South Bend

Dissertation: "Popular Perceptions of the Relationship between Religious and Ethnic Identities: A Comparative Study of Ethnodoxy in Contemporary Russia and Beyond"

Committee Chair: Dr. Vyacheslav Karpov

Dr. Jessica Edel

EDUCATION: PhD will be conferred April 2013. **Employed:** Executive Director, SIREN Eaton Shelter.

Dissertation: "This is Not Just My Story; It's Part of Who I Am": A symbolic Interactionist Perspective of Battered Women's Identity Negotiations

Committee Chair: Dr. Angie Moe

Dr. J Douglas Penn

EDUCATION: PhD conferred December 2012. **Employed:** Faculty Member, Central Michigan University

Dissertation: "Does Understanding the Kalamazoo Promise Impact African American Participation?"

Committee Chair: Dr. Thomas VanValey

Dr. Cynthia Joy Visscher

EDUCATION: PhD conferred June 2012. **Employed:** Faculty Specialist, Comparative Religion, Western Michigan University

Dissertation: "The Religious Aspects of the 1893 Columbian Exposition: A Case Study of Interreligious Interaction and Religious Pluralism in the Public Square"

Committee Chair: Dr. Vyacheslav Karpov

Dr. Jon D. Van Wieren

EDUCATION: PhD conferred December 2012. **Employed:** Faculty Member, Grand Valley State University

Dissertation: "Attitudes toward Science and Stem Cell Research Based on Religious World View: Comparing the Views of Theists, Naturalists, Skeptics, and Dualists toward Science as an Institution, Method, and Application of Knowledge"

Committee Chair: Dr. Vyacheslav Karpov

Yes, I want to support the WMU Department of Sociology!

As our student numbers continue to grow, and in a time when state funding is increasingly restricted, the support we receive

from friends and alumni is vitally important. Such funds are used to take advantage of new or unbudgeted opportunities in order to enhance the teaching or the research of the department.

Thank you for considering a gift to the WMU Department of Sociology.

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Alumni Information Update

We want to hear from you!

Our strong suit is our alumni. In each issue, we will focus on YOU, so PLEASE consider yourself selected for upcoming issues. We enjoy receiving your announcements: marriages, job changes, presentations, promotions, advanced degrees, etc. All you need to do is fill out any portion of the form below (with a picture, if possible) and send to ann.browning@wmich.edu, or mail to Newsletter Editor, Department of Sociology, 3233-A Sangren Hall, 1903 West Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5257.

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