



ISSC Fall 2007 Newsletter

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1. ISSC Welcomes First-year Youth Violence Prevention and Graduate Fellows

ISSC is committed to fostering a new generation of scholars who address problems of social change in innovative and interdisciplinary ways. This year, ISSC welcomed 10 new Graduate Fellows, including 3 Youth Violence Prevention Fellows, from a range of disciplines. (The First-year Fellows joined our continuing cohort of 7 Second-year Fellows.) In addition to receiving monthly stipends, office space and use of a computer, Graduate Fellows enjoy access to a rich array of activities that promote mentoring relations with faculty, collaboration with peers, and the exchange of ideas with a broad audience of academic and community leaders.

Below is a brief description of each new Fellow. For more information about ISSC’s Graduate Fellows Program please go to http://issc.berkeley.edu/training_intro.html. To make a contribution to the Graduate Fellows Program please go to <https://colt.berkeley.edu/urelgift/issc.html>.

ISSC First-year Graduate Fellows:

Rebecca Alexander, Education

Rebecca Alexander is a doctoral candidate in the Social and Cultural Studies program of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education. Prior to coming to UC Berkeley, she received a B.A. in Globalization from Humboldt State University, interned for Congressman George Miller, and worked in schools throughout California. Rebecca is researching segregation and inequality in suburban schools.

Juan Herrera, Ethnic Studies

Juan Herrera is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies. Originally from Guatemala, Juan immigrated to Los Angeles at the age of six. He holds a B.A. from UCLA in Chicano/a Studies and Latin American Studies. His research looks at racism within Latino communities, particularly among Guatemalan indigenous and non-indigenous day laborers.

Nathan McClintock, Geography

Nathan McClintock is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography. He has a decade of experience in sustainable agriculture as a researcher, organic farmer, trainer, journalist, and consultant in North America, Latin America/Caribbean, West Africa, and South Asia. He holds a B.A. from the University of North Carolina and an M.S. in sustainable agriculture from North Carolina State University. Nathan is researching the ecological and social implications of a local food system in the Bay Area.

Carmen Martinez-Calderon, Education

Carmen Martinez-Calderon is a Ph.D. student in the Social and Cultural Studies program of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education. She holds a dual B.A. in Sociology and Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. She immigrated to the U.S. from the state of Michoacan in Mexico. Carmen is a first generation college student and a Gates Millennium Scholar. She is conducting an ethnographic inquiry into the lives of "undocumented" students in higher education.

Eric Pido, Ethnic Studies

Eric Pido is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Ethnic Studies. He completed a dual B.A. in History and the Study of Religion from UCLA, and then worked as a social worker in Los Angeles and helped establish one of the first Homeless Court Programs in California. He also completed an M.S.W. at the University of Washington, where he worked with non-profit agencies advocating for Arab and Muslim immigrants throughout the U.S. who had been detained unlawfully through the Patriot Act I and II. Eric's research examines the practice and ideal of land ownership among middle class Filipinos, with a focus on real estate agents.

Tamera Lee Stover, Sociology

Tamera Lee Stover is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from Cornell University. Tamera is investigating the experiences of Pakistani Americans in the post-9/11 political terrain.

Trinh Tran, Sociology

Trinh Tran is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. She has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Trinh's research examines how the No Child Left Behind Act has changed the distribution of highly qualified teachers in schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

ISSC First-year Youth Violence Prevention Fellows:

Vincent Chong, Medicine

Vincent Chong is an M.D./M.S. student in the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program. He holds a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from Brown University. Before enrolling in medical school, Vincent worked as a community health worker and reproductive health counselor at Asian Health Services in Oakland Chinatown. He is researching masculinity and violence among Southeast Asian youth.

Emily Gleason, Education

Emily Gleason is a Ph.D. student in the Language and Literacy, Society and Culture program of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, with a designated emphasis in Gender and Women's Studies. She graduated with a joint degree in Anthropology and Sociology from Middlebury College, and earned an M.A. in English Literature from the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont. Emily's research focuses on how young people make sense of their identities and communities, display resilience and resistance amidst landscapes of poverty, racism, and sexism, and navigate gendered and racialized spaces.

Nicol U, Ethnic Studies

Nicol U is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Ethnic Studies. She holds a B.A. in History from Yale University. Nicol was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and raised in Oakland, California. She is studying the involvement of young Southeast Asian women in sex work.

2. FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize – Call for 2008 Nominations

ISSC is now accepting nominations for the 2008 FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize.

Established in 2006, the FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding young activist who has contributed to social change. This award of \$2,500 supports transformative work that alters the social landscape, often in subtle and previously unappreciated ways. The goal is to establish a knowledge base for understanding and educating people on how to make social change happen. Ideally the honoree's work should help to build a lasting bridge between the academy and the community.

Nominees must have experience working in a group dedicated to social change (e.g., environmental justice, labor movement, civil rights, social justice). The award will honor unsung heroes, the workers behind the scene, the ones who carry on the work of advocacy organizations, the "go to" members of the group. In many instances, these individuals are neither the best known nor the most vocal members of the organization, but their knowledge, insight, expertise, and work ethic establish the foundation for the organization. Often, they are also the missing voices in efforts to clarify and to understand how progressive organizations have functioned, how they have succeeded or failed. The goal of the award is to bring this untapped expertise into both the research and education of future practitioners of change.

Scholar activist **Alvaro Huerta** was the 2007 recipient of the Yamashita Prize. Alvaro has spent the past twenty years working to improve the lives of low-income Chicano/Latino communities throughout the greater Los Angeles area. In 1996 he co-founded the Association of Latin American Gardeners of Los Angeles (ALAGLA). As lead organizer for Communities for a Better Environment from 1999-2001, he

successfully waged an environmental justice campaign to defeat plans to build a 550-megawatt power plant in South East Los Angeles. Alvaro is a doctoral student in UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning, and he is the Executive Director of the Statue of Liberty Center, a statewide nonprofit organization aimed at improving wages and working conditions for Latino gardeners by providing leadership development to ALAGLA's members. Alvaro's contributions to social change are featured in a UCB media release that can be found at:

http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2007/10/05_huerta.shtml.

The Thomas I. Yamashita Prize uses a nomination system, where someone other than the nominee identifies the nominee, their contributions, and the kind of expertise they bring to understanding how change works.

For more information about the FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize and nomination process, or to download a nomination form, please go to <http://issc.berkeley.edu/give.html>. (Nominations are due by March 3, 2008.) To make a contribution to the FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize, please go to <https://colt.berkeley.edu/urelgift/issc.html>. If you have questions about the Prize or the nomination process, please direct them to Dr. Christine Trost, (510) 643-7237, ctrost@berkeley.edu.

3. Spotlight Event: *No Human Being is Illegal* Film Series

This fall, ISSC's Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention co-sponsored three film screenings focused on deportation of immigrants for convictions of "aggravated felonies." *Sentenced Home*, about Cambodian Americans, and *Fruits of War*, about Salvadoran Americans, highlight themes of justice, family separation, redemption and rehabilitation, the violent legacy of war, and the criminogenic effects of deportation. Each screening was followed by a panel discussion: panelists included the filmmakers, men featured in the films who are now community activists, and other advocates. The panelists shared their experiences and expertise and emphasized the need for activism and solidarity across ethnic lines. The events were extremely popular, with standing room only at all three screenings, and audiences ranging from 80-170 people, depending on the venue (Boalt Hall, the Parkway Theater, and the Eastside Arts Alliance). The audiences included university faculty and students, community members, activists, and youth.

4. Research Notes: "Kids' Informal Learning with Digital Media: An Ethnographic Investigation of Innovative Knowledge Cultures"

In the face of increasing disengagement of youth from formal secondary education, the Digital Youth Media Project, which is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and is housed at ISSC, explores the possible unintended consequences and pedagogic insights of youth skill and resource development through digital play and digital networks. With the help of a large number of graduate students and postdocs, a variety of projects are underway in both the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas. Below are descriptions of studies being conducted by two of the Digital Youth Postdoctoral Researchers, Heather Horst and CJ Pascoe.

Heather Horst's project explores how middle class European-American and Asian-American families living in the Silicon Valley region of California integrate technology and media into their daily lives. Locating family attitudes towards media and technology in relation to class, education and the capitalist ethos of the region's technology industry, one of her key findings revolves around the ways in

which media and technology constantly shape the contours of domestic space. For example, the marked increase in adult dens and home 'offices' to accommodate flexible workspaces is now being mirrored in kids' negotiation of domestic space. In particular, the development of the 'kids' home office' and other designated 'kid workspaces' suggests that the boundaries between home and work may have eroded to such an extent that kids themselves have started to incorporate the ethos of work into home spaces. Heather is also conducting a study of "virtual playgrounds" with Dr. Laura Robinson and Dr. Mimi Ito at the University of Southern California. Their study, which looks at virtual economies on Neopets.com, focuses upon participants' investment in the collection and consumption "neopoints" (Neopets currency). The study explores how young kids construct notions of value in a highly commodified online environment. For more information about *Coming of Age in Silicon Valley* go to: <http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/node/42>. For more information about *Virtual Playgrounds* go to: <http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/node/40>.

CJ Pascoe is currently exploring how new media has become a part of contemporary youth cultures. She has recently finished gathering data for two projects: *Living Digital: Teens and Technology* and *No Wannarexics Allowed: The Creation of Online Eating Disorder Communities*. Using a variety of methods – interviews, diary studies and observations – *Living Digital* analyzes how teenagers, especially gay and lesbian teens, communicate, negotiate social networks, and craft a unique teen culture using new media. Initial findings indicate that teens from marginalized groups use the internet to expand their geographic boundaries to craft friendships, meet romantic interests and form communities to complement their offline social worlds. *No Wannarexics Allowed* examines the creation of virtual eating disorder communities through pro-anorexia (ana), pro-bulimia (mia), pro-eating-disorder-not-otherwise-specified (ednos) discussion groups. These eating disorders have historically been experienced and portrayed as individual and medicalized. But with the rise of new modes of communication, such as the internet and, specifically, social networking sites, digital communities have provided new possibilities for connections between once isolated individuals. Participants in these sites may or may not have an actual eating disorder, but are invested in producing meanings and practices that create eating disorder communities and cultures online. Taken together, these projects address empirical questions about the constitution of the self in digital environments, mediated social practices, power and inequality. They also seek to answer methodological questions about how ethnographic research might be performed in these "digital publics."

5. Russell Sage Awards ISSC Large Grant to Study Political Socialization in Mixed-status Immigrant Families

The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) awarded ISSC a large grant to study political socialization in mixed status families of Mexican, Chinese, and Vietnamese origin. The study, which will be led by **Irene Bloemraad** (Sociology), builds upon Professor Bloemraad's exploratory study of political socialization in Mexican-origin families with mixed citizenship status, which was also funded by RSF and housed at ISSC. Through in-depth interviews with Asian and Latino teens and parents in mixed-status families, this full-scale project will examine intergenerational transfer of political information, the direction of political socialization in these families, and the effect of legal status on the civic and political engagement of immigrant parents and their adolescent children. It also will examine how differences in culture of origin and context of reception shape newcomers' civic and political engagement. The findings of this study will contribute to scholarly literature by showing how the immigrant experience complicates existing models of political socialization, especially by bringing in the agency of second-generation children. Beyond academia, the findings can inform the policies and practices of schools, government agencies, and other public and private institutions that seek to ensure a healthy future for our multicultural democracy.

Professor Bloemraad will be hiring several GSRs to work on the project. Applicants must be able to commit to working during the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2008. They also must be fluent in English and Cantonese and/or Mandarin, or English and Vietnamese and share an interest in political and civic engagement, youth, and/or immigrant incorporation. Experience with in-depth interviewing and/or ethnographic fieldwork is preferred. Interested candidates should email their CV, a sample of a transcript if they have conducted interviews, and a statement of why they want to participate in the project to Irene Bloemraad bloemr@berkeley.edu by December 15, 2007.

6. ISSC Awarded Berkeley Research Futures Grant to Launch Immigration, Acculturation and Health Disparities Initiative

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research **Robert Price** awarded ISSC a Berkeley Research Futures Grant to launch a new interdisciplinary research program on immigration, acculturation and health disparities. Under the leadership of **Sylvia Guendelman** (Public Health) and in partnership with **Alicia Fernandez** (Clinical Medicine) and other collaborators at UCSF, this research initiative, which will be housed at ISSC, will examine the role that acculturation plays in immigrant health. Studies have shown that immigrant health declines over time and across generations. This is surprising, given that the longer immigrants live in the U.S. the greater the likelihood that they will experience better education, higher income, and improved access to health services – all of which are associated with better health outcomes in other populations. Assimilation to U.S. social norms and values, including negative health behaviors, have been suggested as one potential explanation for increases in risk factors and poor health outcomes among immigrants with increased time spent in this society. However, the process of acquiring values, norms and behaviors of a new society (i.e., acculturation) is complex and may not follow along a linear path for all immigrant groups. Acculturation is not well understood. There is controversy among researchers on what constitutes its key domains and how to measure it. Yet there is widespread agreement that it is at the core of the immigrant – and specifically Latino – health paradox.

The Immigration, Acculturation and Health Disparities Initiative brings together faculty from a wide array of fields, including public health, social psychology, sociology, social welfare, clinical medicine, economics, law, and public policy, who share expertise in and concern for the challenges faced by immigrant populations in the U.S. Together, they will develop an integrated, interdisciplinary research agenda that will lead to better tools for measuring acculturation, comprehensive assessments of the impacts of acculturation on immigrant health and health care delivery, and innovative policy solutions, informed by research and designed to address and ultimately reverse health disparities in immigrant populations.

Faculty and graduate students who are interested in joining this Initiative should contact Dr. Christine Trost, (510) 643-7237, ctrost@berkeley.edu.

7. Aaron DuBois and Mark Stevens Join ISSC's Staff

In September, **Aaron DuBois**, began providing much needed IT support to ISSC. In November we made his part-time appointment as ISSC's Computer Resources Specialist official. Aaron will assist with making updates to ISSC's website, establishing IT security for all of ISSC's computers, and providing general computer support for ISSC's staff, Fellows, and Visiting Scholars. Aaron holds a similar position in the Department of Sociology. Originally from Austin, Texas, Aaron worked at Dell doing Portable Systems Development for three years and he has been an independent IT contractor for over 10 years.

Also in November, **Mark Stevens** joined ISSC's staff and began working as a part-time Budget Assistant. Mark will assist Business and Office Manager **Janice Tanigawa** with fiscal and budgetary matters related to the Institute and help develop budgets for new grant proposals. Mark is a long-time Berkeley resident who has spent the past ten years working at UC Berkeley. Before coming to ISSC, Mark worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Business Services Office at the Graduate School of Education and in Central Payroll. In addition to being a financial wizard, Mark is an avid genealogist and a musician. He released "Strange Luggage," an instrumental CD in 2001 and has composed music for three short films, two student projects, and a documentary on the steam tug Hercules, which plays several times daily at Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco.

Please introduce yourself to Aaron and Mark the next time you are at the Institute!

8. Affiliated Faculty – Honors and Awards

On November 15, ISSC Visiting Scholar and Research Professor Emeritus of Cognitive Science at UC San Diego **Aaron Cicourel** was awarded an Honorary Docteur Degree (Doctor Honoris Causa) in the Social Sciences from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. This distinguished degree, which was voted on and conferred by the Board of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, acknowledges the breadth, diversity and quality of Professor Cicourel's contributions to Sociology.

Former ISSC Fellow **Victor Rios**, who is now Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Barbara, was awarded a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on his book-length manuscript, *Punished: The Criminalization of Inner City Boys*, which he began when he was a Graduate Fellow at ISSC. Professor Rios's ethnographic study of African American and Chicano youth on probation examines the ways in which institutions of social control – the family, school, police, community centers, juvenile probation and juvenile courts – combine to form the "youth control complex," which shapes the everyday lives of urban youth.

Franklin Zimring, Principal Investigator of ISSC's Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention, has been declared the 2007 winner of the American Society of Criminology's Edwin H. Sutherland Award. The award is given to recognize outstanding contributions to scholarship in crime and criminal justice. Professor Zimring has previously received the American Society of Criminology's August Vollmer Award.

9. In Memoriam: Professors Peter Lyman and Herbert Dittgen

We deeply mourn the loss of Professors Peter Lyman and Herbert Dittgen, two ISSC colleagues who recently passed away. We are grateful for the contributions that each of these distinguished scholars made to the Institute.

Peter Lyman was Professor Emeritus in the School of Information at UC Berkeley and the spouse of ISSC faculty affiliate and UC Berkeley Professor of Sociology, Barrie Thorne. Professor Lyman was Principal Investigator of the Digital Youth Media Project, a three year collaborative project that explores how kids use digital media in their everyday lives. (See also newsletter item #4 above.) The Project, which Barrie Thorne now leads, is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and housed at ISSC. Professor Lyman was a giant in the field of library and information sciences, where he pursued a broad and innovative research agenda that included the ethnographic study of online social relationships and communities, educational software, and technology transfer from research

communities to businesses. To read more about Professor Lyman, go to:
<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/node/2> .

Herbert Dittgen, who was a Visiting Scholar at ISSC for the 2007-08 academic year, was Professor of Political Science, Chair of the International Relations Department, and Director of the Political Science Institute at the University of Mainz in Germany. During his stay at ISSC, Professor Dittgen researched changes in the international world order. Specifically, he examined the ways in which international migration has transformed and is transforming the international order of sovereign states and the extent to which the appearance of non-state actors as war-makers is contributing to changes in the world order. Professor Dittgen was scheduled to speak at an ISSC colloquium on December 6 on the subject of "World Orders: A Sociological Perspective." (To read more about Professor Dittgen, [click here](#). To view a picture of Professor Dittgen, with his close friend, Professor Michael Minkenberg, seated on ISSC's front steps, [click here](#).)

10. Save These Dates: March 6 & 7, 2008, Conference on the Criminalization of Poverty

Mark your calendars: ISSC is co-sponsoring with the Center for Social Justice a conference on the Criminalization of Poverty. The conference will be held on Thursday, March 6, and Friday, March 7 at Boalt Hall.

Sleeping outside or in a vehicle, soliciting employment, convening in a public space and/or suffering in public from a mental illness are citable offenses in the United States. This criminalization of poverty results in more and more poor families, youth, elders, and adults in this country facing police harassment, abuse, and even incarceration for living in poverty. By bringing together an innovative and powerful mix of voices from poverty and race scholars, alternative/activist policy makers, poverty and civil rights attorneys, legal advocates, media producers, activists, artists, and community leaders, the symposium will provide a forum to explore short and long-term legislative and community based solutions to the problem, and launch an in-depth look at the harmful impacts of this dangerous trend on poor people and on U.S. society as a whole.

11. ISSC Holiday Party – Thursday, December 13, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Take a break from writing papers, writing finals, grading finals and/or other end-of-the-semester-crunch activities and join us for our annual ISSC Holiday Party: Thursday, December 13, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the ISSC Conference Room. Please bring a dish or drink to share. We will supply additional forms of holiday cheer!

This newsletter is produced by the *Institute for the Study of Social Change*, 2420 Bowditch Street, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-5670. Tel: 510.642.0813; Fax: 510.642.8674; <http://issc.berkeley.edu>. Please direct your questions to Dr. Christine Trost, (510) 643-7237, ctrost@berkeley.edu.