



ISSC Spring 2008 Newsletter

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1. *ISSC Bids Farewell to Director Rachel F. Moran and Welcomes Interim Director Michael Omi*

On June 30, **Rachel F. Moran**, who is the Robert D. and Leslie-Kay Raven Professor of Law at Boalt Hall, completed her five-year term as Director of ISSC. ISSC has flourished under Rachel's leadership. In 2004, ISSC launched a major interdisciplinary research program, [the New Metropolis Initiative](#), which examines the social, economic, and political trends transforming urban life in the United States. Under Rachel's guidance and with seed funding provided by a Berkeley Research Futures Grant, this initiative has blossomed into an impressive portfolio of cutting edge research projects with a particular focus on youth, immigration, and health. These projects include, among others, the [Center on Culture, Immigration and Youth Violence Prevention](#) (funded by a \$4.3 million five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); the [Digital Youth Media Project](#), a three-year collaborative project (funded by a \$1.9 million grant from the MacArthur Foundation) that explores youth skills and resource development through digital play and digital networks; and the [Immigrant Families Political Socialization Project](#) (funded by a \$137,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation), a study of political socialization in mixed status families of Mexican, Chinese, and Vietnamese origin. Rachel was also instrumental in developing the [Consortium for High Academic Performance](#), which was funded by over \$1 million in grants from the James Irvine Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The Consortium was

a collaboration between ISSC and UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside, USC, Occidental College, California Institute of Technology, and the California Polytechnic State University. Its purpose was to investigate ways to increase the number of underrepresented undergraduates in colleges and universities.

In addition to expanding ISSC's research agenda, Rachel has helped to strengthen and secure increased funding for the [Graduate Fellows Training Program](#) (GFP). In the post-2009 era, the GFP plays an especially critical role in providing a vital site and source of support for interdisciplinary graduate training and scholarship on social inequality and social change. Rachel has worked tirelessly to ensure that the program is adequately funded and staffed. After making a convincing case to the UC Office of the President and the Chancellor's Office in 2006, ISSC's five-year funding cycle was renewed and a substantial augmentation was awarded. This additional funding made it possible to expand the program to include first- and second-year cohorts of Graduate Fellows and to increase Fellows' annual stipends (bringing the fellowships closer to the level of support provided by comparable programs). Fellows now receive two years of training. The first year focuses on advancing the Fellows' own research projects and includes an academic presentation and completion of a working paper that is published in the [eScholarship Repository](#) of the California Digital Library. During the second year, Fellows continue their individual research, participate in collaborative working groups on projects of interest taking place at ISSC, and receive critically important advice on their professional development. The GFP, which brings together students of the highest caliber across a range of disciplines, is uniquely situated to nurture the next generation of leading scholars and has enjoyed an unparalleled record of success.

Identifying additional funding and resources to build ISSC's programs as well as its infrastructure has been a central theme of Rachel's tenure. Early in her term, Rachel secured new funding that was used to launch ISSC's website, purchase new computers, refurbish existing spaces with fresh paint and new furniture, and make other significant enhancements to the Institute. Supplemental funds were secured and used to build robust calendars of events featuring leading scholars from across the country as well as local experts. In addition, ISSC sponsors one or two large conferences every year with the goal of linking emerging research to efforts to design effective strategies for achieving social change. [Past conferences](#) on social movements, urban change, immigrant rights, youth violence prevention, and poverty have attracted diverse audiences (faculty, students, public officials, and community activists, among others). The success of these events is due in large part to Rachel's active role in conceptualizing the conferences and her ability to identify co-sponsors and other collaborators who helped to enrich the dialogue and broaden our audience. In 2007, Rachel inaugurated the annual [FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize](#). The Yamashita Family, in honor of Thomas I. Yamashita, provided this generous gift to award outstanding young activists who engage in social change work that alters the social landscape often in subtle and unappreciated ways.

In January 2008, Rachel assumed the position of President-elect of the [Association of American Law Schools](#). She will be the fifth member of the University of California at Berkeley to hold this high office, the tenth female President, and the first Latina ever to lead the Association. Beginning in July, she will be visiting at UC Irvine to help in the founding of a new public law school there. While we will miss Rachel (and her charming dog, Ralph), we are grateful for her vision, her leadership, and the countless hours she has dedicated to building an institute that provides an intellectual home for faculty and students whose research seeks to address pressing social concerns—especially those related to issues of race, ethnicity, gender and class—in ways that contribute to transforming the conditions of inequality.

We are pleased to announce that **Michael Omi**, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, has agreed to serve as Interim Director of ISSC beginning on July 1. A search for a new Director will commence in the fall.

2. [Leading Latina/o Scholars and Students Meet to Found Latina/o Academy](#)

The massive marches for immigrant rights in the Spring of 2006 challenged everyone to conceive of new efforts, strategies, and institutions to oppose trends to criminalize and systematically marginalize Latina/os and other people of color and minority groups in the United States. The demographic growth of these communities also

demands new interventions in the public sphere that promote the exercise of critique, the search for justice, and social transformation.

On May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, over 80 faculty and students from colleges and universities across the country met at UC Berkeley to discuss the potential of founding a Latina/o Academy of Arts and Sciences that would bring together Latina/o scholars in the search for social and epistemic justice. (ISSC was one of several co-sponsors of this historic event.) The conference featured panels with experts on existing efforts to connect scholarly work with social change, followed by break-out sessions and a concluding plenary session where participants began to lay the foundation for the Academy. The public portion of the conference was held on Saturday, May 3rd, and consisted of two panels (“Student Activism and the Reconstruction of the Academy” and “Empowering Communities, Informing the Academy”) featuring student activists, community organizers and policymakers who spoke about their work and offered responses to the proposal to found a Latina/o Academy. The second national meeting of the Latina/o Academy will be held in New York City in 2009.

For more information about this initiative or to view video of the conference, go to:
http://www.clpr.berkeley.edu/pages/galleries/latino_academy.html.

3. *Spring Conference: Whose Poverty? Whose Crime? Unlocking the Criminalization of Poverty*

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 the U.S. facing police harassment, abuse, and even incarceration for living in poverty. In March, ISSC co-sponsored a conference that brought together an innovative and powerful mix of poverty and race scholars, alternative/activist policy makers, poverty and civil rights attorneys, legal advocates, media producers, activists, artists, and community leaders. The conference provided a forum in which to explore short- and long-term legislative and community-based solutions to the problem, and take an in-depth look at the harmful impacts of this dangerous trend on poor people and on U.S. society as a whole. The large and diverse audience was energized by the provocative and engaging presenters, including **Dorothy Roberts**, Northwestern University Professor of Law, and **Lisa Gray-Garcia, aka “Tiny,”** Editor of POOR Magazine. For more information about this conference, please contact Dr. Deborah Lustig: [dlustig AT Berkeley.edu](mailto:dlustig@AT.Berkeley.edu).

4. *New Metropolis Initiative Spring Speaker Series Draws Large Crowds*

Every spring ISSC’s Second-year Fellows coordinate a New Metropolis Initiative Speaker Series featuring leading scholars from across the country whose research examines the social, economic and/or political trends that are transforming urban life in the United States. This spring the Fellows organized two events.

The first event, which was held at and co-sponsored by the Goldman School of Public Policy, featured **Michael Katz**, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, with **Robert Reich**, Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy, as respondent. Speaking to an overflowing room of students, faculty and community members, Professor Katz discussed several key arguments of his recently published book, *One Nation Divisible: What America Was and What it is Becoming*, which seeks to explain why Americans have become massively more unequal in spite of the accomplishments of the civil rights and women’s movements. Professor Reich offered a response to Katz’s remarks by drawing upon some of the key arguments in his book, *Supercapitalism: The Transformation of Business, Democracy, and Everyday Life*. To view a video of this event, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7ABHBgK39U>.

The second event was held at Boalt Hall School of Law and featured **Robert O. Self**, Associate Professor of History at Brown University, with Professor of Law **Angela Harris** as respondent. Professor Self discussed his current research, which examines the interaction between political movements and the law in the 1960s and 1970s. In his presentation Self focused on the use of “privacy” in the rhetorical strategies of the gay rights,

welfare rights and reproductive rights movements. Prior to the 1960s, Professor Self argues, privacy played a minor role in both law and political movements. This changed dramatically in the space of a decade as each movement claimed a right to privacy beyond the reach of the state, even as they otherwise differed in internal makeup and political demands. Professor Self's larger project seeks to understand how and why this transformation took shape. During his visit, Professor Self, who is known for his groundbreaking book on racial politics in post-WWII Oakland, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*, sat down for an interview with Ben Trefny at KALW (91.7FM) to talk about racial segregation in American cities. To listen to a recording of the interview, go to: <http://stream.publicbroadcasting.net/production/mp3/kalw/local-kalw-699859.mp3>.

Both Professor Katz and Professor Self met separately with ISSC Fellows and other UC Berkeley graduate students to discuss their research, offer advice, and reflect on what it means to be a social change scholar.

5. *Preventing Youth Violence: From Research to Practice*

Emily Ozer, Assistant Professor of Public Health, is the lead investigator of the School-based Violence Prevention Research Project of ISSC's Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention. After conducting a process evaluation of violence prevention curricula used in Oakland and San Francisco high schools, the research team consulted with the program developers to share the changes suggested by students and teachers to make the curricula more culturally relevant. The adapted curricula are currently being implemented, and Dr. Ozer and her team will continue their research to see how classroom sessions that use the new curricula differ. For more information about this study, please contact Dr. Deborah Lustig: [dlustig AT berkeley.edu](mailto:dlustig@berkeley.edu).

6. *ISSC Awarded Population Center Grant to Study Effects of Neighborhood Change on Youth Violence*

An extensive body of research documents links between neighborhood characteristics and youth outcomes, including education, health, and delinquency; however, the effects of neighborhood *change* on youth are unknown. In the summer of 2008, ISSC's Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention is beginning a pilot project, "Youth Violence and Neighborhood Change: New Immigrants in Oakland, California." **Jonathan Simon** (Law, Boalt Hall) is the principal investigator, and co-investigators include **Victor Rios** (Sociology, UCSB), **Patricia Baquedano-López** (Education, UCB), **Howard Pinderhughes** (Social and Behavioral Sciences, UCSF), and **Ingrid Seyer-Ochi** (Education, UCB). The study, which focuses on the San Antonio neighborhood of Oakland, will involve interviews with forty young adults about their experiences living in this Oakland neighborhood from ages 13-21. Researchers will use an innovative methodology that combines online and face to face qualitative research. The pilot project is funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Berkeley Population Center. Findings from the pilot will be used to apply for additional funding to expand the study to include a survey instrument and to include gentrifying and stable neighborhoods in West Oakland. For more information, please contact Dr. Deborah Lustig: [dlustig AT berkeley.edu](mailto:dlustig@berkeley.edu).

7. *ISSC Announces 2008 "Thomas I. Yamashita Prize" Winner and Honorable Mentions*

ISSC is pleased to announce the winner of the FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize. The \$2,500 prize honors outstanding young activists who have contributed to social change. (For more information about the FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE: Thomas I. Yamashita Prize and how you can nominate a candidate or contribute to the Prize, go to: http://issc.berkeley.edu/yamashita_prize.php.)

This year's recipient is **Melissa Ho**. Melissa is a Ph.D. student in UC Berkeley's School of Information. She develops innovative information technologies that can be used to help the world's poor and to improve the delivery of health care in developing regions of the world. In 2004, she worked at Intel Research Berkeley helping to develop a delay-tolerant technology which is vital for getting internet connectivity to villagers in rural India. While in India, she helped set up remote eye care clinics for Aravind Eye Hospital. She then traveled to

Mexico while working on a class project to set up low-cost Linux-based computers for schoolchildren. In 2005, she worked on building high-bandwidth connections between the universities in Ghana in order to foster dialog, the sharing of information, and improved education in those communities. In 2006, she began to focus on improving healthcare delivery to Sub-Saharan Africa and began working on the Ghana Consultation Network, which links 80 doctors in four hospitals with their diasporic counterparts and helps to build the capacity and quality of doctors trained in Africa. Melissa's research focuses on identifying the real needs of the world's poorest and the ways innovative network technologies can be used to significantly address these needs, in addition to understanding the combination of institutional, political, and cultural factors necessary to create truly sustainable solutions

Yvette Mari Robles and **Lina Hu** both received honorable mention. Yvette is Director of the Bayview Hunters Point Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in our Communities (BMAGIC), a youth violence prevention collaborative comprised of 50 community-based organizations and stakeholders in the Bayview/Hunters Point communities of San Francisco. Lina is currently a graduate student in sociology at UC Berkeley. Before coming to Berkeley, Lina established a night school in Baigou, China, where she and fellow students taught English, computer skills and labor law to young migrant workers from rural China.

To read more about these outstanding recipients or to view pictures and video of the award ceremony go to: http://issc.berkeley.edu/yamashita_winners_08.php. To read Berkeleyan writer Cathy Cockrell's profile of Melissa Ho go to: http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2008/06/24_melissaho.shtml.

8. ISSC Affiliated Faculty, Students, and Staff: Recent Achievements, Honors and Awards

On June 19, 2008, ISSC's Visiting Scholar **Aaron Cicourel**, who is Professor Emeritus in Cognitive Science at UC San Diego, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Complutense, the flagship campus of the University of Madrid. The award is conferred by all six of the University's social science faculties in recognition of Professor Cicourel's lifetime of scholarship which has helped to shape the fields of Cognitive Science and Anthropology, among others.

Irene Bloemraad, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Principal Investigator of ISSC's Immigrant Families Civic Engagement Project, is the Junior Faculty Recipient of the 2008 Sarlo Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award. This highly competitive award honors UC Berkeley faculty who demonstrate a deep commitment to effectively mentoring graduate students.

Ingrid Seyer-Ochi, Assistant Professor of Education and co-investigator of ISSC's Youth Violence and Neighborhood Change Project, has been recognized as a 2008-2009 recipient of the American Cultures Innovation in Teaching Award. Ingrid's teaching and design of the American Cultures course, Education 40AC, "Diversity and In(Equality) In and Beyond Schools," has been recognized for its innovative teaching practices and for contributing to the overall quality of the American Cultures learning environment across campus.

ISSC's Assistant Director, **Dr. Christine Trost**, along with five other members of the Berkeley Initiative for Leadership on Diversity (BILD) Steering Committee, received a 2008 Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award. The award recognizes Christine's service on the 2006-07 BILD Steering Committee, which was charged with developing and implementing a process for soliciting, selecting and evaluating BILD project proposals.

2007 Thomas I. Yamashita Prize winner, **Alvaro Huerta**, who is a Ph.D. student in City and Regional Planning, received a 2007-2008 Chancellor's Award for Public Service in Civic Engagement. The Chancellor's Awards for Public Service recognize UC Berkeley individuals and groups who have distinguished themselves through their public service and honor the community partners whose ideas, energy, and collaborative spirit have improved their neighborhoods and the quality of life for local residents.

First-year Fellows: **Eric Pido**, **Emily Gleason**, **Nicol U** and **Nathan McClintock** all passed their qualifying exams! **Tamera Stover** was awarded a U.S. Department of State Critical Languages Scholarship to study Urdu

this summer in Lucknow, India. **Nathan McClintock**, along with ESPM Ph.D. candidate Albie Miles, won 4th place in the “Bears Breaking Boundaries” competition for curricular innovation. Nathan and Albie developed a proposal for forming a new undergraduate minor in Food Systems & Sustainability (FSS) at UC Berkeley. The proposed minor will integrate theoretical and experiential modes of learning “in order to educate students about the critical social, political, economic, environmental, and public health issues facing contemporary food and agriculture systems.” Plans are underway to implement the first of several core courses that could form the basis of this new minor. Nathan was also awarded a Switzer Environmental Fellowship for the 2008-2009 academic year.

All of the First-year Graduate and Youth Violence Prevention Fellows completed a working paper and presented their research at a public forum. Their working papers will be available at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/issc/fwp/>. We are pleased that all Fellows will continue their work with ISSC for a second year, with the exception of Vincent Chong who is beginning his clinical rotations for medical school at UCSF.

Second-year Fellows: **Katrinell Davis** completed her Ph.D. in Sociology in May and will begin a tenure track appointment as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Vermont in the fall. **Lisa Goldman Rosas** was selected to be a Kellogg Health Scholar. Lisa will receive a two-year postdoctoral fellowship and will be based at UCSF where she will continue her research on obesity among children in migrant communities. **Kenzo Sung** was awarded an Ehrman fellowship to study in England at Kings College, Cambridge University for the Easter term. **Miranda Ritterman** passed her orals in August of 2007 and was advanced to candidacy. Miranda also was awarded a Bixby Summer Fellowship. She will use the award to fund a summer research trip to Angola to study the reproductive health needs of internally displaced youth.

For more information on the research interests of ISSC’s 2008-2009 First- and Second-Year Fellows, please go to: http://issc.berkeley.edu/training_fellows.php#gfp2.

Former Fellows: **Gerardo Sandoval** has accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State; **Ben Peacock** completed his Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology (UCB-UCSF) and has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Reed College beginning in the fall of 2008; **Els de Graauw** was awarded a one-year postdoc at the Hauser Center at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government for the fall of 2008. She will begin a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Political Science at CUNY, Baruch in the fall of 2009; **Roberto Hernandez** was awarded a 2008-09 UC Dissertation Year Fellowship.

(If you know of other recent achievements, honors, and awards that we should include in our next newsletter, please contact Dr. Christine Trost: [ctrost AT berkeley.edu](mailto:ctrost@berkeley.edu).)

9. ***Thank You and Congratulations to ISSC’s Newest Graduates***

We wish to thank and congratulate ISSC undergraduate assistants **Emily Au, Di Fan and Nate Sheets**, who graduated from UC Berkeley in May. Emily and Di both graduated with a B.A. in Molecular and Cell Biology. Emily will spend the summer in Paris studying French and working as an intern. Di has begun work as a research assistant at UCSF studying behavioral aspects of cocaine and alcohol on mice. She plans to apply to medical school in the fall. Nate graduated with a B.A. in Geography. He plans to work for a year before beginning graduate studies. Emily, Di and Nate have contributed in innumerable ways to ensuring the smooth operation of the Institute and we wish them well as they leave ISSC to pursue their career aspirations.