Message from the Chair

IN THIS ISSUE OF
The Ryerson Sociologist:

Message from the Chair, Advisory Council .................. 1
Henry Giroux Speaker Series, Book Shelf .................. 2
Book Shelf Continued ..................................... 3
Award for Jean Golden, ISA Congress .................. 4
Professor Gillin Retirement, Bahamas Project ........ 5
Student Research, CELT ................................... 6
Grants and Awards, Community News .................. 7

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Sociology Department is proud to introduce its reconstituted Advisory Council. The Council includes prominent nurse and activist Cathy Crowe (1), renowned sociologist Margrit Eichler (2), feminist journalist Michele Landsberg (3), City of Toronto Director of Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Uzma Shakir (4), and Hassan Yusuf (5), Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress and president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA).

It is my pleasure to write my first Chair’s message for the newsletter of the Department of Sociology at Ryerson University. By the beginning of the summer, I will have completed the first year of my term as Chair. Since I began this position, time has passed at a quick pace. Life in the Sociology Department has been eventful to say the least. Our days have been filled with hard work, as usual. But we have also taken up many new opportunities and confronted challenges, both collectively and personally. On this note, I wish to extend my best wishes to two valued colleagues who have been away from the Department for much of this year and last: Terry Gillin and Elizabeth Johnson. We have missed you both. We are happy to have Elizabeth back. And we trust that after retirement, Terry will continue to visit the Department to share stories of his post-retirement pursuits. We are also delighted to announce the birth of Heather Rollwagen’s son, Samuel, Melanie Knight’s daughter, Adelaide, and Virginia Clark’s son, Jason. Congratulations to Heather, Melanie, Virginia, and to your growing families. In addition, I wish to recognize the generous support of our replacement staff, Sophia Finos and Danielle Higgins, both of whom have filled in, with such competence and good spirit, on very short notice.

As you will see throughout this newsletter, Ryerson’s Sociology Department has been growing and maturing. Our faculty and students have demonstrated the value of their contributions, as measured by traditional academic indicators: published books, journal articles, research funding, and awards. But as a Department, we are also proud of our longstanding commitment to social activism, and the rich relationships that we have formed within local and international communities. We are furthermore enhancing the intellectual and research culture of the Department, in launching a new Sociology Speaker Series, reconstituting our Advisory Council, embarking on new collaborative research projects, and initiating a Master of Arts Program in Sociology, with a focus of knowledge mobilization and ways of knowing. In addition, as a progressive, critical, and innovative department, we have been busy revising our calendar offerings in order to ensure student engagement, and currency. As well, for many months, we have been busy reviewing our calendar offerings in order to ensure student engagement, and currency. The Department has been carefully reviewing our Programme, as we prepare for our first official Periodic Programme Review. When we consider our Programme, we are particularly excited about our leadership within the Faculty of Arts in community-engaged learning and teaching.

There have also been some changes to the ‘face’ that we present to the public. We are currently renovating the Department and revamping our website. These projects will be complete by the Fall. I am delighted to welcome to the Department three new colleagues: Dr. Christopher Powell, Jessica Wehby, and Andreas Roman. Chris holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Carleton University. (His dissertation is titled: Civilization and Genocide.) He joins us after spending nine years in the Sociology Department at the University of Manitoba. Chris has written extensively in many areas, including relational sociology, Karl Marx and Norbert Elias, human rights, and genocide in Canada. We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Powell to the Department of Sociology, the Faculty of Arts, and Ryerson University.

Sincerely,

Pam Sugiman
SOCIIOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES:
HENRY GIROUX COMES TO RYERSON
By: Asmita Persaud

In the Fall of 2012, the Sociology Department and the Ryerson Students Union were honoured to host Dr. Henry A. Giroux’s presentation on “The Crisis of Youth in an Age of Disposability,” as the inaugural event in their Sociology Department’s Speaker Series. Being in a wide-ranging field with many sub-disciplines, members of the Sociology program were apt to find many parts of Dr. Giroux’s talk relevant, interesting, and meaningful to their own field of studies.

Dr. Giroux’s enthusiasm and zest for critical thought and equality are unquestionable as he discussed at length the importance of linking “critical thought to a profound impatience with the status quo”. He focused his discussion on the “neoliberal machine” which deserts and renders youth, particularly those that are from low-income and minority backgrounds, as disposable populations. He poignantly points out with statistics that this machine has given incredible profits to corporations while causing environmental destruction, atrocious levels of human suffering, and the impoverishment of the working class and disposable youth.

Dr. Giroux explained that there are two wars being waged against youth. The first war against youth is the ‘soft war’, which includes the advertising industry that commodifies youth and shifts their identities from critical collective citizens into individualized consumers. At a university campus surrounded by consumerism, as Dr. Giroux spoke of the “low-intensity war waged by corporate institutions” we were forced to reflect on our daily relationship with the consumerist world. The second, the ‘hard war’ criminalizes, targets, and punishes particular youth considered “failed consumers”. These youth are often marginalized and oppressed by their race, ethnicity, or class. Again, the countless chilling realizations Dr. Giroux makes strike a chord as in a multicultural city like Toronto where insidious and subtle racism and classism still linger, with racial profiling still a hot-button issue.

Dr. Giroux is a distinguished scholar and an intellectual provocateur. His most recent books include “Twilight of the Social: resurgent Publics in the Age of Disposability; and, Disposable Youth, Racialized Memories, and the Culture of Cruelty. Giroux fearlessly challenges the state’s current economic and political order through critical thought and social engagement. His talk “The Crisis of Youth in the Age of Disposability” was both meaningful and eye-opening.

BOOKS

The Sociology Faculty at Ryerson continues to make a mark through their interdisciplinary research and writing. Check out the new publications by the faculty!


BOOK Chapters


JOURNAL Articles


CONGRATULATIONS

Jean Golden wins 2013 Chancellor’s Award of Distinction

Congratulations to Jean Golden for winning the 2013 Chancellor’s Award of Distinction. This award celebrates a long, accomplished career of teaching and learning and of sustained educational leadership as a social justice activist and public intellectual.

In her letter of nomination, Sociology Department Chair Pamela Sugimura described Jean Golden’s accomplishments:

“Forty years, within the Ryerson community, Professor Jean Golden has been a pioneer and leader in educational and employment equity, diversity and inclusion. She has consistently demonstrated a passionate commitment to critical thinking and transformative social change.”

Professor Golden’s career at Ryerson began in 1971 and her accomplishments are many. Professor Golden was the Chair of the Sociology Department from 1973-1977. Early in her career Professor Golden became committed to researching and advocating for equitable and inclusive hiring and educational practices. She was on the Executive of the Ryerson Faculty Association for over 25 years during which time she spear-headed initiatives surrounding equity issues, created a RFA executive Equity position, and organized Ryerson community and across Canada presentations and workshops on a host of equity issues in teaching and hiring. In 1989 Ryerson and the RFA received the Province of Ontario Award for Employment Equity as a result of her work on diversity and work with the administration on equity issues. Professor Golden wrote Ryerson’s Human Rights policy which became the model for university human rights policies across Canada in the 1990’s. She also created and was the first Senior Administrator of the Ryerson Sexual Harassment, Equity and Safety and Security Office.

Professor Golden was also instrumental in the creation of the first Women’s Studies courses at Ryerson in the 1970s, the institutionalization of the Caribbean Studies courses in the late 1980’s and the first Women and Human Rights course in the 21st century. She was also involved in the creation of the Ryerson Caribbean Research Centre (RCRC) and served as its first director in 2003-04.

Professor Golden’s teaching practice has consistently worked to bridge the gaps between students’ lives, critical ideas, and community social change. She encourages her students to become involved in community activism and leads by example. Professor Golden has taught youth in the Toronto City Adult Learning Centre through the Ryerson Spanning the Gaps - Access to Post-Secondary Education program and she has taught immigrant women at the Toronto Newcomer Women Immigrant Services. She developed and delivered Back History educational workshops for ten years at the primary level in the Toronto District School Board, and anti-racism workshops in the community and educational equity workshops in the Caribbean.

Professor Golden’s reach has extended far beyond the scope of Ryerson and Toronto. In 2007, after meeting Kenyan student Teriano Lesarcha who had come to Canada from Kenya and had been abandoned by her Canadian sponsor, Jean Golden was inspired to create solutions to help Lesarcha continue her studies. She worked with members of the Ryerson community to support Lesarcha. Five years later, accompanied by University President Sheldon Levy, Jean Golden performed a Convocation ceremony for Lesarcha in her Kenyan village. Professor Golden was also instrumental in fostering a relationship between Ryerson and World Vision. Jointly, the two institutions will sponsor a cross-Canada documentary about this Maasai student’s journey, as part of an educational fundraising effort for this impoverished area. Ryerson has begun the process of educational transformation in this region of Kenya and is helping the Looolatiak Maasai Women’s Beading Collective to develop a business plan for the fair marketing of their beads in Kenya and in Canada.

In 2012 Professor Golden created an institutional relationship between Ryerson University and the Every Child Counts School for children with special needs in the Northern Bahamas. Seven Social Work and Early Childhood Education placement and volunteer students accompanied her to the Bahamas to assist in the school and in community development projects. During her winter 2013 sabbatical, Professor Golden worked with twenty Ryerson students to help the ECC School develop an assisted living center, a vocational training center, community disability awareness educational programs and secure NGO funding for the school. She wants to expand the Project to include Sociology students in 2014.

Jean Golden has been a constant inspiration, generous colleague, and passionate educator in the Sociology Department. Her colleagues and students wish to extend her heartfelt congratulations on receiving this award.

Professor Golden will be delivering the Convocation address to the Faculty of Arts on June 14th.

The International Sociological Association is coming to Toronto!

In July, 2018 Toronto will host thousands of sociologists from around the world for the meetings of the International Sociological Association. The meetings will be hosted by the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA), and will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Winning the bid to host the ISA meetings is the result of the work of the CSA executive, including Ryerson’s Dr. Patrizia Albano, president-elect of the CSA, and Chair of the Local Organizing committee for the ISA meetings. The CSA executive presented their pitch to the ISA in Beirut, Lebanon in March, 2012, competing against Sociological Associations in Australia, Denmark, Hungary, and Spain.

Welcome to the
International Sociological Association (ISA)

The ISA was founded in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. The goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion, and to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. Its members come from 167 countries.
Best Wishes to Terry Gillin on his retirement!

Professor Terry Gillin is retiring from the Department of Sociology after a thirty-one year career of teaching excellence, educational leadership and valuable research.

Professor Gillin arrived at Ryerson University in 1982, having previously taught at McMaster University, Mt. Allison University, and two American four-year colleges. During these early years at Ryerson he played an important part in developing the Gerontology courses offered through Continuing Education, including the creation of a Certificate Gerontology program. He was the first coordinator of this program, served on its curriculum committee, taught courses and conducted research for many years in the newly emerging field of social gerontology.

Professor Gillin taught in the Gerontology program and the Arts and Contemporary Studies program, as well as Sociology. For Terry, teaching is an opportunity to challenge students to deepen their understanding of themselves and to broaden their perspective of the social world in which they live, from their families to their chosen professions to the contemporary global issues. He enjoys being around other enthusiastic learners and has mentored some of his sociological colleagues through the myriad changing structural, curricular and SRC requirements at Ryerson.

Professor Gillin himself is a ‘lifelong learner,’ as is reflected in the various areas of his formal education in sociology, social and political thought, legal and ethical studies, gerontology, and dispute resolution. Throughout his career he was actively engaged in and a strong supporter of continuing education. Most recently he has examined the role and importance of academic freedom in the academy.

In 1986-91 and again in 2006-2011, Professor Gillin served as the Chair of the Department of Sociology, the only department member to hold this position in two very different decades of substantive curricular, staffing and structural changes. The time of curricular expansion for Sociology as the department moved into more programmes at Ryerson. This was partially due to the new tripartite curriculum which required all Ryerson students to take social science and humanities courses in their programmes. The Sociology Department increased its course offerings, with a growing focus on media and an expansion of feminist and anti-racism content in existing courses. From 2006-2001, Professor Gillin led the Sociology Department into the new Sociology BA degree programme, with substantial numbers of new hires, curricular growth and tenure decisions. Professor Gillin solidified the Department’s commitment to critical sociology, social justice and community activism.

Being involved in academic administration brought for Professor Gillin a different type of reward than teaching provides. Administrative work gave Terry a chance to help colleagues shape their lives in ways that they find meaningful and satisfying, to support their intellectual interests and academic initiatives, to encourage their research and scholarship, and to urge a balanced lifestyle.

Professor Gillin shared his institutional wisdom and mediation skills on many departmental, faculty and university committees. Some of the most important of these were hiring committees, both for Sociology and other departments and programs. In this work he was engaged in a process which had a profound and long-term impact on students, faculty colleagues and individuals. In 1988, he was elected to chair the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board in its Presidential Search. In this role he presented, explained and defended the Committee’s recommendations to the whole Board. In 1988-98, he also chaired the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee (PPAC) of Academic Council, of which he was a member elected by fellow Chairs in the Faculty of Arts. Working closely with other PPAC committee members he developed recommendations to establish opportunities to enhance learning and teaching in a programmatic fashion at Ryerson. This was the originating institutional spark for the many learning and teaching initiatives which have subsequently developed.

Professor Gillin was also Chair of the Appeals Committee (as it was then known) for the Ryerson Faculty Association from 1995-99 and actively served on the committee for another two three years. It was an opportunity to contribute in a unique way to fairness and natural justice which are critical to a healthy, productive and rewarding learning and teaching work environment.

In his own words, Professor Gillin states, “Through the Ryerson community I have had the opportunity to encourage others to search for the meaning of being human as individuals and as social beings, and have been able to continue my own search. At its best, the classroom is a lot like sharing coffee with colleagues. Both situations can create common ground on which to share the excitement and challenges of our own scholarly reading, thoughts and insights.... I have enjoyed being a member of the community of learners, students and faculty colleagues alike. It has been more than a career; it has been a calling. While not always easy, it has been wonderfully rewarding.”

The Sociology Department will miss Professor Gillin’s wisdom, his quiet but steady leadership, and his commitment to creating an environment within which each of us could develop professionally. His students will miss his strong sense of justice, his knowledge of the law, religion, and social inequality and his patient guidance through difficult substantive classroom debates. We benefited from his strong personal ethical core that guided his mediated approach to conflict solution.

The Department wishes you the best Terry in the next step in your life-long learning and sincerely thanks you for your years of scholarship, service to the Sociology Department, to the students and to the University.

BAHAMAS PROJECT
developed by Jean Golden

Jean Golden, Ryerson University President Sheldon Levy and some of the participants of the Bahamas Project.

The Sociology Department and the Faculty of Arts are examining making the Bahamas Project, developed by Jean Golden, one of the first international service credit courses for Ryerson Sociology students. The course will build on the institutional relationship established by Prof. Golden with the every Child Counts (ECC) School for children with special needs in the Bahamas. This spring nineteen Social Work and Early Childhood Studies students were in the Bahamas on academic placement and as volunteers, working with the ECC School from 5-10 weeks. The addition of the Arts students would expand the Bahamas Project to include research projects of service to the ECC School and to Social Services. Professors Pam Sugim and Patrizia Albanese will soon be making a trip to the Bahamas to join Jean in exploring future experiential learning opportunities for Ryerson Sociology program students.
In the fall of 2011 and winter of 2012, sociology undergraduate students Megan Butryn and Louisa Hawkins, psychology undergraduate student Courtney Manion, and Ryerson Sociology Professor Patrizia Albanese worked closely on the analysis of interest group communications conducted by Prof. Albanese with mothers and child care providers in rural Ontario and Quebec. The team presented this research in a public forum titled “What Do Mothers Need?” hosted by the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI), in the Fall of 2011 in Toronto, and at the Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meetings, in Waterloo Ontario in Spring 2012. This work is also published in What do Mothers Need? by Demeter Press, edited by Andrea O'Reilly.

The team’s work is also featured in a chapter in a co-authored book written by and representing various motherhood organizations, including the Canadian Native Women’s Association, Hipa Moma, National Association of Mother Centres, Mother & More, Moma Moms, Welfare Warriors, as well as the leading motherhood scholars. Their contribution explores the diversity and complexity in women’s lives today and what changes are needed in families. In public/social policy, education, paid work, and maternal support and advocacy in the hopes of moving steps closer to gender equity for mothers.

Community Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT)

The Sociology department remains committed to developing innovative teaching and learning strategies that allow students to make connections between theoretical ideas, practical applications and their lived experiences. The following describes how community engaged learning and teaching has been implemented in various sociology classes.

Jennifer Brayton’s course SOC 932 Entertainment Industry was revised in Spring/Summer 2012 to be a CELT course with embedded experiential learning to develop professional practice skills and interviewing techniques. Students researched a specific Canadian entertainment industry that they had an interest in, developed interview questions and interviewed someone in that field, then wrote an analytical paper on how that industry operates and is regulated, using the interview as one source of knowledge. Prof. Brayton was able to offer students 50 personal contacts she has from across Canada in entertainment industries ranging from film and TV to burlesque dancing and Djing. Dr. Reena Tandon assisted Prof. Brayton with the development of SOC 932 into a CELT course, and given the success and positive feedback, SOC 932 will continue to be offered as a course for experiential and service learning.

In the Winter of 2013, Vappu Tyyssä had all 60 students in her SOC474 - Immigration, Minorities and Citizenship, take part in a Community Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT) experience. This consisted of computer literacy workshops given by groups of students to youth in grades 9/10 and 11/12 in Regent Park, through a partner-ship with Pathways to Education. The students presented course-related content in their workshops, where possible. They also wrote both individual and group reflection assignments about the Regent Park site visit and their workshops, integrating their subjective reactions with course lectures and readings.

Community-engaged learning and teaching continued to be well integrated into the research methodology this year. In Andie Noack Fall 2012 ’Survey Design and Analysis’ course (SOC 461), 23 students opted to work with staff from four Ryerson on student services to evaluate a campus program. Working with staff members from the Ryerson Access Centre, International Student Services, Housing Services, and the Tri-Mentoring program, students designed a survey, analyzed the results, wrote a final report, and formally presented their conclusions to student services staff. In addition to learning about survey research and program evaluation, students who participated in this CELT option also learned professional skills such as project management, effective communication and teamwork.

In Andie Noack’s Winter 2013 ‘Intro to Quantitative Analysis’ course (SOC 411), ten students worked to develop tutorials on data management topics for the Pathways to Education program. Pathways to Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing academic success and graduation rates of students in Regent Park and various other communities across Canada. Pathways will integrate the tutorials into their library of modules and use the tutorials to help students in their one-on-one tutoring programs. Preparing the tutorials helped Ryerson students to develop their knowledge of fundamental statistical concepts, learn strategies for managing ‘math anxiety’, and enhanced their confidence around teaching and learning mathematics.

In Amina Jamali’s class SOC 475 Contemporary Social Theory, students participated in events related to Social Justice Week at Ryerson University and critically analyzed their experiences in individual papers. Students were given a choice of questions that would help them relate their experiences to key insights and concepts in contemporary social theory. In SOC 473 Classical Sociological Theory Fall 2012, second year students attended a Social Justice rally on higher education and youth unemployment and answered an in-class question on youth issues using Marx’s concept of alienation. A different set of SOC 473 students in Winter 2013, attended a series of workshops and written reflections on the legitimacy of Arts/Student Project Grant, by a Sociology departmental grant, and by Ryerson’s International Department.

Sociology Honour Student Thesis Presentations

On April 1st, 2013 the following students presented their fourth-year thesis:

**Amye Parker**: Local Food Initiatives and the Mainstreaming of Alternative Systems: *A Case Study of OntarioFresh.ca*

**Lydia Cordie Garcia**: The Academic English Literacy Needs of First-Generation Immigrant Youth
GRANTS AND AWARDS

At the Faculty of Arts Teaching Awards celebration in May, 2013, Patrizia Albanese was awarded the new Teaching and SRC Excellence Award and Andie Noack was awarded the Experiential Teaching Award.

Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar has been awarded funding to support her conference presentation, "Religion and Tourism in Trinidad," at the upcoming Seventh International Meeting on Socio-Religious Studies Conference, Havana, Cuba.

In addition, Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar has received support from the Teaching About Diversity Fund for development of a course titled, "Haiti and Cuba: Revolutionary Societies," as well as a Caribbean Studies website.

Paul Moore has been awarded funding to support his conference presentation, "The Fast Printing Press and the Circulation of the Sunday Paper, 1886-1900," at the upcoming meeting of the International Communication Association in London, UK.

Murray Pomerance has been awarded funding for his presentation, "Hitchcock's Mooving Pictures," at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Chicago.

Andie Noack is part of a team led by Leah Vosko (York U) and Mary Gellatly (Parkdale Community Legal Services), that recently was awarded a SSHRC Partnership Grant for the project, "Closing the Enforcement Gap: Improving Employment Standards Protections for People in Precarious Jobs".

Pamela Sugiman has been awarded funding for a symposium, "Historical Moments of Change: Japanese Canadian Redress and Beyond," from the National Association of Japanese Canadians Endowment Fund.

Mélanie Knight was recently awarded a three-year SSHRC Insight Grant for a project entitled "The making of the enterprising self: Education, subjectivity and processes of governance in late modern society". Dr. Knight will examine how enterprise and enterprising subjects are (re)produced, paying particular attention to subtexts of race, gender, disability and class that inform and underlie these constructions.

Cheryl Teelucksingh has been awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant for her project, "The Green Gap: Toward Inclusivity in Toronto's Green Employment" ($73,476).

Vappu Tyyski is a co-investigator on two successful SSHRC applications, both with teams composed of members of the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement, PI Harold Bauder (Geography). They were awarded a SSHRC Connections Grant to fund the 2013 RCIS Conference: Precarious Futures? ($49,000). They were also awarded a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to fund a RCIS project on Integration Trajectories of Immigrant Families. ($156,000).

Congratulations to sociology student Megan Butyn—Ryerson University’s highest student award, at the Faculty of Arts Spring 2013 Convocation.

In the Community & In the News

In October, Pamela Sugiman gave a talk titled, "Citizenship: Nothing Yet Everything." As part of a roundtable titled, "What’s the Use of History? Citizenship and History in Canada’s Past and Present," organized by the People’s Citizenship Guide Project, and held at the Toronto Public Library. Her talk is available at: http://activehistory.ca/2012/citizenship-nothing-yet-everything/

For a week in April, Doreen Fumia participated in Fife House’s "Thrive on $6.65 Challenge". The challenge was initiated by Fife House, an organization that provides houses and services for people that are HIV positive and living with AIDS. They asked community members to live on $6.65/ day as their food budget in order to highlight the difficulties that people face living on disability allowances.

On January 22nd 2013, Nicole Neverson was featured on CBC Saskatchewan’s radio program, “Blue Sky”. On this program she was part of a panel discussing the use of conducted energy weapons in policing.

Doreen Fumia has been re-elected to the Canadian Association of University Teachers Executive Committee for 2013-2014 as the co-chair of the Equity and Diversity Council.

With Ken Noma, President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians and Professor Roland Coloma, O.I.S.E./UT, Pamela Sugiman is organizing a symposium, tentatively titled, “Historical Moments of Change: Japanese Canadian Redress and Beyond.” This will be an interdisciplinary symposium on racism and historical redress among diverse groups in Canada today to be held in September, 2013.


The Ryerson Sociologist