

Sociology@Binghamton



Fall 2011

Namaskaram

Department news; former faculty remember their years in the department; alumni books and news

Photos: Zeynep Gonen

We are delighted by the response to the first issues of our newsletters last year, especially from our alumni and we will continue to publish two issues each year. The Spring issue each year will be devoted almost entirely to news of our alumni. This issue includes reflections on their time at Binghamton by **Jim Geschwender** and **Mark Selden**.

Our graduate students' work continues to attract high honors. **Zeynep Gonen** won the Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences, Management, Education, and Nursing this year from Binghamton University. **Tu Huynh** has been awarded the Andrew Mellow Post-Doctoral Fellowship by Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. **Latoya Lee** was chosen for a Critical Language Scholarship to study Hindi in Jaipur, India. **Dellvin Williams** won both a Critical Language Fellowship to study Arabic and a grant to do research at the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology in Germany. **JongHwa Kwon** received a Dissertation Fieldwork Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for his doctoral research project, *Green Dreams: Development, Climate Change, and the Making of Carbon Markets*



in Korea. **Yuling Huang** obtained the 2011-12 Academia Sinica Fellowship in the Humanities and the Social Sciences for her research in Taiwan

and dissertation writing as well as a grant from the Friends of Princeton Library for research in their archives.

Two of our undergraduate students, **Alexandra Cobus** and **Luisa Batiz** received Harpur College Undergraduate Research Awards for their Honors theses.

In Spring 2011, jointly with the Program in Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture (PIC) and Ms. Janice McDonald (Office of External Scholarships), the department organized a workshop for graduate students to apply for external funds. This will be followed up by another workshop in the Fall.

Leslie Gates obtained a J.-P. Mileur Faculty Development Fund Research Grant for her book project, *The Politics of Neoliberalism: Venezuela and Mexico's Diverging Political Dynamics 1970-2000*. **Caglar Keyder** and **Ravi Palat** have been chosen as directors of a workshop on *Shifting Geopolitical Ecologies and New Spatial Imaginaries* by the Social Science Research Council, as well as the National University of Singapore, the Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, and the University of Hong Kong.

Yoonkyung Lee received grants from the Northeast Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies and United University Professionals for her second book project *Political parties and social movements: Patterns of democratic representation in East Asian democracies*. **Denis O'Hearn** won the Alessandro Tassoni Award for 2011 for his book, *Il Diario di Bobby Sands: Storia di un ragazzo irlandese* written with Laurence McKeown and Silvia Calamati. He also received a grant for a project on "Was Ireland a Colony?" (with Terrence McDonagh and in association with the National Famine Museum, Strokestown, Ireland) from the National Academy for the Integration of Teaching, Research, and Learning, Dublin.

Benita Roth has received grants from the Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies (CUNY), Harpur College Dean's Research Fellowship and UUP for her book project on

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, LA. **Mahua Sarkar** was awarded a year-long fellowship from the Internationales Geisteswissenschaftliches Kolleg (IGK), Humboldt University, Berlin for her project, *Lives in Motion: Bangladeshi Workers and Temporary Contract Work*.

Most notably, **Linda Zanruha**, our wonderful Graduate Secretary was recognized with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service.

Antoine Dolcerocca, **Steven Knauss**, and **James Parisot** coordinated the Department's Second Biennial Research Working Day on 2 April, 2011.



Graduate students also organized a very successful faculty-student **working paper** series. It was coordinated by **Antoine Dolcerocca** in Fall 2010 and by **Teresa Almendros** in Spring 2011.

Denis O'Hearn has accepted an appointment as the Keough Visiting Professor at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He is succeeded as Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology by **Frederic Deyo**.

The Department launched a research initiative on **Governance**

and Resistance in the Global South with faculty and graduate students in the Spring. Since it coincided with the Arab Spring much of our work has centered around an analysis of these movements within a longer historical and global perspective.

The **Social Justice Group** coordinated by **Bill Martin** continued its efforts to seek community involvement in its projects as detailed later in this newsletter.

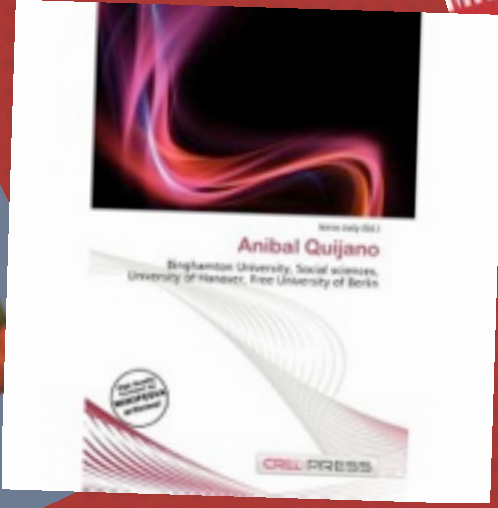
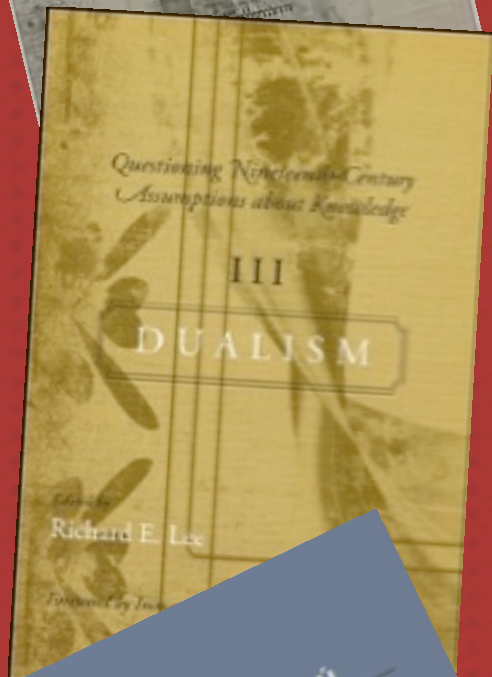
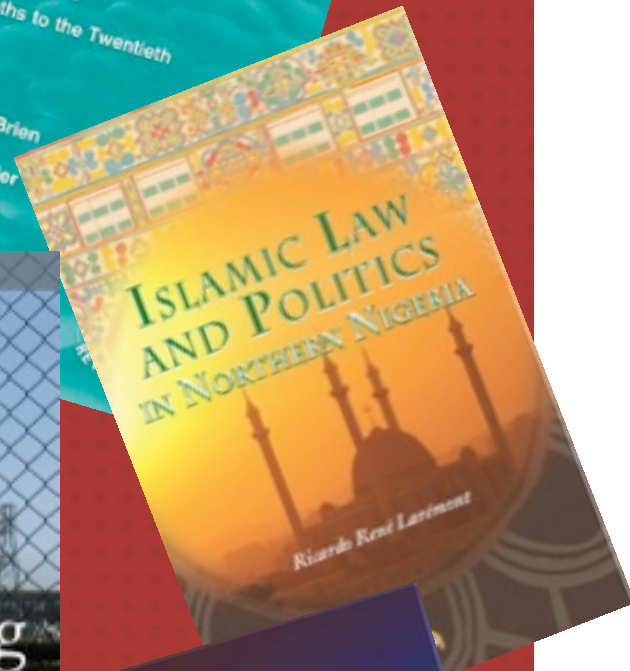
Gladys Jimenez-Munoz was President of the Puerto Rican Studies Association and organized its Ninth Biennial Conference *Cuerpos Vigilados y Castigados: Resistance and Empowerment in the Body Rican* in Hartford, CT.

Shelley Feldman continues as President of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. **Juanita Diaz-Cotto** has been reappointed as Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies Program.

On a more sombre note, **Robert Fitch**, an alumnus of the department and the author of *The Assassination of New York, Solidarity for Sale: How Corruption Destroyed the Labor Movement and Destroyed America's Promise*, among others, passed away on March 11, 2011. For Josh Mason's obituary, see <http://slackwire.blogspot.com/2011/03/fitch.html>; for Jane LaTour's obit, see <http://newpol.org/node/479>.

Ravi Palat, Chair

FACULTY BOOKS 2010-11



SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT, 2010-11

Oct 29: Fostering Fear: Anti-Immigration Hysteria & Islamophobia

Binghamton City Council Chamber
Welcoming Remarks: *Mayor Matthew T. Ryan*

Panelists:

Renan Salgado, Farmworker Legal Services of New York
Lubna Chaudhry, Binghamton University
Imam Kasim Kopuz, Johnson City
Mary Jo Dudley, Cornell Farmworker Program

Nov 1: Chinatown Under Attack! Labor Exploitation to Gentrification

Peter Kwong, Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center

Nov 12: Militarizing the University
Hugh Gusterson, George Mason University

April 5: Homeland Insecurity and Border Policing in New York

Ute-Ritz-Deutch, SUNY Cortland

May 9: Deviance Labeling & The Vulnerability of Black Life

Mecke Nagel, SUNY Cortland

ALUMNI NEWS

Elsou Boles

Was promoted to full professor in 2010 when he also became chair of the sociology department at Saginaw State University.

Michael Calderon-Zaks

Published "Debated Whiteness amid World Events: Mexican and Mexican American Subjectivity and the U.S.' Relationship with the Americas, 1924-1936," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, XXVII, 2, Summer 2011, pp. 325-59 and "Who Will Protect Us From the Police," *Counterpunch*, July 27, 2011 (<http://www.counterpunch.org/zaks07272011.html>)

Bob Laurent

Is a self-employed Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Ithaca, NY and is working on a book on the holistic health movement.

Evan Stark

Published "Do Violent Acts Equal Abuse? Resolving the Gender Parity/Asymmetry Dilemma," *Sex Roles*, LXII, 3, 2010. 201-211..

Robert Schaeffer

Published *Red Inc.: Dictatorship and the Development of Capitalism in China, 1949-2009* (Paradigm).

Teshale Tibebu

Published *Hegel and Anti-Semitism* (UNISA, 2008).

WORKING PAPER SERIES, 2010-11

Oct 19: Isolated Imprisonment: Comparing Political Imprisonment with the US Supermax

Denis O'Hearn

Nov 3: On the Outskirts of a Mega-City, in the Middle of Industry: Peripheral Urbanization in Gebze, Turkey

Azat Gundogan

Nov 16: Rescuing Imperial Past from Nationalist Histories: the Genealogy of the Study of State and Nation/alism

Ya Moi Pham

Dec 1: World-Historically Conceptualizing Ethno-Racially Subordinated Laboring Population within Imperial Context

Kelvin Santiago-Valles

Mar 8: Vietnam and 'the Sixties': Tropes and Hegemony in History and Policy

Brendan Innis McQuade

Feb: 22: Geometries of Social Power: Mapping the Indo-East Pakistan Borderlands

Anders Bjornberg

Apr 6: Doing For Our Time What Marx Did For His: The Boggsian Challenge to Marxist Praxis

Matthew Birkhold

Apr 27: A Continuing Research Trajectory: Communications Technologies and the Structures of Knowledge

Richard E. Lee

May 4: The Development of the Agrarian Question

Cagri Idiman

May 10: Identity and Capitalism: Responses to Critical Rationalism

Festus Ngaruka

May 12: Placing Petty-Agricultural Production Within Marxist Theory: Labor Control When Dispossession Does Not Happen

Kaan Basaran



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Herbert Bix

"What the Past Teaches About U.S. Democracy," *Z Magazine*, Volume 23, No. 7 (July-August 2010), pp. 54-59.

Leslie Gates

"Venezuela: Corruption in a Petrostate" in C.H. Blake & S.D. Morris (ed.), *Corruption and Politics in Latin America* (Lynne Reinner)

Caglar Keyder

"Istanbul into the Twenty-first Century," in D. Göktürk, L. Soysal & I. Türeli eds., *Oriente Istanbul: Cultural Capital of Europe?* London: Routledge, 2010; "Crisis, Underconsumption and Social Policy," in C. Calhoun & G. Derluigan eds., *Business as Usual: The Roots of the Global Financial Meltdown*, NYU Press, 2011; "Agrarian Change Under Globalization," *Journal of Agrarian Change*, January 2011, pp. 60-86 (with Z. Yenel); and "Agrarian Transformation, Labour Supplies and Proletarianization in Turkey," *Austrian Journal of Development Studies*, XXVII, 1, 2011, pp. 44-71 (with Z. Yenel)

Richard Lee

"The Modern World-System: Its Structures, Its Geoculture, Its Crisis, and Transformation," in D. Palumbo-Liu, B. Robbins, N. Tanukhi (Duke Univ Press); Edited *Studies in World-Systems Analysis*, special issue of *Journal of Philosophical Economics*, IV, 1, 2010.

Yoonkyung Lee

"Divergent Outcomes of Labor Reform Politics in Democratized Korea and Taiwan" in H-Y Cho, A. Aeria, and S. Hur (eds.), *From Big to Many in Differences: Changes in Social Movements in Asian*

Democratization, (Selangor, Malaysia: Gerakbudaya/SIRD).

William G. Martin

"The rise of African studies and the transnational study of Africa," *African Studies Review*, LIV, 1, 2011, pp. 59-83.

Denis O'Hearn

"A Welcome Prison Victory at Youngstown," *Monthly Review*, January 2011.

Ravi Palat

"Convergence Before Divergence? Eurocentrism and Alternate Patterns of Historical Change," *Summerhill: Indian Institute of Advanced Study Review*, XVI, 1, Summer 2010, 42-58.

Benita Roth

"Organizing One's Own' as Good Politics: Second Wave Feminists and Constraints on Coalition Formation," in N. Van Dyke & H. J. McCammon (eds), *Strategic Alliances: Coalition Building and Social Movements* (Univ. of Minnesota Press).

Dale Tomich

"Fronteira Açucareira e Revolução Industrial em Cuba, 1815-1870." (with Reinaldo Nunes) in Olivia Maria Gomes da Cunha, (ed.) *Outras Ilhas: espaços, temporalidades e transformações em Cuba*. (Rio de Janeiro, Aeroplano/FAPERJ, 2010).



TRANSITIONS



Besnik Pula

Joined us as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, while spending the last year as Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. Trained as a

comparative historical sociologist, he has broad interests in the areas of modern states and agrarian social change, development and global inequality, and world-systemic transformations and cultural change. His dissertation on state building, law, and peasant mobilization in post-Ottoman Albania received Honorable Mention for the Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award from the Section on Comparative and Historical Sociology of the ASA.

Utku Balaban

is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Services and Social Science at the Delaware County Community College. He has already published his dissertation *Conveyor Belt of Flesh: Urban Space and Proliferation of Industrial Labor Practices*.



Natalie Cherot

defended her dissertation titled *Vietnamese Adoptee Narratives of Saving, Stealing, Activism, and Multiculturalism*.

Masako Endo's

dissertation was titled "*Sexualized People*" and the *Remaking of the Japanese Woman: Nation, Gender and Race during the US Occupation of Japan*.

Zeynep Gonen

who won a Distinguished Dissertation Award for her *Neoliberal Politics of Crime: The Izmir Public Order Police and Criminalization of Urban Ports in Turkey since the late 1990s* is a



lecturer at the Izmir University of Economics, Izmir, Turkey.

Tu Huynh

is a Post-doctoral Mellon Fellow at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. Her dissertation was titled *A Racial Redivisioning of Society: Indentured Chinese Labor in the Transformation of Racial Capitalism in South Africa, 1903-1910*.

Chien-ju Lin

defended a dissertation titled *Institutions, Local Politics, and*

Firm Strategies: Two Labor Systems in Taiwan.

Festus Ngaruka

defended his dissertation, *The Reorganization of Plantation Labor: Ethno-National Race-Formation and the Emergence of 'Black' and 'White' as a Principle of Social Organization, Virginia (USA), 1660-1740s*.



Lila Aizenberg

Defended her dissertation, *Towards a Critical Approach to Intercultural Health Programs: A Case Study of Indigenous Women in the Bolivian Amazon*.



Early Years at Harpur College

Vicki Beale was department chair in 1970 and was willing to take a chance in hiring Phil Kraft, Terry Hopkins, Bob Rhodes and me although Terry was on leave for the first year. Jim Petras and Martin Murray were hired in subsequent years. We arrived at Binghamton just when the department was beginning a new doctoral program and was seeking good grad students. At about the same time the Sociology Department at the New School for Social Research self-destructed and a number of very strong graduate students (most of whom were politically conscious) were looking for a new home. We were successful in recruiting several of them to come to Binghamton and this helped set the departmental tone for the first few years.

Just how much of a risk Vicki Beale was willing to take can be illustrated by the following brief history. I had previously spent two years at Florida State where I was advisor to a campus civil rights organization and an active member of a local CORE chapter. The latter led to my departure to Wayne State in Detroit for four years followed by two years at The University of Western Ontario where I was instrumental in organizing a militant civil liberties organization.

Phil had been a political activist in grad school, Bob Rhodes had worked closely

with radical publications and Terry had been involved in support of student demonstrations at Columbia. The Attica Prison uprising took place during our first year at Binghamton. I spoke at a massive rally in support of the Attica prisoners while Phil was active in a supportive role. At a latter point Phil and I became



advisors to the Maoist Worker-Student Alliance that focused much of their energy in the attempt to help unionize one segment of campus workers. Ironically, my activities in this area led to my being put on the management negotiating team that negotiated the first collective bargaining agreement with the newly formed union. Later, many of our departmental graduate students became involved in the campaign for divestment from South Africa in the attempt to force an end to Apartheid. This campaign ultimately led to a student occupation of the administration building. I may be in error but my memory is that I was the only faculty member who was part of the team that occupied the administration building.

There was strong opposition on campus to the Vietnam War. Student picketing of the federal building led to their blockading the entrance. Students were arrested daily and were replaced by new cadres of students. Phil Kraft wanted to demonstrate faculty support and was instrumental in organizing a one-day faculty blockade. Faculty participants, including Phil and Art Liebman, were arrested. Other faculty picketed in support. The Dean also picketed.

The above is not meant to be an exhaustive list of the political activities that took place in the department during the early years but it does tend to give a bit of the flavor of the times. As time went by circumstances changed and so did the department. Political activities became less overt and academic concerns (plus departmental politics) increasingly came to the fore but I do remember the early years with a great deal of fondness. The department, and many of its faculty, developed strong academic reputations but left-oriented scholarship does not, by itself, take the place of political action.

In retirement Barbara and I have made a number of moves in the vain attempt to follow our grandchildren. Now in our mid to late seventies we live in Cary, North Carolina and participate in a number of local activities. Cary, and the people we interact with here, constitute, for the most part, a small left-liberal element in what is otherwise a very conservative state. Our grandchildren now live elsewhere.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SERIES, 2010-11

Oct. 6: **Martin Hart-Landsberg**, Professor of Economics, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, *China, Capitalist Accumulation, and the World Crisis*.

Oct. 26: **Gillian Hart**, Professor of Geography, University of California at Berkeley, *Replacing the Nation: Confronting Populism and Nationalism in South Africa and Beyond*

Feb 4: **Peter Ronald deSouza**, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India, *Indian Democracy in the Hall of Mirrors*.

March 9: **Tomás Fernández Robaina**, Senior Researcher, National Library, Havana, Cuba, *Black and Gay Struggles in Cuba*.

China and the World

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We were seated in a circle in a worker center in Zhuhai in June. There were twenty migrant workers, men and women age 18-20, employed in one of the largest electronic factories in China's Pearl River Delta. These lively and articulate young people hailed from eight provinces. For three hours, we talked about the problems and prospects of American and Chinese workers in an age of neoliberal praxis and global incorporation.

Many of them were second generation working in urban factories, yet they retained the household registration of their native village . . . and would be branded for life with that second-class status. There are now an estimated 250 million nongmingong, rural migrant workers (NMG), internal migrants facing daunting prospects despite the fact that they are better educated than their predecessors (high school and technical school graduates), with high hopes but increasingly low expectations.

This is the underside of the world's most dynamic economy, one deeply bifurcated not only by a highly unequal income distribution pattern (ginis comparable to those of the US), but by the pervasive urban-rural division that doubly marks NMG as the underclass.

Here are some of the things they told me about their lives,



hopes and prospects. All receive the state minimum wage, 1150 yuan (approximately \$200) per month in this area. Working 10-12 hours/day six days a week, they supplement that sum with overtime. But they can save little because many support families in the village. They face the prospect of permanent minimum wage work. Despite being fulltime workers, they lack most of the benefit package received by fellow workers with urban citizenship: retirement, health care, education benefits. With male birth rates exceeding female by some 30%, the young men face the high likelihood that they will never marry, thus fail to honor the obligation to continue the family line. Many of those who marry face the prospect that their child or children will be brought up as latch key kids in the village. Obstacles to educating children in the cities include special fees for NMG children, and the requirement

that they return to the countryside for high school. Those who try to save and start businesses in the countryside find that route, too, blocked in a country in which the future is now the cities.

I had come to Binghamton Sociology in 1979 to find a vibrant faculty and student community researching and debating world-system, dependency and Marxist theories. China of the communes, state enterprise, and the Cultural Revolution seemed an attractive alternative to some, but it was remote from the problems of the capitalist world-system. Today I reflect on the co-dependent US-China relationship including the deeply intertwined problems of their working classes. Co-dependent in the sense that their economies are deeply bound by their trade and investment relations, that high US unemployment rates are a product of massive job flight to China, and that China's purchase of US Treasuries is a key to allowing the US to maintain its permanent deficit economy while fighting multiple wars. If their political economies differ in fundamental ways, it is as variants of contemporary capitalism. A Binghamton strength was to take many of us out of the study of national economies and societies and attempt to locate them in a single world system. I have attempted to build on that perspective, unifying geopolitics and political economy in *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, an online open source journal that seeks to offer critical perspectives on the forces shaping the Asia-Pacific and the World [<http://japanfocus.org>] and in recent books on Asian Regionalism and on War and State Terrorism.

Mark Selden



SECOND BIENNIAL RESEARCH WORKING DAY

9:00 – 10:30: Panel A (Discussant: Gökhan Terzioğlu)

Matt Birkhold, *'If you Don't Move Your Feet I Don't Eat': Hip Hop and the Demand for Black Labor*

Antoine Dolcerocca, *The 'New' Mercantilism: On Intellectual Property Monopolies and Political Capitalism*

Steve Knauss, *Is 'Unequal Exchange' Still Relevant in Our Post-Globalized World?*

10:45 – 12:15: Panel B (Discussant: Steve Knauss)

James Parisot, *Gramsci, Hegemony, and British Power: Were the British Hegemonic?*

Cory Martin, *Capital and Nonwage Labor: The Incorporation of the West Indies into the Nascent World System*

Brendan McQuade, *World Systems and Hegemony: Cox and Gramsci's Research Agendas*

12:30 – 2:00: Panel C (Discussant: James Parisot)

Latoya Lee, *Reproductive Technologies in Transnational Context*

Ryan Mead, *The Historical Transformations of the Visual Perspective in the Modern World-System*

3:30 – 5:00: Panel D (Discussant: Antoine Dolcerocca)

Brian Zbriger, *Migration Enforcement in the Neoliberal Politics of Production*

Güllistan Yarkin, *The Evolution of the Discourse of the Kurdish Movement on the Political Economy of the Kurdish Region in Turkey*

Harun Ercan, *Why Armed Struggle?: The Radicalization of the Kurdish Movement in Turkey*

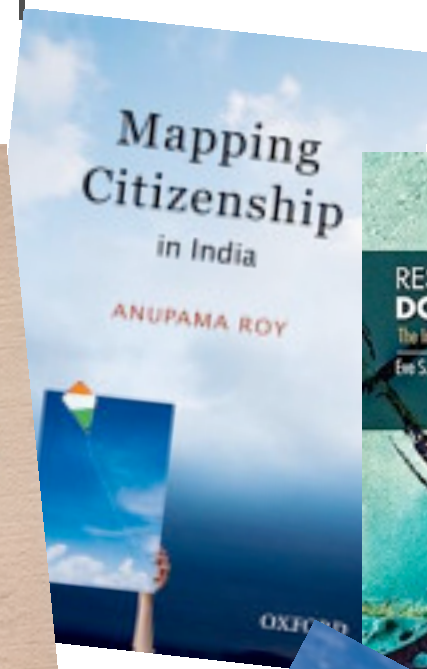
GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS

Matthew Birkhold is guest-editor of “Reflections on a Black Worker’s Notebook: The Legacy of James Boggs’ *The American Revolution*,” Special Issue of *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*, XIII, 3, July-Sept 2011. Apart from his introduction, he also has an article in the issue: “Doing for Our Time What Marx Did for His: Constituting the Boggsian Challenge to Marxist Praxis,” pp. 1-21. He has also published “‘If You Don’t Move Your Feet, Then I Don’t Eat.’ Hip Hop and the Demand for Black Labor,” *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, IV, 2, 2011, pp. 303-21.

Geetisha Dasgupta co-edited *Politics in the Hunger-Regime: Essays on the Right to Food in West Bengal*, (with Sibaji Pratim Basu), Frontpage Publishing, 2011. She also contributed two chapters to the volume-- “Whither Right to Food,” and “Right to Food in West Midnapore District.”

Brendan McQuade has a chapter in *The Criminalization of Dissent in the Neoliberal Era* edited by Jeffrey Shantz. He also published reviews of Dylan Riley, *Civic Foundations of Fascism*, in *Journal of World-Systems Research*, XVII, 1, 2011, pp. 273-77 and of Falia González Diaz, *The Threads of Memory: Spain, the United States*, edited by Frances Levine, Rene Harris & Josef Diaz in *Itinerario*, XXXV, no, 1, 2011, pp. 136-38.

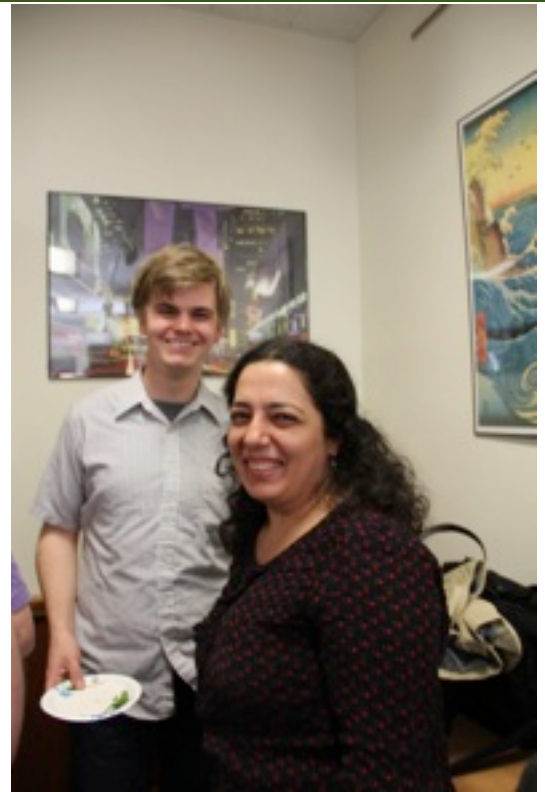
ALUMNI AUTHORS, 2010-11



Attention Alumni

Please contact us with your current contact details as we would like to keep updated alumni lists to email you our newsletters. Please let us know if you do not want us to share your information.

Please also let us know about your jobs, books, births, partnerships, and any other information you want to share with the Binghamton sociology diaspora.



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