

FOURTH ANNUAL
HONORS WORKSHOP
April 28, 2006

Department of Sociology
Room 329 Soc/Psych. Bldg.



DUKE

9:00 Opening and Introductions – Bill Tobin

9:15 The Circle of Life

- **Anree Esguerra:** *Dolls or Trucks: Childhood Socialization and Its Affect on the Career Aspirations of College Women.*

This study examines the effect of childhood socialization on career choices for young women. In addition to discrimination, the literature available often attributes the lack of female representation in the workplace to family stresses and discrimination. My findings, however, suggest that parents influence the future choices of their daughters through both manifest and latent functions. The toys and games parents buy for their children have some effect on career choices. However, parental values, opinions, and life style choices exhibited a greater effect.

- **Katherine Ramsey:** *Keeping the Faith: Why Teens Remain True to Their Virginity Pledge.*

Over the past twenty years virginity pledge movements have been increasing in popularity. However, teens are not always faithful in remaining virgins until marriage. Through eleven in depth interviews with students at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill this study explores social factors that contribute to the likelihood that young adults will keep this pledge. I found that young adults have multiple strategies and motivations for keeping this pledge. One common way young adults maintain this pledge is to see sexual intercourse as a final point on a slippery scale which is preceded by other sexual acts. In order to prevent sexual intercourse, they avoid the other acts all together as well. Another strategy to maintain the pledge was to include the tenants of the pledge in a new lifestyle. By making it a part of their essence and how they conduct their lives, these young adults are able to keep this pledge until marriage.

- **Elizabeth Siegel:** *Passing Away Their Way: The Relationship Between Age and Place of Death.*

Existing research has studied the determinants of where people die: home, hospital, hospice, or nursing home. Although the relationship between age and place of death has been examined in elderly populations, very few studies include all ages. This project uses U.S. death certificate data from 2001 to explore the relationship between age and place of death in cancer patients. The results show that as age increases, there is a linear decrease in the proportion of deaths occurring in hospitals. The proportion of deaths occurring in nursing homes increases exponentially with age. For deaths in residence, the percentage remains approximately equal over all age groups, except the very youngest and very oldest, where the percentage is lower.

- **Discussant: S. Philip Morgan**

10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 Structure and Culture: How Educational Institutions Affect Society

- **Pavel Zhelyazkov**, *The Royal Railroad to Success: Placement Outcomes of PhD Students in Sociology, 1993-2000*

Prior literature on the academic labor market has focused on the relative impact of individual merit and departmental reputation on placements at graduate departments only, without considering other academic submarkets or developing a broader theoretical stance. This paper fills the gap by proposing a signal-based framework in which employers not only evaluate candidate's fitness for the position, but also the impressions they would create to outside constituencies with limited information of the relevant indicators of quality. The theory was tested by an analysis of all tenure-track placements at liberal arts and graduate departments in sociology for 1993-2000, using a Heckman model to account for nonrandom selection into the different academic submarkets. Consistent with the theory, the undergraduate reputation of the university is significant even when controlling for departmental reputation; individual publications in prestigious journals has a positive impact in the graduate submarket and a negative impact in the liberal arts submarket; sending department's book publications have a positive effect on liberal arts placement and no effect on graduate department placement. This framework may be extended to explain phenomena in a number of non-academic submarkets.

- **Ben Laufer**, *What is the Capital of Success? How Social And Cultural Capital Affect the College Student*

This study employs Bourdieu's theories of social and cultural capital to explain the differences in academic achievement among students at Duke University. Past research indicates that Bourdieu's theory of cultural and social capital have an effect on the academic performance at the primary and secondary levels. Little research has been done to measure these effects at the college level. The results from this study show that the strongest predictor of freshman GPA is the type of high school one attended. Significantly, this variable becomes irrelevant by the time students graduate. This form of social capital along with parents' education and peer enrollment in elite universities prove to be better predictors of academic achievement than the cultural capital variables.

- **Karen Gereffi**, *Coming to America: How Immigration Affects Race relations in Durham, NC.*

The new wave of Hispanic immigration is changing the demographic profile of Durham, North Carolina. It also has the potential to also significantly affect race relations in Durham. This study examines how Durham's recent immigration is affecting the students of Riverside High School. Through surveys, interviews, class observations, and a focus group, I discovered how these students, including the recent immigrant students, are adapting to this intense change. Despite what some of the literature suggested, I found that the current standing of race relations in the school did not elicit a minority alliance, but actually quite the opposite. Black and white students felt closer to each other than the Hispanic students and the new immigrant students were actually quite isolated socially and academically.

- **Discussant: Professor Ken Spenner**

12:30 Lunch Break

1:30 Defining Each Other and Socially Constructed Realities

- **Ashley Bateman**, *Talk About Race: How Today's College Students Discuss a Silenced Issue.*

Much recent sociological literature about America's new "color blind" racism has focused solely on the attitudes of whites. While white attitudes are significant, non-whites, too, are actors in a racialized society. This study consists of three focus groups with undergraduate students at Duke University: one with participants who identify as "white" and two with participants who identify as "non-white," in an attempt to understand how racial ideology affects their racial thought and discourse. While the white group exemplified more "racist" thought than did the non-white groups, contemporary racist ideology appears to affect the racial thought of non-whites as well. These findings not only help us understand how non-whites think about race, but also allow us to better understand the racial ideologies in the context within which this thought and discourse is formed.

- **Andrea Galambos**, *Kids Are Getting Older Younger: Has Marketing Usbered in a New Era of Childhood?*

This thesis examines the role marketing has played in situating and socializing children into today's commercialized and consumer-focused economy. More specifically, I study how marketers view today's experience of childhood and the construction of children's consumption and culture. Interviews were conducted with several top-level executives with relevant experience in marketing to children in order to gauge the strategies and mindsets utilized when creating marketing communications. This study demonstrates how the conception of childhood in the minds of marketing professionals has driven the creation of a new kind of child: one that has the consuming power and drive of their adult counterparts. Because marketers believe so strongly in the influence and clout of children in the marketplace, they create messages that affirm societal trends moving to give children more "say" in their lifestyles.

- **Cristina Prella**, *No Laughing Matter: How Gender Affects the Use and Appreciation of Humor*

There has been considerable research on gender stereotypes and gender inequality. However, few studies have looked at these issues through the lens of humor. Although the research has clearly pointed out that there are gender differences in the use of humor, my study goes beyond the existing literature by looking at how we perceive men and women who use humor in social situations. Most importantly, this study explores how traditional gender stereotypes of femininity and masculinity play into the use and appreciation of humor in social situations. My study combines a video experiment aimed at assessing social reactions to a female joke-teller versus a male joke-teller and a survey that elicited the participant's opinions on humor in general, their humor preferences, and their ideas about how gender affects humor. Results indicate that gender inequality remains when it comes to humor, and that gender stereotypes play a significant role in our reactions and opinions about humor.

- **Discussant: Ashley Taylor**

Coffee Break 3:00

3:15 Diving Into the Deep End: The Influence of Sports on Identity

- **Bob Benion**, *Forced Obesity: How Collegiate Football Linemen Negotiate their Conflicting Athletic and Social Roles*

The recent deaths of several high school, collegiate, and professional offensive linemen has focused attention on the extreme weight requirements imposed on collegiate offensive linemen. However, only the physical health risks are being assessed. This study uses a role conflict perspective to delve deeper into the experiences of offensive linemen. Specifically, the study explores the psychological tension arising in linemen due to the conflict which arises from being an offensive lineman in the athletic world and being an obese male in the body-conscious social world. Since the male athletic body is perceived as ideal, little attention is given to how offensive linemen view their overweight bodies. A series of in depth interviews suggests that the offensive linemen experience a great deal of tension in the social world. The subjects disclosed how their large bodies have affected nearly every aspect of their lives from buying clothes to meeting women and how they negotiate the tensions they feel.

- **Kate Bryan:** *Finding The Key to Satisfaction: An Examination of Internal and External Factors as Determinants of Satisfaction in Team and Individual Sports.*

Few existing studies examine the effects of internal personality traits and external factors on satisfaction among athletes in team and individual sports. This thesis extends the existing research on personality traits in athletes and integrates elements of social and structural cohesion in team and individual sport teams. Survey results suggest slightly different personality types by sport type, as well as different levels of social and structural cohesion by team type. Further, data suggests that while all factors are significant to satisfaction for the athletes surveyed, the level of importance of internal and external factors in determining satisfaction differ by sport type.

- **Tonia Boock:** *Women and Sport: The Image of Female Athletes in Advertising*

This study investigates the role portrayal of women in magazine advertisements and specifically the depiction of women as athletes. The existing research has examined the influence of advertising and the media in society, gender role theories and construction, and the portrayal of gender roles in advertising. Little or no research investigates images depicting female athletes relative to other roles women embody in advertisements. A content analysis was conducted on advertisements collected from a sample of three magazines published in 2005. I found that the women depicted as athletes are less likely to appear provocative compared to women embodying other roles. However, the content analysis also revealed that many images of women as athletes combine stereotypical gender behavior while maintaining the “athlete” role.

- **Discussant:** John Wilson

4:30 Concluding Remarks and Awards