

Sociologically Speaking

Department of Sociology, Trent University

Volume 2, Issue 1

Important Dates

- March 11th, Sociology Day
- March 16th-20th Trent Identity Week, Oshawa
- April 3, classes end
- April 8-25 Peterborough exam period
- April 13-17 Oshawa exam period
- May 1st, final date to register for summer courses without a late fee
- June 3-5 convocation

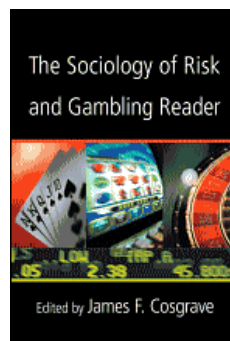
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A Snapshot of Recent Faculty Achievements

Bon Voyage to Professor Chris Huxley and Professor Frank Nutch

Professor Chris Huxley has worked at Trent in the International Development Studies Department and the Sociology Department for 36 years. He doesn't really think of himself as retiring since he will continue to work with the C.A.W. - McMaster University Labour Studies Certificate Program. He also plans to advance his research on the Auto Industry. Professor Frank Nutch is leaving Trent after 38 years teaching Sociology. He plans to embark on a culinary Journey throughout Italy and he intends to complete two books; one based on reflections on 25 years of his field studies of marine scientists at work, the other a docu-fiction piece focusing on the intersections of food, history and social relations.



The Sociology of Risk and Gambling Reader (2006), edited by Professor James F. Cosgrave

- Peri Ballantyne**, Mirza RM, Austin Z, Boon HS
Cohen-Kohler, JC (2008), Negotiating 'Pharmaceutical Personhood': Elderly Chinese Immigrants' Health and Medication Practices. *International j. Pharmacy Practice* 16 (Supplement 2): 15-17.
- Gillian Balfour**, (2008). "Falling Between the Cracks of Retributive and Restorative justice: The Victimization and Punishment of Women." *Feminist Criminology*. Vol 3(2): 101- 120.

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone. It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since the first edition of Sociologically Speaking! It has been a busy year for Sociology as we have prepared for our Undergraduate Program Review. As part of that process, some of you may have responded to a survey asking about your experience in the Department. I'd like to personally thank all of you

who took the time and effort to respond to the survey, and for the many comments and suggestions that you made.

We were particularly thrilled to hear from so many of our graduates and learn about what they are doing now. Not just students 'graduate' from the department – at the end of this academic year,

Jim Conley, (2008) "Book review: "Charles Tilly, Regimes and Repertoires." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 45, 3: 331—333 (online at <<http://www.csa.ca/CRSA/BookReview>>).

Stephen Katz, (2008) Thinking of Age: Personal Reflections on Critical Gerontology. *Journal of Aging Studies* Special issue on Coming of Age: First-Generation Critics Reflect on Age, Aging, and the Making of Critical Gerontology', Vol. 22(2).

Alan Law, (2009) Monumental change: archives of community in Leisurreescape.' *Journal of International Volunteer Tourism and Social Development*, 1(1)

Barb Marshall,(2008) "Older men and sexual Health: Post-Viagra views of changes in function" *Generations*. 32(1): 21-27

Momin Rahman, M. (2008) 'Jades confession: racism and the dialectics of celebrity', *Social Semiotics*, 18:2, 133-148.

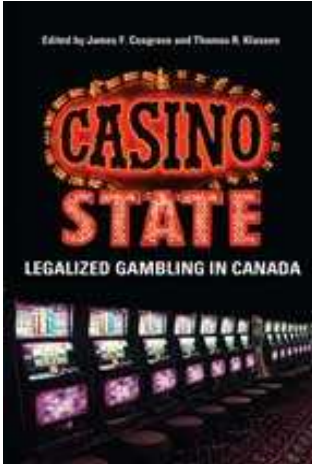
Deborah White & Janice Du Mont, (2009). "Visualizing sexual assault: Forensic technologies and the culture of medicolegal expertise". *Social Science & Medicine*,68 (1), 1-8

we bid farewell to two faculty members of long standing, Professors Frank Nutch and Chris Huxley, who are retiring. We wish them well as they move on to life after Trent, and thank them for all they've contributed to the department and the University.

Professor Barb Marshall

Sociologically Speaking

Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada



Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada (2009), edited by James F. Cosgrave and Thomas R. Klassen

While there has been an unprecedented explosion of legalized gambling in Canada – particularly in the form of casinos and electronic games – the public has become increasingly aware of addictions to gambling. *Casino State* is a timely collection that examines the controversial role of the state as a promoter of gambling activities often against the best interest of its citizens.

Investigating the tensions that arise from the relationships between gambling and morality, risk, social policy, crime, and youth problem

gambling, these essays draw upon a range of disciplines to consider the economic benefits and social costs of legalized gambling. A contemporary study that raises important questions about state conduct, precarious policy issues, public health, and addictions, *Casino State* provides a necessary and comprehensive overview of the central issues related to the legalization and expansion of gambling in Canada.

Professor Cosgrave is currently writing on the ways in which gambling risks are managed by the state and individuals, particularly through

"responsible gambling" and "self-exclusion" programs. He is also interested in the ways in which state-run gambling reveals aspects of Canadian culture, namely, the ways in which orientations to "vice" are managed by the state. He is co-writing a book on state-culture dynamics and how they are generated and contribute to conceptions of Canadian national and cultural identity.

James F. Cosgrave is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Trent University. Thomas R. Klassen is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at York University and a Trent University Alumnus.

“While an honours thesis is not required for a single-major honours degree, it is recommended for students who are self motivated to conduct independent research ...”

Doing an Honours Thesis

In their fourth year, honours students who have obtained a minimum average of 75% in their sociology courses and who wish to investigate a specific topic in depth have the opportunity to write an honours thesis. An honours thesis is weighted as two full credits. In the case of a double major honours program, a single credit may be given from each department dependent upon departmental permission.

While an honours thesis is not required for a single-major honours degree, it is recommended for students who are self motivated to conduct independent research on a topic of mutual interest to themselves and their supervisor(s). Normally, theses are 50-100 pages in length.

You must submit an Honours Thesis Request Form and a brief one to two page written statement of your research interests to the Sociology Department by the end of May in

order to be approved to register for a thesis (Sociology 402). This form can be downloaded from the Resource page of the sociology website (www.trentu.ca/sociology).

Copies of past theses are kept in the Sociology Department office if you would like to see some examples.

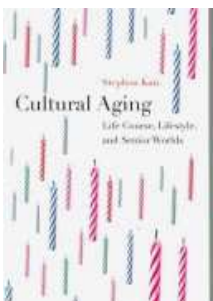
A student interested in doing an honours thesis should first identify a topic of interest, and then in consultation with the Sociology Department Chair, find a professor who can act as a supervisor. The Chair of the Department (Prof. Barb Marshall) will coordinate the assignment of thesis students to supervisors. Please arrange to see her as soon as possible, and certainly before you leave campus.

Some examples of past theses:

2007, The increase in the use of complementary and alternative medical practices in Western societies within recent decades: a sociological analysis, by **Dianne Au**.

2008, Corporeal constructions of masculinity, by **Jackie Orsetto**.

2008, I'm not a misogynist, I just like it when girls are masagin' this.... the social construction of misogyny in rap music, by **Barbara Bukowski**.



Cultural Aging: Essays on Life Course, Lifestyle, and Senior Worlds (2005), by Professor Stephen Katz.

Trent in Oshawa

Trent University offers a full Sociology Program at the University Centre at Durham. Courses are offered during both the day and evening in the fall/winter and summer sessions, allowing students to complete a degree solely with courses taught in Oshawa.

Students graduating with degrees in Sociology from Trent in Oshawa have pursued a variety of opportunities. Some have entered the workforce in a range of occupations, such as working for insurance companies examining claims; for government agencies assisting the unemployed

and potential employers; for community agencies counseling those in need. Other sociology graduates from Oshawa have continued their education by entering programs such as Masters in Social Work, Bachelor of Education, and doctoral programs.

Amanda Daley, the Sociology representative for the Peer Mentoring Program in Oshawa, encourages her fellow students to get involved with the program.

The program is run by students and includes one on one study sessions, study groups, confidence and sup-

port, tips for success in regards to exam preparation, study techniques, note taking etc., locating other resources in Oshawa such as academic counselling and academic skills, and adjusting to university life.

Mentors are upper-year students, in good academic standing, who volunteer their time to help others. The Peer Mentoring Program in Oshawa is a great way for students to become connected to the campus, other students and professors.

Trent Identity Week Events: <http://img19.imageshack.us/img19/796/trentidentityweekposter.jpg>



Amanda Daley, Sociology rep. for Peer Mentoring in Oshawa
<http://www.trentu.ca/admin/jbc/>

Careers: What Can I Do with a Sociology Degree?

Sociology is a multi-disciplinary field, and within this field, many career options are available. For example, Hugh Anthony (Tony) Arthur who received an Honours B.A. in Sociology from Trent University in 1966 was recently appointed the High Commissioner of Barbados.

Sociologists can be found in the Human Services, such as social work, women's health care, non-

profit organizations, and the Children's Aid Society. More business oriented sociologists can be found in the area of Human Resource Management, and conducting market research. Sociologists are also employed doing social research and data analysis. A career in this field would be good for the student that enjoys the analytical and research aspect of sociology.

Some students may want to go to

graduate school so that they may teach sociology, or do advanced research. Students who think they might want to attend graduate school in Ontario are encouraged to apply for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship at the beginning of fourth year. For more information see Trent's Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

<http://www.trentu.ca/graduatestudies/>

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Sociology Day

For Sociology Day, honours students Darcy L'heureux and Anna Weshsel discussed their experiences thus far, researching and writing their honours theses. Darcy is researching the African Aids Pandemic and Anna is examining the representation of youth in the media. Both encouraged fellow students to consider writing an honours thesis. Anna observed, "Doing an honours thesis

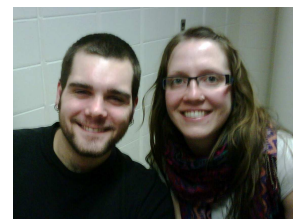
allows you to focus on something you are passionate about".

Kelly Manweiler talked about the many benefits of becoming involved in the Trent University Sociology Collective (TUSC) and encouraged students to contact her or the department for more information.

The Chair, Professor Barb Marshall discussed the Sociology Pro-

gram and various Sociology faculty presented information about their fourth year courses and answered questions.

Many thanks to the staff, faculty and students who attended and participated in Sociology Day!



Darcy L'heureux and Anna Weshsel
Fourth Year Honours Thesis Students

Trent University Sociology Undergraduate Collective



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TUSC is both an academic and social club. All sociology majors are members of **TUSC**. Each year a group of students take a leadership role in leading the club. Throughout the year, the **TUSC** executive organize events such as movie nights, guest speakers, book sales and exchanges and study groups.

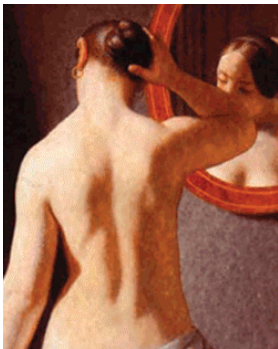
If you want to become more involved or have questions about **TUSC** contact us at soc-club@trentu.ca or drop by the sociology office. Check out our webpage on the sociology website (www.trentu.ca/sociology)

Get Involved in the Sociology Department

The sociology department is always looking for volunteers to help on various committees. If you are looking for a chance to get involved in the Department, or if you want to have a say in what goes on in the following year, you can. There are opportunities to get involved in decisions regarding things such as Departmental policies, the hiring of new faculty, selection of Department heads and the selection of future guest speakers.

Generally your professors will announce when these committees are looking for students, but if you don't hear anything, come by the Department office and talk with the Administrative Assistant, Tracey Horn, the Academic Coordinator, Lesley Hulcoop, or e-mail inquiries at: sociology@trentu.ca

Featured Alumnus—Bridget Leslie



My Left Breast, offering products for cancer patients.
Peterborough Clinic, Hospital Drive.
Web: myleftbreast.ca
705-876-3333

Bridget Leslie received her Honours B.A. in sociology from Trent in 2004, and went on to complete an M.A. in Work & Society from McMaster University.

Her life changed in 2006 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her personal experience led her to open *My Left Breast*. This business offers support and products for cancer patients and carcinogen and toxic free household products.

She strives to offer women a caring, supportive, elegant envi-

ronment for healthy bra fittings, mastectomy and lumpectomy fittings. In addition, she offers non-toxic products such as paraben-free shampoos, creams, water-based nail polish, sugar based hair products and alternatives to plastic food containers from a Life Without Plastic. Products can be viewed on her website: myleftbreast.ca.

Fellow “thrivers” Jennifer Coombs offers home visits in Port Perry and Bridget still offers home visits by appointment in the Peterborough area. She plans to open a second location in the Whitby area in two years time.