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SMS socialforces

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THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



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SMS snapshots...



SMS Doctoral student Dave Johns, and SMS staff Andrea Constancio, Yasmin Davis, and Toya Smith demonstrate their karate skills as part of a SMS martial arts class offered every Friday in SMS Conference room 532.



Sandra Rosen (Lisa's mom), Morgan Metsch (Lisa's oldest daughter), Lisa Metsch and Dean Linda Fried at the July 12, 2012 reception welcoming Lisa Metsch as the new chair of Sociomedical Sciences.



Former SMS Chairs Cheryl Heulton and Amy Fairchild, Lesley Field (widow of Dr. Donald Gemson), and Dean Linda Fried at the October 1st reception for the newly established Donald H. Gemson Junior Professorship in SMS



Lisa Metsch and Patrick Wilson were invited to the White House to attend the "Courage on the Front Lines" reception held for the XIX International AIDS Conference on July 26, 2012.

welcome

FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to our first edition of *SMS Social Forces*! This triannual newsletter of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences (SMS) seeks to update you on the many achievements of our faculty, students, and staff, as well as introduce you to new SMS initiatives. I must credit Professor Ron Bayer with the title for our newsletter. As suggested by Ron, this title nicely captures what we hope to achieve in our research endeavors and also notes that SMS is a force to be reckoned with. SMS has a history of excellence in the social sciences in public health and has a unique relationship with Columbia's downtown campus. Thus, I am extremely honored to be the 8th Chair of this prestigious department which has had a history of illustrious leadership by distinguished scholars who served as Chairs—Professors Jack Elinson (1968-1978, 1982-1985), Barbara Dohrenwend (1978-1982), Eugene Litwak (1985-1996), Cheryl Heulton (1996-2000), Nancy VanDevanter (2000-2001), Richard Parker (2001-2008) and most recently Amy Fairchild (2008-2012). On this note, please join me in thanking Professor Amy Fairchild for her outstanding service to the department and for her mentorship, support, and guidance in assisting with my transition to SMS.

There is a lot of excitement around SMS and the Mailman School in general, with the launch of the new core curriculum. In SMS, we are thrilled to welcome our new and continuing MPH/MS and doctoral students. We also welcome the many new faculty and staff that have recently joined us including our colleagues at the new SMS-Miami Research Center. We hope you enjoy this first newsletter! Please send any and all feedback and thoughts about the newsletter to Ms. Yasmin Davis at yj17@columbia.edu.

Lisa R. Metsch, PhD
Stephen Smith Professor and Chair
of Sociomedical Sciences

Meet our Deputy Chair for the Master's Programs

James Colgrove



“It was great being a student in SMS, and now teaching and doing research here”

James Colgrove is an associate professor and SMS's deputy chair for the master's program. He is also one of the core faculty members of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, a unique center within SMS for research, teaching, and policy analysis.

He is especially interested in the role of the state and the appropriate scope and limits of government authority, which he has studied in the context of issues such as compulsory immunization and disease surveillance. His most recent book is *Epidemic City: The Politics of Public Health in New York*, which analyzes the city's responses to a series of social and public health crises over the last four decades. He is a graduate of SMS, having received both his MPH and PhD from the department.

You worked for many years in community-based public health before pursuing a doctorate. How did you end up as a public health historian?

I started out doing HIV education in San Francisco in the 1980s, and then worked for many years in the area of adolescent health. I always wanted to know more about the historical background of the issues I was working on—why did we think about certain issues the way we did, how did a given set of choices come to be the ones before us? It's like the old saying, You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been. When I was looking for a place to do a doctorate, I was amazed to find out that there was actually a department in a school of public health where I could study exactly that. It was great being a student in SMS, and now teaching and doing research here.

Can you tell me about your current research? I'm just starting a study with my colleagues Connie Nathanson and Peter Messeri. We're looking at how legislators use scientific evidence as a basis for policy: what do they consider reliable sources of evidence, how do they interpret scientific findings, when do they think the research is "strong enough" to take action on a public health issue. It's an important subject because, in spite of the emphasis now on "evidence-based practice," we know that many policies get enacted without a solid scientific foundation and aren't likely to be successful. The study is looking at two issues, immunization against HPV and prevention of childhood obesity. Connie and Peter are both sociologists, and they're two of the smartest people I know, so I'm really looking forward to working with them.

What was your summer reading? My summer reading is usually new work in my field that I'm considering assigning for a class in the coming academic year. I just finished Daniel Carpenter's *Reputation and Power*, a history of the Food and Drug Administration. It's 800 pages long. I don't think I'm going to ask students to read the whole thing.

Favorite New York activity? I love bicycling. The city has become much more bike-friendly over the past decade. It's incredible to ride from the George Washington Bridge to Coney Island and get a feel for all the great neighborhoods along the way. And of course, being a public health person, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that I always wear a helmet.

Meet our Deputy Chair for
Doctoral Studies

Jennifer Hirsch



“One of the driving factors I’m looking at is American patterns of consumption. I want to think about the connections between our \$2 pints of strawberries and a married woman being exposed to HIV in rural Mexico.”

Professor Jennifer Hirsch joined the department of sociomedical sciences in 2004. A medical anthropologist, she also serves as deputy chair for doctoral studies. In 2012, she was selected as a Guggenheim Fellow, a highly prestigious honor for both her and the department.

As described by the Guggenheim Foundation, Professor Hirsch’s “research agenda spans four intertwined domains: the anthropology of love; gender, sexuality and migration; the application of this research on gender, sexuality and migration to analyze and explain sexual, reproductive, and HIV risk practices; and the intersections between anthropology and public health.” Her current book project, tentatively titled *Desire Across Borders*, will use the intersection between Mexico-US migration and HIV risk as a case study to make a broader argument about the multi-level nature of health inequalities and about the ways in which our most quotidian patterns of consumption produce those inequalities.

As an undergraduate at Princeton, you worked as a community organizer for United Farm Workers. Can you talk about how this experience influenced your academic path and interests? I always wanted to do something that was good for the world. It took me a little while to figure out what that was. I was captivated by a class in Latin American history, and then the United Farm Workers came to campus. The immigrant story connects to my own family story, and to my values as a human being: this can’t be the promised land for me if it is Egypt for someone else. Interestingly, in my Guggenheim project I’ve circled back to food justice, after all these years.

What attracted you to the department of sociomedical sciences?

That’s easy. For what I do, SMS is the best place in the world. This is going to sound cheesy, but it really was a dream come true for me. It offers a rich intellectual world located in the city of New York. I love raising my children in NYC. And it’s good to be home—I grew up in New York.

Can you talk a bit about your current Guggenheim-supported project?

I think of the project as one of those Matryoshka dolls [Russian nested dolls]. It starts at the micro level, looking at the ways in which it makes sense for couples to not use condoms, but I’m then hoping to move out to look at the broader picture. One of the driving factors I’m looking at is American patterns of consumption. I want to think about the connections between our \$2 pints of strawberries and a married woman being exposed to HIV in rural Mexico. I believe that there is a lot of power in choices that we make as consumers on a day-to-day basis. Ultimately, I hope to write something that Jon Stewart will want to talk to me about. After all, my two life dreams are being a Daily Show guest and a sex columnist for Vogue.

What book or article has particularly influenced you? Richard Parker’s *Bodies, Pleasures and Passions*. When I read that book my intellectual life went from black and white to color. I remember where I was sitting when I read it.

Favorite New York activity? I love to run in Riverside Park, but even more magical is cross country skiing in the park. There’s something that feels wonderfully transgressive about experiencing nature that way, in the middle of the city. And of course anyone who knows me well will know that the only reason I didn’t mention a food-related favorite activity is that I have too many favorite foods to choose just one.

Andrea Constancio



Andrea Constancio is the Associate Director of Student Affairs for our department. She began at Columbia in November 1999 and started at SMS in July 2005. Ever since, students have come to her with questions about orientation, registration, program requirements, etc. Simply put, the department would not run without her.

What attracted you to SMS? Prior to Columbia I spent a few years also working in higher education, at the University of Michigan and at UCLA. What attracted to me to SMS was the faculty and the administrative team—they were terrific and made quite an impression! I enjoy what I do and the people I work with at SMS and throughout the Mailman School. We work well together and have fun doing it.

What is your advice to incoming students? My advice to new students: Be a sponge—absorb and take in all that is available to you. Ask for help. Offer suggestions. See ‘problems’ as opportunities. Join our karate group.

Any favorite books? What is your summer reading? A favorite is *The Gastronomical Me* (MFK Fisher); the last book I read was *The Art of Fielding* (thanks JSH for the recommendation); and the current book I am reading is *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. I enjoy reading and welcome recommendations.

Favorite New York activity? My favorite things about NYC: wandering, food, public transportation, parks and public spaces... all good things that promote activity, socializing, and creativity.

The SMS department's admin team

From L to R: Enrique Roldan, Kim Guevara, Tsehay Ashagre, Yasmin Davis, Lisa Metsch, Maria Enriquez, Andrea Constancio, and Toya Smith.



A warm welcome to new faculty and staff



The new SMS Miami Center Research Team. From L to R: Pedro Castellon, Victoria Elf, Terri Liguori, Margaret Pereyra, Lisa Metsch, Oliene Toussaint, D. Faye Yeomans, Tamara Kuper, Cheryl Walker Lauren Gooden

- **Antonia Brunner**
Data Analyst/
Specialist
- **Pedro Castellon**
Project Director
- **Allyson DeLorenzo**
Program Manager
- **Elizabeth Ebright**
Research Assistant
- **Joanna Eisman**
Program
Coordinator
- **Victoria Elf**
Project Coordinator
- **Maria Enriquez**
Administrative
Assistant/Research
Assistant
for SMS Chair
- **Lauren Gooden**
Assistant Professor
of Clinical
Sociomedical
Sciences
- **Mark
Hatzenbuehler**
Assistant Professor
of Sociomedical
Sciences
- **Tamara Kuper**
Project Coordinator
- **Kalvin Leveille**
Community
Outreach
Coordinator
- **Terri Liguori**
Project Coordinator
- **Katrina Mateo**
Communications
Coordinator
- **Jill Pace**
Project Coordinator
- **Margaret Pereyra**
Assistant Professor
of Clinical
Sociomedical
Sciences
- **Deyanira Roca**
Program Manager
- **Nitika Sharma**
Research Assistant
- **Oliene Toussaint**
Project Coordinator
- **Cheryl Walker**
Project Coordinator/
Outreach
- **D. Faye Yeomans**
Program Assistant

Welcome to all incoming SMS students!

PhD and DrPH

- Ijeoma Eboh
- Caitlin McMahon
- Brennan Rhodes
- Heather Wurtz

MPH

- Desiree Abu-Odeh
- Kristin Aguero
- Brittany Ajegba
- Francisco Baiocchi
- Niels Bantilan
- Marissa Barrera
- Julie Bass
- Rachel Bavley

- Philip Beaudry
- Melissa Bernstein
- Elizabeth Bloemen
- Lauren Boc
- Elisabeth Brockway
- Camilla Burkot
- Angelina Caruso
- Meghan Chappell
- Christine Chen-Person
- Lauren Cubellis
- Stephanie Curreri
- Hana Dembe
- Lana Denysyk
- Miki Duruz
- Melissa Eng-Wong
- Kaila Fagerstrom
- Elizabeth Feinstone
- Edith Fox
- Megan Galeucia
- Emilie Gladstone
- Monica Gould
- Olga Gromadzka
- Caitlin Gruer
- Sindhura Gummi
- Danielle Gurr
- Ashley Harper
- Anuradha Hashemi
- Jonathan Jaques
- Meera Kanabar
- Mera Keltner
- Sarah Kerr
- Monika Khan
- Christina Kyriakos
- Colleen Lanier
Christensen
- Grace Lee
- Matthew Lee
- Rachel Leep
- Lara Maldjian
- Memoona Malik
- Abbey Masonbrink
- Lisa McManus
- Kris Mehta
- Arielle Miller
- Deborah Min
- Rahma Mkuu
- Nicole Moodhe
- Manasa
Muthusubramanian
- Stephanie Ngai
- Doris Osei-Afryie
- John Pamplin
- Sheila Pande
- Vivian Peng
- Zachary Peters
- Mary Pisciotta
- Katherine Robbins
- Neesha Roy
- Brena Sena
- Suma Setty
- Rachel Smith
- Sarah Somian
- Amy Sommers
- Alyx Sternlicht
- Laura Sutter
- Carolien Swann
- Hannah Taylor
- Tisa Thomas
- Sara Ulrey
- Gloria Vidal
- Erin Ward
- DeCiembre White
- Molly Woodruff
- Hope Yates
- Toddchelle Young
- Kara Zinger
- Garazi Zulaika
- Cecilia Zvosec

Meet our incoming doctoral students



Ijeoma Eboh

Track: PhD (History and Ethics)

Ijeoma was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria but grew up in northern New Jersey with her parents and two brothers. She graduated from Harvard University in May 2012 with a degree in History and Science, and a secondary in Global Health and Health Policy. Her undergraduate honors thesis, titled "Blacks Wheezing in the City: The

Rise of Asthma and the Urban Negro, 1880-1980, examined the history of asthma documentation in urban African-Americans. As a student in the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, Ijeoma is interested in the history of asthma and other health disparities that primarily affect urban African-Americans, such as obesity and diabetes.



Caitlin McMahon

Track: PhD (History and Ethics)

After graduating from the University of Chicago with a degree in psychology, Caitlin worked in the Department of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine in substance abuse treatment among populations with co-occurring disorders. She then joined Columbia's Department of Sociomedical Sciences where she

obtained her MPH in 2012. Her thesis focused on the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute established by the Affordable Care Act and touches on the history of the concept of the patient as a consumer of health care and services. Her interests also include the history of comparative effectiveness research and the intersection of human rights and public health.



Brennan Rhodes-Bratton

Degree Program: DrPH

Brennan is a DrPH candidate and a recipient of the Initiative to Maximize Diversity institutional training grant. She has worked in a variety of public health arenas prior to her doctoral studies, including serving individuals with HIV and AIDS, locating housing for individuals ex-

periencing homelessness and psychiatric disabilities in post-Katrina New Orleans, and increasing awareness about prediabetes through community-based participatory research (CBPR) in East Harlem—each with the common thread of improving health disparities among communities of color. Most recently she was the Program Coordinator for the Community Outreach and Translation Core of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health. At the Center she developed a deeper understanding of CBPR and the importance of research translation. Her primary interest in her doctoral studies is the intersection of children's environmental health and obesity through the lens of social science and community-based participatory research principles. She aims to further her understanding through a mixed methods approach.



Heather Wurtz

Track: PhD (Anthropology)

Heather is from Topeka, Kansas. She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Anthropology and Latin American Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Kansas. Prior to coming to Columbia University, she worked as a Registered Nurse in a birth center near Kansas City and has had in-

ternational health care work experience in Belize and Southern India. Heather is a fellow in the NIH pre-doctoral training program in Gender, Sexuality and Health. She is particularly interested in the anthropological investigation of reproductive and sexual health in Spanish speaking populations in Latin America and the United States. For her dissertation research, Heather will explore the social and cultural implications of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, and access to reproductive and sexual health care among Indigenous women in the Amazon.

Meet some of our incoming and current MPH students

INCOMING MPH STUDENTS



Edith Fox

Edith received her B.A. in Rhetoric from UC Berkeley in 2010, with a focus on literary and film theory. During college and in the years since, she held positions in reproductive counseling and health education, most recently as an Americorps sexual health educator for San Francisco youth. Edith will pursue an MPH with a certificate in Sexuality, Sexual, and Reproductive Health and is a 2012-2013

Brush Fellow. Her academic interests include the overlap of sexual and mental health, stigma and accessibility, healthcare ethics, and public health's relationship with media and the arts. Edith grew up in Stockton, California, and the fall 2012 semester marks the first time she will live outside of her home state. She is more than excited to be in New York.

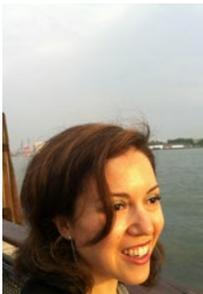


Colleen Lanier Christensen

Colleen Lanier Christensen graduated from the University of Chicago in 2009, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. For her BA thesis, she examined the social framing of the proliferation of endocrine disrupting chemicals in the environment and its interplay with federal regulation. In parallel, she investigated

the combined social and environmental determinants of health, showing that living near a highway mediates the impact of socioeconomic status on health. Since graduating, Colleen has worked for the University of Chicago's Office of Sustainability, where she had the opportunity to develop key programs aimed at measuring and mitigating the University's impact on the environment. Colleen is especially interested in issues of food systems—particularly, antibiotic resistance and the overall public health impacts of industrial agriculture—and the evaluation and regulation of modern chemicals.

CURRENT MPH STUDENTS



Jordan Lite

Track: History and Ethics
Education: A.B. with honors, Biomedical Ethics, Brown University (1997)

A longtime journalist, Jordan is refocusing her professional experience on public health policy and practice. She previously held staff positions at the Associated Press, New York Daily News

and Scientific American, and has published work in a variety of other publications. Among her interests are transparency in public health messaging and how incentives may be ethically used to promote behavioral change. She is also interested in organ donation and the use of social-networking sites for public health research.

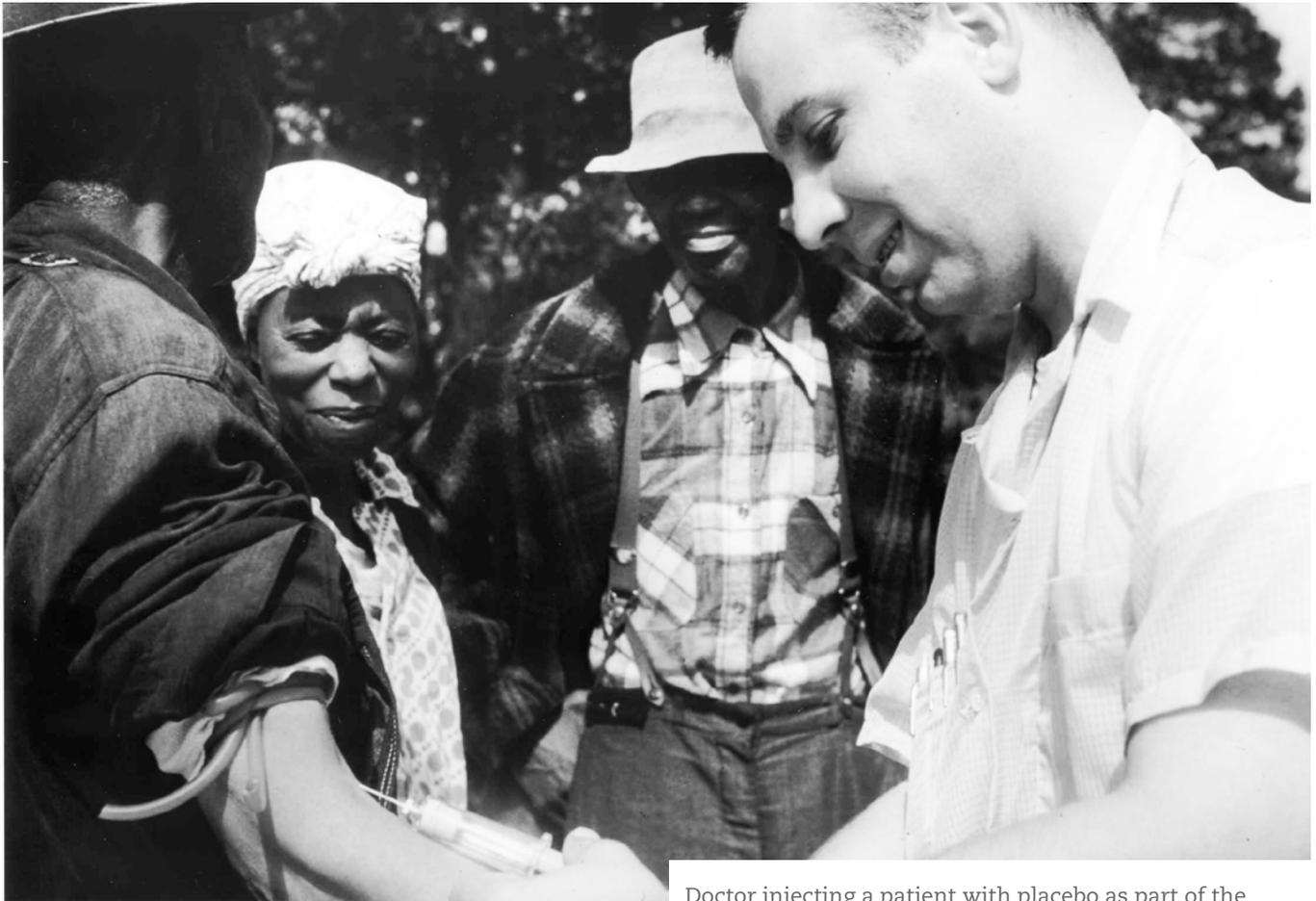


Marlene Ramos

Track: Urbanism and the Built Environment
Education: B.S., Industrial and Labor Relations, Concentration in the Study of Inequality, Cornell University (2009)

A native of Southeast Los Angeles, Marlene Ramos is a second year student in the MPH program and a Gates Millennium Scholar. She is interested in the role

of place and environmental health inequities in immigrant and communities of color. Among her favorite classes in SMS is Dr. Mindy Fullilove's Urban Space and Health, which explores the role of "borders" in U.S. cities and inequity as the fundamental cause of disease. The "sorting out of the city"—by race and class—have led to fractured communities and health inequities. Prior to her studies at Columbia University, she worked with environmental justice organizations in Los Angeles focused on organizing and carving out spaces in decision-making processes for community members most affected by environmental and economic disparities.



Doctor injecting a patient with placebo as part of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

ARTICLE

Beyond Bioethics: Reckoning With the Public Health Paradigm

Sociomedical Sciences Professor Amy Fairchild and doctoral student Dave Johns have authored a new article published in the August 2012 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*. “Beyond Bioethics: Reckoning With the Public Health Paradigm” examines recently proposed changes to the Common Rule that would significantly scale back and streamline many institutional oversight procedures. Fairchild and Johns review the historical context of these regulations, noting that in the 1970s, in response to revelations of research abuses including the notorious Tuskegee Syphilis Study, a new system of institutionally based ethical review was created. Yet these oversight procedures, which were grounded in a bioethics framework that prioritizes autonomy and the protection of individual rights, have provoked resistance from scholars in fields like history, quality assurance, and journalism that have traditionally viewed their work as benefiting the common good. After reviewing this history and the debates surrounding the ethical oversight

of research, Fairchild and Johns conclude, “We agree that the time has come to recognize that social inquiry in areas like history, public health, and quality assurance requires an alternative framework of analysis. Yet we cannot let an obsession with rules allow us to overlook the fact that scientific research is guided by a number of different ethical frameworks that do not always agree. Bioethics asserts that individual rights such as privacy require protection; many other frameworks demand that we look past the individual and prioritize the common good. By embracing a new approach for research in public interest domains, the proposed changes implicitly acknowledge this tension. Indeed, there will always be issues where distinct paradigms hewing to different priorities collide. So although the ongoing debate over changes to ethical oversight procedures may resolve certain conflicts, it also sets the stage for the enduring contest between different paradigms of accountability.”

Source: Fairchild AL, Johns DM. (2012). Beyond Bioethics: Reckoning with the Public Health Paradigm. *American Journal of Public Health* 102(8):1447-50.

ARTICLE

Implementing Rapid HIV Testing With or Without Risk-Reduction Counseling in Drug Treatment Centers: Results of a Randomized Trial

With approximately 50,000 new HIV infections in the United States every year, and with calls for expanded HIV testing among high risk populations, the CDC specified in 2006 that risk-reduction counseling should only be required for people who test HIV-positive. Yet what is the efficacy of such counseling in reducing risk behavior among persons who test HIV-negative? To answer this question, Professor and Chair Lisa Metsch, Assistant Professor of Clinical SMS Lauren Gooden, and colleagues randomized 1,281 HIV-negative (or status unknown) adults who reported no past-year HIV testing to (1) referral for off-site HIV testing, (2) HIV risk-reduction counseling with on-site rapid HIV testing, or (3) verbal information about testing only with on-site rapid HIV testing. They defined two a priori primary outcomes to be assessed at one-month and six-month follow-ups of the participants: (1) self-reported receipt of HIV test result (yes or no) during the 1-month assessment visit, and (2) self-reported number of unprotected anal and vaginal intercourse episodes with either primary or nonprimary partners, during the 6-month follow-up visit.

This study found that participants randomized to on-site rapid testing were significantly more likely to complete and receive the results of an HIV test compared with participants randomized to the off-site referral arm. Yet there was no significant difference among the 3 treatment groups in the means and medians of unprotected intercourse at the 6-month follow-up. This analysis thus demonstrated the value of on-site rapid HIV testing in drug treatment centers, but found no additional benefit from HIV risk reduction counseling on sexual risk behaviors. These results support the implementation of routine rapid HIV testing with information only among patients without recent HIV testing in drug treatment centers. These findings were the basis for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to



develop an HIV awareness toolkit for substance abuse treatment centers.

Source: Metsch LR, Feaster DJ, Gooden L, Matheson T, Mandler RN, Haynes L, Tross S, Kyle T, Gallup D, Kosinski AS, Douaihy A, Schackman BR, Das M, Lindblad R, Erickson S, Korthuis PT, Martino S, Sorensen JL, Szapocznik J, Walensky R, Branson B, Colfax GN. (2012). Implementing Rapid HIV Testing With or Without Risk-Reduction Counseling in Drug Treatment Centers: Results of a Randomized Trial. *American Journal of Public Health* 102(6): 1160-1167.



ARTICLE

Sociomedical Sciences faculty examine barriers to dental care among African Americans in Harlem

A new report published this week in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* reports on the latest findings from an interdisciplinary collaboration between Sociomedical Sciences faculty and staff (Karolynn Siegel, Eric Schrimshaw, Carol Kunzel, Natalie Wolfson, Joyce Moon-Howard, and Harmon Moats) and faculty from the College of Dental Medicine (Carol Kunzel and Dennis Mitchell). Their research examined the barriers that contribute to the previously observed infrequent utilization of dental treatment found among African Americans. Using in-depth qualitative interviews with 118 African American men and women from Central Harlem who had recently experienced one or more oral health symptoms, the research team found that a variety of fears about dental care served as a major barrier to their willingness to obtain treatment for their symptoms. Participants reported delaying or avoiding dental care (often for years) due to six different types of fear. Most commonly, participants reported avoiding care due to a fear of pain from needles, such as from a local anesthetic injection. Others described their fear of the dental drill, including the smell, sound, pressure and pain it causes as a barrier.

However, beyond these commonly acknowledged fears, a number of unanticipated and previously undocumented fears also were reported as deterrents to seeking care. Specifically, many participants reported that they feared that the dentist would extract one or more of their teeth (perhaps unnecessarily) and avoided the dentist in order to avoid this pain and preserve their teeth. Others reported being fearful of contracting a disease (especially HIV/AIDS) from unsanitary dental instruments. Additional participants expressed fear about being exposed to X-rays as part of the dental exam, suggesting that this would place them at unnecessary risk for cancer. Finally, many participants reported fear of poor quality care or mistreatment by the dentist due to past negative experiences either as an adult or as a child. These findings provide insights into the situations that provoke fears about dental treatment and suggest strategies to address these fears in order to remove these barriers and increase the utilization of dental care by African American adults.

Siegel K, Schrimshaw EW, Kunzel C, Wolfson NH, Moon-Howard J, Moats H L, & Mitchell DA. (2012). Types of dental fear as barriers to dental care among African American adults with oral symptoms in Harlem. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 23, 1294-1309.

See also: **Schrimshaw EW, Siegel K, Wolfson NH, Mitchell DA, & Kunzel C** (2011). Insurance-related barriers to accessing dental care among African American adults with oral health symptoms in Harlem, New York City. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101, 1420-1428.

XIX INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

The additive effects of traumatic life events on HIV risk, substance use and mental health among young black men who have sex with men in the United States

At the XIX International AIDS Conference, SMS Associate Professor Patrick Wilson and colleagues presented an abstract of one of the first studies to quantify the relationship between traumatic life events and HIV risk among young black men who have sex with men (Y-BMSM). To determine whether these experiences had an additive impact on risk among Y-BMSM, they conducted semi-structured, qualitative interviews with both members of 48 same-sex male couples in the San Francisco and New York metropolitan areas. They found that 25% of Y-BMSM had no trauma experiences; roughly 20% each reported one, two, or three trauma experiences; and 12% of Y-BMSM reported four or more experiences. Men with four or more traumatic life events were almost six times more likely to report serodiscordant unprotected anal intercourse than men with none or one experience. Likewise, the probability of alcohol abuse, use

of stimulant drugs, and depressive symptomology significantly increased as number of traumatic life events increased. These findings support the need for policy interventions to improve social conditions that predispose Y-BMSM to trauma, as well as behavioral interventions to reduce the impact of trauma on risk.

Source: Wilson P, Dennis N, Cook S, Grisham K, Morgan A, Boone M, Valera P, Wittlin N, Munoz-Laboy M. The additive effects of traumatic life events on HIV risk, substance use and mental health among young black men who have sex with men in the United States. XIX International AIDS Conference. July 22–27, 2012. Washington, DC.



NEW BOOK

Is It Safe? BPA and the Struggle to Define the Safety of Chemicals

By Sarah A. Vogel

To be published October 2012
by University of California Press



We are all just a little bit plastic. Traces of bisphenol A or BPA, a chemical used in plastics production, are widely detected in our bodies and environment. Is this chemical, and its presence in the human body, safe? What is meant by safety? Who defines it, and according to what information? *Is It Safe* narrates how the meaning of the safety of industrial chemicals has been historically produced by breakthroughs in environmental health research, which in turn trigger contests among trade associations, lawyers, politicians, and citizen activists to set new regulatory standards. Drawing on archival research and extensive interviews, author Sarah Vogel explores the roots of the contemporary debate over the safety of BPA, and the concerns presented by its estrogen-like effects even at low doses. Ultimately, she contends that science alone cannot resolve the political and

economic conflicts at play in the definition of safety. To strike a sustainable balance between the interests of commerce and public health requires recognition that powerful interests will always try to shape the criteria for defining safety, and that the agenda for environmental health research should be protected from capture by any single interest group.

Source: <http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520273580>

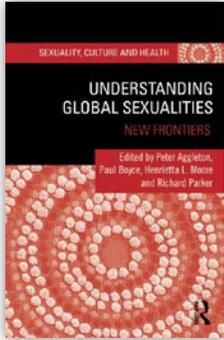
Sarah A. Vogel, PhD, is an alumna of the Department of SMS

NEW BOOK

Understanding Global Sexualities

Edited by Peter Aggleton, Paul Boyce, Henrietta L Moore, and Richard Parker

Published June 26, 2012
by Routledge



Over the course of the past thirty years, there has been an explosion of work on sexuality, both conceptually and methodologically. From a relatively limited, specialist field, the study of sexuality has expanded across a wide range of social sciences. Yet as the field has grown, it has become apparent that a number of leading edge critical issues remain.

This theory-building book explores some of the areas in which there is major and continuing debate, for example, about the relationship between sexuality and gender; about the nature and status of heterosexuality; about hetero- and homo-normativity; about the influence and intersection of class, race, age and other factors in sexual trajectories, identities and lifestyles; and about how best to understand the new forms of sexuality that are emerging in both rich world and developing world contexts.

With contributions from leading and new scholars and activists from across the

globe, this book highlights tensions or 'flash-points' in contemporary debate, and offers some innovative ways forward in terms of thinking about sexuality—both theoretically and with respect to policy and programme development. An extended essay by Henrietta Moore introduces the volume, and an afterword by Jeffrey Weeks offers pointers for the future.

The contributors bring together a range of experiences and a variety of disciplinary perspectives in engaging with three key themes of sexual subjectivity and global transformations, sexualities in practice, and advancing new thinking on sexuality in policy and programmatic contexts.

Source: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415673471>

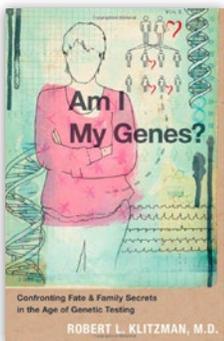
Richard Parker, PhD, is a Professor of SMS and Anthropology

NEW BOOK

Am I My Genes? Confronting Fate and Family Secrets in the Age of Genetic Testing

By Robert L. Klitzman

Published February 2012
by Oxford University Press



In the fifty years since DNA was discovered, we have seen extraordinary advances. For example, genetic testing has rapidly improved the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as Huntington's, cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, and Alzheimer's. But with this new knowledge comes difficult decisions for countless people, who wrestle with fear about whether to get tested, and if so, what to do with the results.

Am I My Genes? shows how real individuals have confronted these issues in their daily lives. Robert L. Klitzman interviewed 64 people who faced Huntington's Disease, breast and ovarian cancer, or Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. The book describes—often in the person's own words—how each has wrestled with the vast implications that genetics has for their lives and their families. Klitzman shows how these men and women struggle to make sense of their predicament and its causes. They confront a series of quandaries—whether to be tested; whether to disclose their genetic risks to parents, siblings, spouses, offspring,

friends, doctors, insurers, employers, and schools; how to view and understand themselves and their genetics; what treatments, if any, to pursue; whether to have children, adopt, screen embryos, or abort; and whether to participate in genetic communities. In the face of these uncertainties, they have tried to understand these tests and probabilities, avoid fatalism, anxiety, despair, and discrimination, and find hope, meaning, and a sense of wholeness.

Klitzman captures here the voices of pioneers, some of the first to encounter the personal dilemmas introduced by modern genetics. *Am I My Genes?* is an invaluable account of their experience, one that will become all the more common in the coming years.

Source: <http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Sociology/?view=usa&ci=9780199837168>

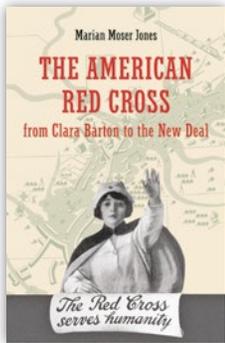
Robert L. Klitzman, PhD, is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry (in SMS)

NEW BOOK

The American Red Cross from Clara Barton to the New Deal

By Marian Moser Jones

To be published Spring 2013
by Johns Hopkins University Press



Marian Moser Jones' new book, the *The American Red Cross from Clara Barton to the New Deal*, tells the story of an iconic, but surprisingly unexamined organization at the center of American philanthropy and public health. The book traces the charitable organization from its beginning in 1881, through humanitarian aid during wars and natural disasters and the Depression, to relief efforts of the 1930s. It highlights the tension between the American Red Cross' founding principles of humanity and neutrality and the political, economic, and moral pressures that sometimes caused it to favor one group at the expense of another.

The book features the following case studies:

- the Jacksonville yellow fever epidemic of 1888, the Sea Islands hurricane of 1893, and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake
- the 1892 Russian famine and the Armenian massacres of 1895–96

- efforts to help civilians affected by the civil war in Cuba
- power struggles within the American Red Cross leadership and subsequent alliances with the American government
- the organization's expansion during World War I
- race riots in East St. Louis, Chicago, and Tulsa between 1917 and 1921
- help for African American and white Southerners after the Mississippi flood of 1927
- relief projects during the Dust Bowl and after the New Deal

An epilogue relates the history of the American Red Cross since the beginning of World War II and illuminates the organization's current practices as well as its international reputation.

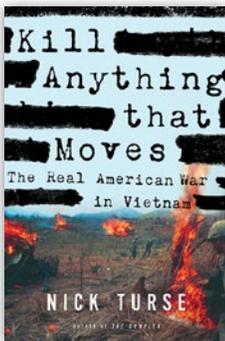
Marian Moser Jones, PhD, is an alumna of the Department of SMS

NEW BOOK

Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam

By Nick Turse

To be published January 2013
by Metropolitan Books



Americans have long been taught that events such as the notorious My Lai massacre were "isolated incidents" in the Vietnam War, carried out by a few "bad apples." However, as award winning journalist and historian Nick Turse demonstrates in this pioneering investigation, violence against Vietnamese civilians was not at all exceptional. Rather, it was pervasive and systematic, the predictable consequence of official orders to "kill anything that moves."

Drawing on a decade of research into secret Pentagon files and extensive interviews with American veterans and Vietnamese survivors, Turse reveals the policies and actions that resulted in millions of innocent civilians killed and wounded. He lays out in shocking detail the workings of a military machine that made crimes in nearly every American unit all but inevitable. *Kill Anything That Moves* takes us from archives filled with

Washington's long-suppressed war crime investigations to the rural Vietnamese hamlets that bore the brunt of the war; from boot camps where young American soldiers learned to hate all Vietnamese to bloodthirsty campaigns like Operation Speedy Express, in which a general obsessed with body counts led his troops to commit what one participant called "a My Lai a month."

Devastating and definitive, *Kill Anything That Moves* finally brings us face-to-face with the truth of a war that haunts America to this day.

Source: http://media.us.macmillan.com/Catalogs/Current/HOL_Winter-2013_06_2012.pdf

Nick Turse, PhD, is an alumni of the Department of SMS



1) Professor Ron Bayer wrote an article included in *The New York Times*' "Room for Debate" feature, addressing the question "What's the Best Way to Break Society's Bad Habits?" <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/06/02/whats-the-best-way-to-break-societys-bad-habits/when-government-can-help-it-must>

2) Professor Robert Fullilove was featured on PBS Frontline, regarding the "Two Worlds of AIDS" in America: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/social-issues/endgame-aids-in-black-america/robert-fullilove-inside-the-two-worlds-of-aids-in-america>

3) Associate Professor Rebecca Jordan-Young, SMS Graduate, was featured in a *Columbia News* article on gender policing at the Olympics. <http://news.columbia.edu/research/2834>



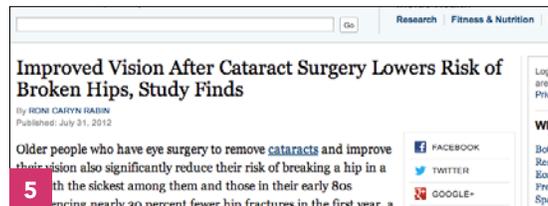
4) Professor David Rosner advised on the New York Historical Society's exhibition "BE SURE! BE SAFE! GET VACCINATED! Smallpox, Vaccination and Civil Liberties in New York" (May 15, 2012-September 2, 2012). He also contributed a three-part series to the Historical Society's blog on the impact of smallpox on American society. <http://behindthescenes.nyhistory.org/smallpox-and-shaping-society-part-3>

5) SMS Assistant Professor Kavita Sivaramakrishnan was quoted in a *New York Times* story on "the critical role that vision plays in quality of life and healthy aging": <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/01/health/research/fewer-hip-fractures-are-a-side-benefit-of-cataract-surgery-study-finds.html>



6) SMS MPH student Megan Schmidt-Sane reported on the Sex Workers' Freedom Festival in Kolkata, India on the MSPH Student Voices blog: <http://wp.me/p1EJ1I-7v> The conference was held as an alternative forum for sex workers and HIV issues, since US visa rules prohibited sex workers from attending the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC (July 22-27, 2012). The alternative conference communicated with the main conference by video link.

7) Professor Carole Vance served as a Professor for the Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute in Istanbul, Turkey, July 7-11, 2012. This 10-day institute is for international activists, advocates, and researchers working on integrating theory and practice regarding sexuality and human rights.



Here are selected courses being offered this fall in the Sociomedical Sciences Department

SMS Course Offerings in Profile—Fall 2012

Advancing Health Literacy | P8776

When: Thursdays, 5 :30 pm—8 :20 pm

Instructor: Gretchen Van Wye, PhD, MA

Course Description: Health Literacy is defined in Healthy People 2010 as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services for appropriate health decisions.” This course explores the multi-layered interactions between health and literacy. The course begins by examining the issues related to literacy in the US and transition to the concept of health literacy. Issues will be discussed related to reading comprehension, and usability of health related materials. The class will learn about the measurement of health literacy; policy to promote it; and the development of appropriate health materials for print, visual, auditory and internet venues. The course will examine different health situations utilizing a health literacy approach including the research participants and informed consent, health literacy and medication/adherence, patient-physician communication models, and risk comprehension. This course will also examine special topics including emergency preparedness. Finally, the course will assess the health literacy implications of the landmark legislation known as the Affordable Care Act. The classes are designed to include a mixture of didactic lectures, analysis of reading materials, group discussion and exercises.

Health Communications: Media Strategies and Global Innovation | P8718

When: Mondays, 5:30 pm—8:20 pm

Instructor: Scott Ratzan, MD, MPA, MA

Course Description: This course will focus on evidence-based practice in health communication to promulgate the design, development, and innovative strategies for enhanced health domestically and globally. The course will survey innovative theoretical and analytical frameworks of health communication including health literacy, behavioral economics, social psychology etc. as well as discuss the potential of individual and system approaches such as tools with checklists, advertising, marketing, public relations, negotiation, diplomacy and policymaking.

The course will engage students with case studies and input from outside experts exploring traditional, interactive and new/social media integration in strategic development of public health communication activities, commercial communication (e.g. direct to consumer), and related areas in the health care system including education and capacity building. The course will be of value for anyone who may develop and apply innovation in health communication to health program design, delivery, evaluation, policymaking, management areas as well as in infectious disease, immunizations, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, women’s, maternal and children’s health, aging and global health.

Selected Bibliography of Faculty Publications and Grants

(MAY–AUGUST 2012)

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Aggleton P, Clarke D, Crewe M, Kippax S, **Parker R**, and Yankah E. Educating about HIV: Prevention, Impact Mitigation and Care. (2012). *AIDS* 26:1215-1222.

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Altman D, Aggleton P, Kong T, **Parker R**, Reddy V, Reis T, and Williams, M. Phobia and Discrimination. (2012). *Lancet*, 380:439-445.

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Hirsch JS. (2012). The social production of men's extramarital sexual practices Routledge *Handbook of Sexuality, Health and Rights*. Peter Aggleton and Richard Parker, editors. Routledge.

Hirsch J, Vasquez E. (2012). Mexico-US migration, social exclusion and HIV risk: Multi-sectoral approaches to understanding and preventing infection. In *HIV Prevention with Latinos: Theory, Research and Practice*. Kurt Organista (Ed.) London: Oxford University Press.

Holtgrave DR, Wolitski RJ, Pals SL, **Aidala A**, Kidder DP, Vos D, Royal S, Iruka N, Briddell K, Stall R, Bendixen AV. Cost-Utility Analysis of the Housing and Health Intervention for Homeless and Unstably Housed Persons Living with HIV. (2012). *AIDS & Behavior*. [Epub ahead of print]

Hopper K. (2012). Commentary: The counter-reformation that failed? A commentary on the mixed legacy of supported housing. *Psychiatric Services* 63(5): 461-463.

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Rosario M, **Schrimshaw EW**, Hunter J. (2012). Homelessness among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth: Implications for subsequent internalizing and externalizing symptoms. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 41, 544-560.

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West BS, **Hirsch JS**, El-Sadr W. (2012). "HIV and H2O: Tracing the connections between gender, water and HIV." *AIDS and Behavior*. [Epub ahead of print.]

NEW GRANTS AND PROJECTS

PhD doctoral candidate **Gina Jae**; NSF Award - Doctoral Dissertation Research. Bone Marrow Transplant Practices for Children with Sickle Cell Disease in the United States and France. August 1, 2012-January 31, 2014 (under the supervision of Professor **Lesley Sharp**)

Assistant Professor **Mark Hatzenbuehler**; National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Social Stress and Substance Abuse Disparities in Sexual Minority Youth. September 1, 2012-June 30, 2017.

Multiple Principal Investigators **Jennifer Hirsch**, Professor, and Paul Colson, Assistant Research Scientist (ICAP), Co-investigators **Richard Parker**, Professor, and **Patrick Wilson**, Associate Professor; R01 National Institute on Mental Health. Advancing PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) for Black MSM: Community-Based Ethnography and Clinic-Based Intervention. September 21, 2012-July 31, 2017.

Associate Professor **Carol Kunzel** (PI), Professor **Mary Northridge** (Lead PI) and Assistant Professor **Eric Schrimshaw**; R01 National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Integrating Social and Systems Science Approaches to Promote Oral Health Equity. September 1, 2012-August 31, 2017.

Assistant Professor **Joyce Moon-Howard** and Associate Research Scientist **Angela Aidala**; American Legacy Foundation. Harlem Point-of-Sale Surveillance Project: POSSE. July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

Professors **Connie Nathanson**, **Peter Messeri**, John Santelli and Associate Professor **James Colgrove**; William T Grant Foundation. Healthy Start: Children as Targets for Preventing Disease in Adult Life. September 1, 2012-August 31, 2015

Assistant Professor **Rachel Shelton**; K12 Career Development Award, Columbia University, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. Treatment Decision-making for Stage II Colon Cancer. July 1, 2012-June 20, 2013.

Assistant Professor **Kavita Sivaramakrishnan**; NSF Award - Scholars Award. The Coming of Age; The Formation of the Global Science and Policy of Aging. August 1, 2012-July 31, 2012

Assistant Professor **Kavita Sivaramakrishnan**; Pfizer. Health Aging Leadership Forums. August 9, 2012 - July 8, 2013.

Associate Professor **Patrick Wilson**; R34 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Daily Psychosocial Determinants of ART Adherence in Substance-Using Black Men. August 1, 2012-July 31, 2015

GRANT RENEWALS

PI: Joyce Moon Howard. **Sponsor:** HRSA. **Title:** Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health; Downstate Healthy Start. **Dates:** 07/01/01 - 05/31/14

PI: Constance Nathanson. **Sponsor:** NICHD. **Title:** Gender Sexuality and Health Training Grant. **Dates:** 05/10/05 - 04/30/17

PI: Ana Abraido. **Sponsor:** NIGMS. **Title:** Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health **Dates:** 01/01/01 - 03/31/17

PI: Richard Parker. **Sponsor:** Ford Foundation. **Title:** Sexuality Policy Watch Phase VI. **Dates:** 03/01/12 - 02/28/14

calendar

FALL 2012

Take note of these upcoming events

EVENT	TIME & PLACE	DATES		
FACULTY MEETING	11:30AM-1PM MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY OCTOBER 16	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20	TUESDAY DECEMBER 18
FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND SMS GRAND ROUNDS	11:30AM-1PM MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY OCTOBER 2	TUESDAY DECEMBER 4	—
SEMINARS IN GENDER SEXUALITY AND HEALTH	11:30AM-1PM MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY OCTOBER 23	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27	—
MSPH ASSEMBLY	11:45AM-12:45PM HHSC 301	TUESDAY OCTOBER 9	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13	TUESDAY DECEMBER 11
MSPH GRAND ROUNDS	4:30-5:30PM (SEE BELOW FOR LOCATIONS)	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10 ¹	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 ²	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12 ²
BAGEL BASH	9-10AM MSPH ROOM 532	FRIDAY OCTOBER 26	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16	—

¹ MSPH 8th floor auditorium

² Alumni Auditorium (Black Building)

SMS socialforces

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Stephen Smith Professor and Chair
of Sociomedical Sciences

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