

Departmental Newsletter

Sexual and Reproductive Rights: The Peruvian Woman's Perspective..... By Audrey MacNevin

Over the past three years, I conducted primary research in Peru, supported by a SSHRC-funded project with Dr. Alfredo Schulte Bockholt called, "Government Crime, Corruption, and Human Rights in Peru (1990-2000)." My involvement took the form of a gender-based study which specifically investigated Peruvian women's perceptions of their sexual and reproductive rights. *Cont'd on page 3*

A word from our Chair.... Evie Tastsoglou

In the middle of a rough Nova Scotia winter I want to extend warm greetings to our entire Departmental community and to celebrate the publication of the second issue of our Sociology and Criminology Newsletter. Continuing from our first issue, this newsletter represents our Department's collective voice, highlights useful academic information about new courses... *Cont'd on page 2*

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Faculty at the Departmental Retreat – more on pg 6

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The Mean Girl Motive....Our own Nicole E. R. Landry



The Cover of "The Mean Girl Motive" by Nicole Landry, former Criminology Masters student.

Nicole Landry, an MA graduate from our criminology masters programme, recently published a book, based on her M.A thesis, titled "The Mean Girl Motive: Negotiating Power and Femininity". *Cont'd on page 8*

Message from our Chair...cont'd from front page

projects, research and teaching opportunities; helps to familiarize students and faculty with each other's work; and announces and celebrates students' and faculty's important academic news and life events.

There is a number of things that I want to share with you since that last newsletter. First, I want to express my thanks to Dr. Madine VanderPlaat for serving as Acting Chair, as competently as ever, during my Athens sabbatical last winter. Second, I want to welcome new faculty member, Dr. David Flint who is replacing Dr. Gene Barrett while he is on a three year leave out of the country. David is a specialist on community studies and Atlantic Canada and teaches his fourth year seminar on Atlantic Coastal Communities. Third, I want to congratulate our colleague Dr. Mythili Rajiva for baby Arjun, the new very happy addition to her family.



Despite a small drop in enrollment figures comparing to last fall, our Department is still one of the largest in the Faculty of Arts, with 317 students enrolled for a B.A., in Sociology or Criminology, 19 students for a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Sociology or Criminology, 40 for a Bachelor of Arts and a double concentration, and 14 M.A. students. We have 19 full-time faculty, 16 part-time, and two adjunct professors. We have been fortunate this year to have, in addition to our devoted staff, Sandi and Lindia, a new Departmental Intern, Sheena Alleyne, who is a graduate student in International Development Studies. In addition, Dr. Sandy Petrinioti, from the Department of International and European Studies of Panteion University of Athens, has been spending her sabbatical with us as a visiting Professor. Our Department is very much on the research map not only of the Arts Faculty but of Saint Mary's University, with great new projects that our faculty has initiated, such as the SMU / PALS program (congratulations to Steve Schneider); the "Project for an International Feminist University" (congratulations to Linda Christiansen – Ruffman); the "Commercial Advertising and Adolescent Gambling" project (congratulations to Dr. John McMullan); and the CURA Restorative Justice project (congratulations to Diane Crocker). Besides numerous book chapters, refereed journal and policy publications, our faculty have published this last year alone a number of books and book-length refereed reports (congratulations to Michele Byers, Sandra Bell, Steve Schneider, Henry Veltmeyer and the Security and Immigration Project Team). Finally, Departmental faculty have played key roles in the five-year renewal of our Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence for research on immigration and diversity (congratulations to our in-house Atlantic Metropolis team).

It has been an unusually busy fall and winter semester, as we are gearing up for a full academic review next year. An Academic Review Committee has been busy collecting and synthesizing information that the Department will need to make available for the review in the fall of 2008. The Undergraduate and Honours Committee has been re-examining our course offerings, our Honours Seminar, and policies on Directed Readings and course equivalencies. The Graduate Program Committee, advising the Graduate Program Coordinator, is continuing its work refining policies for the Graduate Program; our Teaching Assistant Committee has been supervising the T.A. allocation in the Department; the Timetable Committee has been very productive with policy documents for teaching allocation and, of course, the first draft of next year's timetable. In general, committees present findings and proposals to the Department for discussion and vote. Our electronic Departmental archive is fully operational and in use (though with some reluctance by those yet to-be-initiated). We have just come out of a full-day retreat on February 1 working on a collective and coherent vision to carry us forward in the future. As the outcomes of this retreat are getting consolidated, important changes in our Departmental structure and course and program offerings are being anticipated in the next little while. Finally, normal business has also included adjudication of three tenure and promotion cases.

Congratulations to our entire Departmental community for a successful year!

With my very best wishes for 2008,

Evie Tastsoglou

Sexual and Reproductive Rights: The Peruvian Woman's Perspective

by Audrey MacNevin... from front page

The largest non-profit women's organization in Peru, Movimiento Manuela Ramos, helped us to arrange and coordinate interviews with women, which began in the spring of 2005. Our research team was composed of myself, Luis Augusto Sepulveda (Research Associate and Spanish Translator), Claire Hodge (Spanish Translator and videographer) and Anaberta Guitierrez, (Quechua interpreter and translator).



Young Women in Cusibamba, Peru

The first research site was an illegal settlement (*invasione*) located in the district of San Juan de Miraflores (just outside Lima) called Pamplona Alta. People in the *invasione* refer to themselves as Minus Dos Milles ("Less than 2000"). Their makeshift dwellings are precariously perched on steep hills of arid sand and they live under clearly sub-standard conditions – all water must be trucked in, they access electricity illegally through wires they string themselves, they have no medical care, etc. They're also under continuous threat of the police and by more people pouring down from the mountains. Many of the women walk or take illegal buses to work in Lima, primarily as domestic servants, or as piece workers in factories, and a good number also sell food from carts on the street. The men mostly drive taxi, work as security guards and do factory work. Children commonly work at odd jobs after school to help their families, like shining shoes in the more affluent communities of Lima, or by selling bread or cooked food in the streets. Little girls often help their mothers at the market stalls for long hours or take care of younger members of the family. Parental supervision of children is minimal, and bands of children roam the streets.



Food Vendors in Huamanga



A Picture of an Invasione in Peru

The second research site was located in Pampacangallo, in the district of Ayacucho, which is primarily a farming community (maize, beans and potatoes) plus some herding and quy (guinea pig) farming located at an altitude of 2700 meters in the Andes Mountains. Ayacucho was the epicenter of a guerilla war that started in the 1980s and claimed thousands of lives and caused the abandonment of hundreds of small communities. *Invasiones*, like Pamplona Alta described above, are the direct result of the dislocation caused by the violence. Today, women in Pampacangallo are primarily responsible for tending farm animals, which might include a quy operation, and they help in the *chakra* (fields cleared and planted with maize, beans and potatoes) during planting and harvest. Women also have the major responsibility for post-harvest activities such as processing and storage, thus they play a key role in household food security. Men are mostly responsible for the heavy labour in the *chakra*.

In addition to the interviews with women (32 in number), we also spoke with journalists, police officers, lawyers, medical doctors, a crown prosecutor, and several health promoters of Manuela Ramos. Preliminary findings from this study were presented to the Saint Mary's University Arts Colloquium (2006) and to San Marcos University in Lima, Peru (2007). In the spring of 2008, conference papers will be presented at the 2nd International Conference on Sociology in Athens, Greece and at Oxford University, England.

World Traveler– Alfredo Schulte-Bockholt

I arrived in Lima, Peru, in mid-July 2006 to continue the SSHRC-financed research on crime and corruption during the Fujimori dictatorship (1990 - 2000) for the third year. In my judgement, this project provided a unique opportunity to study the criminal practices of a dictatorial regime only a few years after its demise. I was accompanied by my partner Claire Hodge who worked on a number of self-financed projects, most importantly the making of a video depicting the living conditions of Peruvian women.

My own stay in Lima was generally uneventful by Peruvian standards. I usually met my collaborator, Mr. Fernando Reyna Mattos, five days a week from 9 to 5 (except the weekend). Mr. Mattos is a veteran Peruvian journalist with some 20 years of experience whose input proved invaluable for my project. We would usually either try to locate material somewhere in Lima, or spend the day at Fernando's house to research the information gathered. (cont'd on page 7)

PALS Programme– Stephen Schneider

PALS is a social developmental program is for children (ages 6 to 13) who live in disadvantaged environments. Based on the principles of Crime Prevention through Social Development, the program is meant to address factors that put children at risk of future criminal and other anti-social behaviour by enhancing their "resilience."

The specific criminogenic risk factors targeted by the PALS program are: (1) poor cognitive (reading and literacy) skills, (2) low-self-esteem, (3) aggression/anger management problems, (4) hyperactivity, (5) cognitive-behavioural deficiencies (in particular, poor problem-solving skills), (6) a lack of empathy, and (7) problems with social participation (i.e., poor social network skills, inability to work in a group context).

The PALS program promotes five areas that address these risk factors: (1) education (academic development); (2) social competency skills (behavioural development); (3) critical thinking and problem-solving skills (cognitive behavioural development); (4) physical activity (health development); and (5) mentors (positive role models). Each child is matched with a Saint Mary's University student who acts as a mentor and a tutor.

As part of the academic component of the program, the mentor reads with the child and may even help with homework. The program is also meant to promote positive behaviour, attitudes and life skills essential to a child's development. Participating children take part in structured activities in the classroom and engage in sports-based activities with SMU men's and women's varsity teams. In addition to exposing the children and youth to positive role models while encouraging a physically active lifestyle, the activities are structured to address such positive behaviours and life skills as: self-esteem and self-confidence, empathy, emotional awareness, team work and cooperation, critical thinking and problem-solving, impulse control, and anger management. PALS utilizes the "I Can Problem Solve" curriculum (www.thinkingchild.com), which teaches children thinking, problem-solving, and coping skills that can have both an immediate impact on their school performance and behaviour and which is also meant to carry over to their teenaged and adult years. All PALS activities take place at the Saint Mary's University campus.

As a quasi-experiment, there are two basic hypotheses underlying the PALS program research: (1) that resilience can be promoted within at-risk children through interventions targeted directly at the child (e.g., tutoring, mentorship, behavioural and cognitive-behavioural development) and (2) the promotion of resilience within at-risk children can ameliorate delinquent and criminal behaviour during adolescence and adulthood. (The latter objective will be measured through longitudinal research that tracks child in the treatment and control groups into their teenaged and adult years).

Faculty News....

Professional Activities & Community Service

Our own, **Diane Crocker**, became a member of the Senate this year. Congratulations!!!



Linda Christiansen-Ruffman (right) at the FAFIA recognition ceremony.

On December 2, 2007, **Linda Christiansen-Ruffman** was recognized for her outstanding contribution to Canada's Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) during a special recognition ceremony held in Ottawa. Also during that ceremony, **Linda** stepped down from FAFIA's steering committee, after seven years of devoted service. Her terms spent serving on the national steering committee included several distinct phases of this organisation which she helped to establish following the 1995 United Nations meeting in Beijing. **Linda** brings some of this Canadian and global policy analysis and human rights thinking to the university. In Collaboration with Women Studies, she facilitated the hosting of one regional consultation session for FAFIA at the university, along with an eminent speaker from British Columbia and coordinated a number of sessions with groups and coalitions of Nova Scotia women engaged in research and policy analysis on Child Care, poverty, access to university education by women living in poverty, and social assistance.

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

Val Marie Johnson organized a panel on Histories of Regulation as Histories of the Human Sciences and presented "Knowing and Governing Youth, Justice, and Liberalism in Canada, 1960-1971" at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 18th November 2007. **Val** was also the Panel Discussant on Migration police, Transnationalism and Gender at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 16th November 2007.

Zohreh Byatrizi presented "The 19th Century Project to Prevent Self-Killing" on the same panel as **Val Marie Johnson**, at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 18th November 2007. She also chaired a panel and presented a paper at the 5th Annual Asia Scholars Conference, Kuala Lumpur, August 2007.

Madine VanderPlaat presented a paper on "Racism and Discrimination in Canada: Laws Policies and Practices" at the 12th Annual Metropolis Conference. Melbourne, Australia: October 8-12, 2007. She also co-organized a workshop on Efficacy in Racism Policy: A Comparative Analysis of Practice.

Macdonald Ighodaro gave the keynote address at St.F.X. University as part of Martin Luther King Day celebrations on January 21st. He spoke on issues such as social psychological oppression, collective resistance and anti-racist practice.

David Flint was a participant at the Third Community Collaboration Action Team (CCAT) Workshop-Meeting in Iloilo City, Philippines February 26-29. This is a working group within the CIDA-sponsored Principles in Practice (PIP) Ocean and Coastal Governance Project, an interdisciplinary collaboration of Canadian, Filipino and Vietnamese academics. CCAT was convened to develop university-level curricula and teaching modules for the social analysis of coastal communities.

BOOKED

Zohreh Byatrizi:
'From Fate to Risk: The Quantification of Death in Early Modern Statistics.' *Theory, Culture and Society* 25(1): 125-147.

New Part-Time Staff

Darl Wood

Benjamin Amaya

Alain Takam

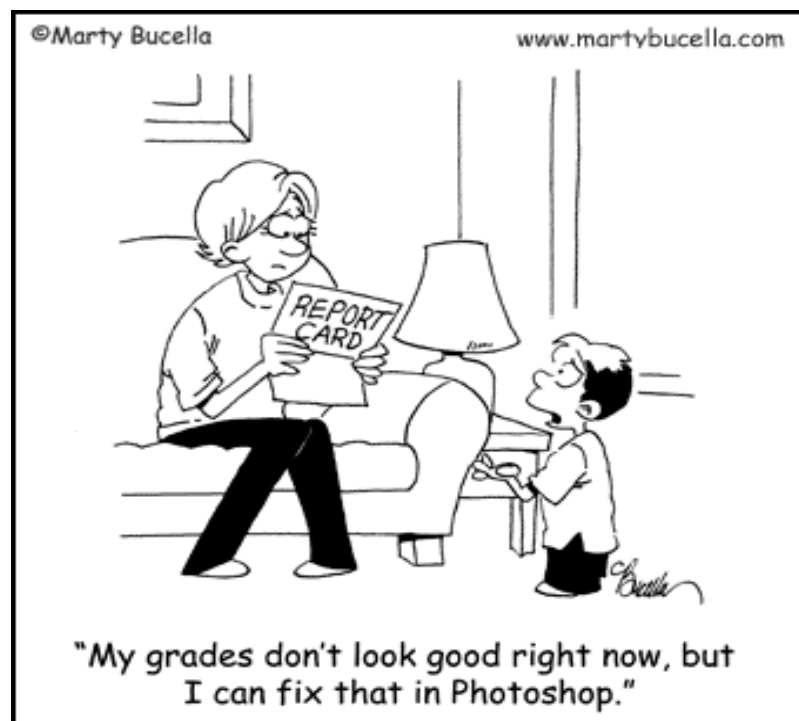
Research Briefs

Val Marie Johnson and Sandra Bell received a SSHRC Standard Research Grant for a study on Canadian Juvenile Justice Reform & Liberal Governing, 1960-82 (2005-08). They are investigating how, beginning at least as early as the 1960's, the shift from welfare-based to advanced forms of liberalism was linked with trends in juvenile justice reform. This shift culminated in both the final draft of the Young Offender's Act and reconfigurations in how youth, rights, responsibilities, citizenship and risk are governed in Canada. The project is particularly focused on tracing the gradual construction of youth as offenders, and the shift from social to individual conceptions of rights. This is accomplished through a qualitative analysis of legislation proposed in this era and connected political and social debates. In order to contextualize these developments internationally, the project also involves a comparison of reforms that led to the establishment of a Scottish children's hearing system based on the welfare principles that were increasingly abandoned in Canada in this era.

Linda Christiansen-Ruffman and Azza Anis (adjunct professor of Women's Studies) are currently working on a grant from the Ford Foundation related to the development of the International Feminist University Network. In conjunction with this grant, they organized a two week international workshop at the Grail Centre in Kleinmond, South Africa from September 17 to September 28, 2007 as well as associated planning meetings and Board meetings. The workshop was entitled "Another World is Possible in Our Lives: Feminist Perspectives" , also made possible by funding from the Global Fund for Women and from several African donors. It utilized IFUN's workshop methodology which has been developing since the Wise Women's Workshop in 2001, held at Kvinneuniversitetet, the Women's University in Norway. Another part of the research focuses on the development of organizational models which are appropriate to a decentralized International Feminist University.

Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Marilyn Porter (Memorial University) and Francine Descarries (University of Quebec in Montreal) are currently working on a SSHRC funded research development initiative entitled, "Research As if Women Mattered: Canadian Feminist Scholarship in the Global Age." As part of this initiative, they will be hosting a workshop, "Moving Feminism Forward" in Quebec in May.

Comic Relief



Department Activities

Our Retreat



Standing from left to right: Sandra Bell, Audrey MacNevin, David Flint, Macdonald Ighodaro, Alfredo Schulte-Bockholt, Michele Byers, Zohreh Bayatrizi, Diane Crocker, Val Marie Johnson, Madine VanderPlaat, Linda C. Ruffman, Rosemarie Nichols (facilitator). Seated from left to right: Russell Westhaver, Steve Schneider and Evie Tastsoglou (Chair).

Our departmental retreat was held on February 1st 2008 at the Atlantic School of Theology. Faculty participated in a full day of activities and engaged in interesting discussion regarding the future of the department.

Upcoming Events

Department Welcoming Party



Faculty Members...Smile!!!

Last fall, the department held a welcoming party for faculty and students. The party provided a great opportunity for both faculty, staff and students to get acquainted with each other under a class-room free atmosphere.



Some of our graduate students

World Traveler *cont'd from page 4....*

I left Lima on a number of occasions to research corruption at other locations. In September of 2006 I went north and spent some two weeks in a Peruvian-Ecuadorian border town called Tumbes to have a personal look at smuggling operations and customs officials on the take. (This brings me to a minor question. If I have to pay a bribe to get an essential service like the visa for Peru, can I charge that to SSHRC? Unfortunately, I have no receipts from that particular transaction.)

In October 2006, during the municipal elections in Peru I stayed twelve days in the Andean village of Pampacangallo in the province of Ayacucho accompanied by my partner Claire Hodge. Once there I examined local electoral corruption ranging from the cover-up of the murder of an opposition politician to money and food given to people to 'help them decide' who to vote for. Claire did video work and interviewed a number of local women, a project she had prepared weeks in advance with a feminist NGO in Lima.

We remained in Peru until January of 2007, after which we left for Sevilla, Spain, where Claire took Flamenco guitar classes. I initially did research to compare the criminal practices of the Franco dictatorship with those of the Fujimori regime. Subsequently, between February and May 2007 I wrote between 160 - 180 pages on my manuscript for the book on corruption in Peru. It is my hope to have a complete manuscript by mid to late 2008.

The Latest on Our Students, Past and Present.....

The Mean Girl Motive: Negotiating Power and Femininity by **Nicole E.R. Landry**

Taken from the Cover

Prior to the 1980s, girls were completely excluded from research on childhood aggression. Not only were girls missing from research, their voices were frequently absent in current "girl aggression" discourse. Despite this, "mean" girls have received growing attention, especially in psychology research. Besides conclusions that boys and girls aggress differently, much work has only offered a means of labelling, identifying and further problematizing girls' so-called mean behaviour. This book moves beyond the superficial to explore the social context of such behaviour. It examines the intersection among



The Cover of Nicole's recently published book; "The Mean Girl Motive".

structures of class, race and gender in the production of girls' aggression. It also draws on girls' first-hand knowledge and experiences for a candid glimpse into a culture that raises critical questions and our "taken for granted" knowledge of girls' meanness.

Nicole Landry is an MA graduate from Saint Mary's University in Halifax. Her area of specialization is girl aggression and violence.

More student success stories.....

Two of our graduate students, **Kathryn Bliss** and **Aunshul Rege** presented their research plans for their thesis at a Graduate Student Conference at the Centre for Criminology in Toronto.

Aunshul Rege co-authored with **John McMullan** in a recently published article titled "**Cyberextortion at Online Gambling Sites: Criminal Organizations and Legal Challenges**". The article was published in the *Gaming Law Review, Vol 11, Number 6, December 2007*.

Congratulations to **Allanna Howell** who successfully defended her thesis **Victims of Child Sexual Abuse: Who's Responsible and Who's Believable**, last October.

Past student, **Jan Cavicchi**, now holds the position of Research & Statistical Officer at the Nova Scotia Department of Justice – her "dream job". She still hopes to teach part-time in the department.

Notices

New Graduate Students

Cheryl Penney

Val Billard

Rene MacCandless

Upcoming Events

Our Junior Partners

Welcome to our Newest Junior addition.....



We're happy to extend a warm welcome to our latest addition to the junior partner division, Arjun Tarun Stanley Gandhi, son of Faculty member, Mythili Rajiva. Arjun came into the world at 4pm on October 27th, 2007, weighing 8lbs.

Congratulations to Mythili.

More on our other Juniors

Diane's wee little one Amelia



Evie's Athena (right) and Sandra Bell (left).

Guess Who???

Can you guess which member of staff is in this picture????.....

