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SMS socialforces

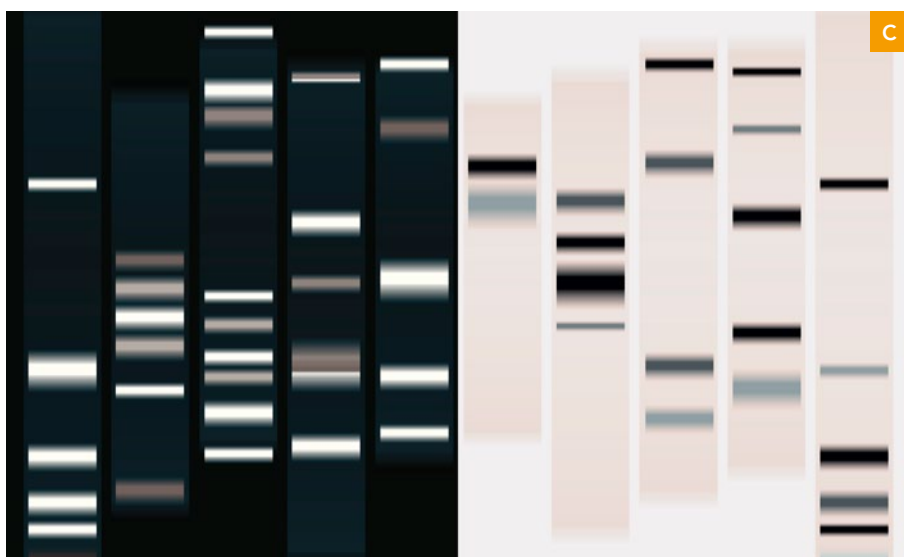
the TRIANNUAL NEWSLETTER of

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIO MEDICAL SCIENCES, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



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SMS snapshots...



Dean Linda Fried presents gift to Professor Amy Fairchild at her celebration as former SMS Chair, December 4, 2012



First meeting of the MSPH Mass Incarceration and Public Health Working Group, December 11, 2012



Departments of SMS and Epidemiology Mixer with Profs. Leslie Davidson, Angela Aidala, Denise Kandel, and Lisa Metsch, November 16, 2012



Seminar Series in Gender, Sexuality, and Health lecture with Heather Wurtz, Rebecca Kruger, Profs. Lesley Sharp and Peter Messeri, and Ronna Popkin, October 23, 2012



Faculty, staff, and students show off their dance moves at the SMS Holiday Party, December 11, 2012



WHO inauguration of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health as a WHO Collaborating Center for Bioethics, October 18, 2012

welcome

FROM THE CHAIR



Happy 2013! My first semester at SMS has truly been exciting. We initiated a SMS Grand Rounds lecture series, had one of our Centers honored by the World Health Organization, hosted several thought-provoking presentations by faculty and guest speakers, and held a number of fun socials, mixers, and celebrations, notably one to honor Professor Amy Fairchild for her tenure as Chair of this department (2008-2012). We also launched our new department Facebook page (search “Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia Public Health”) where you can receive reminders for upcoming lectures and socials, follow links to new publications by faculty and students, and look through pictures from various SMS events.

After the successful release of our first edition of *SMS Social Forces* last October 2012, we have since added new content to further highlight the many achievements and initiatives of our department. Notably, we are now featuring SMS Alumni and Centers housed in SMS to update you on the impactful and important work being done beyond the walls of the SMS classroom. In addition, with the launching of the new Core Curriculum last semester, we want to share how SMS faculty are playing a prominent role by exemplifying the unique SMS lens in different teaching modules throughout the five “studios” or areas of study in the new Core.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year and hope to continue fostering a sense of community and pride in our department. Please send any 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

A warm welcome to new SMS faculty and staff

- **Roxana Bell**
Research Interviewer
- **Jonathan Garcia**
Associate Research Scientist
- **Amanda Geller**
Assistant Professor
- **Chloe Mirzayi**
Data Analyst
- **Milka Monegro**
Project Coordinator
- **Carrigan Parish**
Project Director
- **Nitika Sharma**
Research Assistant
- **Gertraud Stadler-Queiroz**
Associate Research Scientist
- **Gloria Thomas**
Technician
- **Michelle Rivera**
Department Administrator
- **Deyanira Roca**
Program Manager
- **Denise Vidot**
Data Analyst

research findings



ARTICLE

The Gendered Nature of Schooling in Ghana: Hurdles to Girls' Menstrual Management in School

SMS Professor Marni Sommer conducted research in Tanzania, which resulted in a girl's puberty book aimed at filling the identified gaps in girls' pubertal and menstrual hygiene management guidance. Building on this research, Professor Sommer conducted a similar participatory study in rural and urban Ghana. Her aims were to gain a better understanding of the intersection of girls' education and menstruation in the local context, and adapt the Tanzania girl's book. Using an in-depth comparative case study design (including ethnographic observations, archival analysis, key informant interviews, and participatory group activities), Professor Sommer and her co-author, Nana Mokoah Ackatia-Armah, identified major themes including: 1) gaps in menstrual knowledge and preparation; 2) structural challenges in the school environment; and 3) girls' recommendations for improving the menstrual-school collision.

Across study sites, adolescent girls communicated feeling insufficiently prepared for the onset of menstruation and for its subsequent management. Many cited initial fears about severe illness or the misconstrued belief by others that promiscuous sexual behavior had occurred. Many shared a hesitation to inform a mother, possibly stemming from a traditional culture

of other women (aunts, grandmothers, older sister) providing guidance in this area, and some mothers leading girls to believe that menstrual flow was related to promiscuity. In the school environment, observations and feedback highlighted inadequate structure and quality of the water/sanitation facilities (i.e. lack of privacy, disposal mechanisms for menstrual materials, etc.), teasing from boys who lacked proper knowledge of what girls were experiencing, and insufficient training of teachers (particularly male) to feel comfortable instructing on the subject. Suggestions from girls on how to address menstrual challenges posed by their environment included dividing the bathrooms into two sections (one for boys and one for girls with a key to lock it), having a water pipe running into the latrine stall, and having available a bucket of water and soap for washing menstrual blood off of hands or stains off of skirts. Overall, Professor Sommer found that the challenges and needs highlighted in this study in Ghana were similar to those found in other recent studies, including her research in Tanzania, and research (not yet published) in Cambodia and Ethiopia. Furthermore, she underscored the importance of girl-focused approaches, particularly the essential component of capturing girls' voiced experiences and recommendations, to successfully develop and employ social and structural changes to adapt to girls' unique needs as they transition through puberty.

Source: Sommer M and Ackatia-Armah NM (2012). The Gendered Nature of Schooling in Ghana: Hurdles to Girls' Menstrual Management in School. *Journal of Culture and African Women Studies*, No. 20, Special Issue: Education in Africa.

ARTICLE

Salt and public health: contested science and the challenge of evidence-based decision making

SMS Professor Ronald Bayer and SMS doctoral student David Johns (with Epidemiology Professor Sandro Galea) have authored a new review in the December 2012 issue of *Health Affairs*. Their review discusses the controversy surrounding the evidence relating high salt consumption to adverse health consequences, and its implications for population-level salt reduction interventions. The authors highlight studies, recommendations, meta-analyses, federal policies, and reports in the popular press, which have collectively produced conflicting results throughout the last four decades. Yet, in contrast to this debate over what the available scientific evidence actually says, public health recommendations at local, national, and international levels have almost unanimously asserted that there is incontrovertible evidence of the prevalence of cardiovascular disease as a result of elevated salt consumption, and as such, policies must support efforts to reduce population intake of salt.

While they summarize arguments in this salt controversy, the authors emphasize that their intention is not to provide a conclusion on the merits of the evidence on salt and public health, but rather to identify and raise questions "...about what counts as evidence and how to understand the gulf between the certainty that has framed recommendations on salt and the persistence of the scientific debate." "What's striking about the salt debate," write the authors, "is that the combatants cannot be neatly divided between the respected advocates of a mainstream position and a band of marginal dissidents. Respected scientists have found themselves on both sides of the divide." The salt controversy also forces a critical eye on the role of randomized controlled trials as the "golden standard" of definitive scientific evidence, as opposed to weighing collective evidence from observational studies, animal experiments, and clinical studies. In light of this tension, the authors agree that policy makers must act in the face of scientific disagreement, and even uncertainty. They conclude that, "the concealment of scientific uncertainty is a mistake that serves neither the ends of science nor good policy. Simplistic pictures of translation from evidence to action distort our ability to understand how policy is, in fact, made and how it should be made." In evidence-informed policy making, they highlight the essential need to recognize the role that judgment and values must play, and call for a more nuanced and transparent weighing of different evidence to determine likely benefits, costs, and unintended consequences.

Source: Bayer R, Johns DM, and Galea S (2012). Salt and public health: contested science and the challenge of evidence-based decision making. *Health Affairs*, 31(12): 2738-2746.

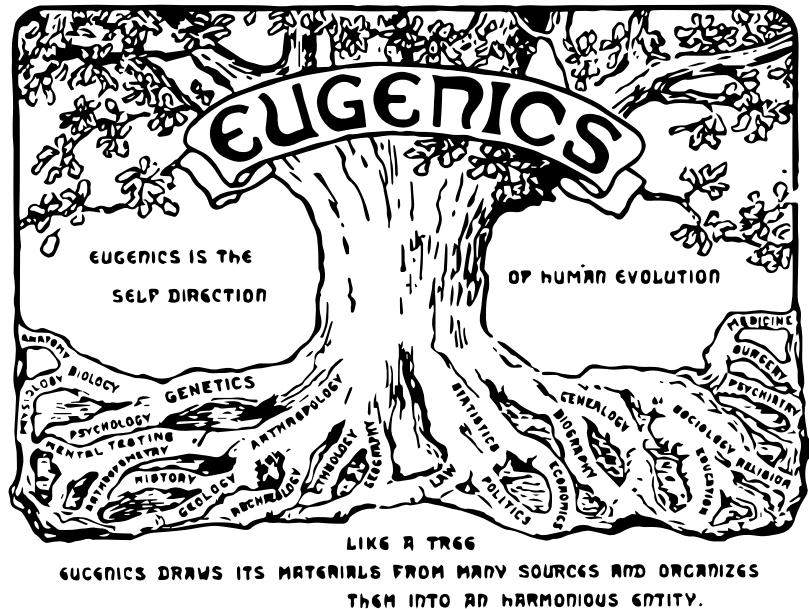


ARTICLE

The Genomic Revolution and Beliefs about Essential Racial Differences: A Backdoor to Eugenics?

In Troy Duster's book *Backdoor to Eugenics* published in 2003, he argues that reports of specific racial difference in genetic bases of disease may heighten public beliefs in more pervasive racial differences. To test this hypothesis, SMS Professors Jo Phelan and Bruce Link and SMS DrPH student Naomi Feldman conducted a multi-method study, the results suggesting evidence supporting Duster's hypothesis and the researcher's concern—that an unintended consequence of the genomic revolution may be to invigorate age-old beliefs in essential racial differences and renew justification of racial inequality.

Designing an empirical test of Duster's backdoor-to-eugenics hypothesis required demonstrating the convergence of two related phenomena. First, the occurrence of a genomic revolution where genetic research has increased the public's exposure to statements indicated that racial groups differ in terms of genetically influenced diseases, which the authors refer to as "backdoor" messages. Second, that the public responds to these statements with an increased belief that racial groups differ more essentially, in ways that go beyond health. A media content analysis to evaluate the first phenomena showed that articles about race, genetics, health, and more specifically, health-related genetic differences between blacks and whites, increased significantly between 1985 and 2008. Interestingly, backdoor messages of race in the context of medical disorders appeared in 0% of textbooks from 1952-1962, but appeared in 93% of 1993-2002 textbooks. To evaluate the second phenomena, the researchers constructed news-account vignettes to assess the impact of reading different news accounts on belief in essential racial differences. They found that the "Backdoor" vignette had an impact on broad beliefs about racial differences of the same magnitude as the "Race-as-Genetic-Reality" vignette (that explicitly argued for broadly based genetic differences between racial groups), and of significantly higher magnitude as the "Race-as-Social-Construction" or the reading of no vignette.



Aligned with Duster's hypothesis, Professors Phelan and Link's increased concern based on these findings relates to their conceptualization of stigma whereby, for example, increased belief in the distinctiveness of black and white people, whatever the source of changed beliefs, may exacerbate all aspects of racism, including structural and individual discrimination, stereotypes, and negative emotions. Their findings highlight how research reports and media stories about race, health and genetics are not only common, but they are presented in a neutral, non-ideological manner which circumvents the usual tendency to be critical of incoming persuasive messages and check them against pre-existing social attitudes. More broadly, their findings warrant concern because it demonstrates just how little it takes, when it comes to introducing information about genetics, to trigger divisive racial beliefs and attitudes.

Logo of the Second International Congress of Eugenics, 1921

Source: Phelan JC, Link BG, and Feldman NM (2013). The Genomic Revolution and Beliefs about Essential Racial Differences: A Backdoor to Eugenics? *American Sociological Review*, 78(2): 167-191.

dispatches

FROM SMS

2

highlighted the results of [research projects] for each. These projects... The best thing was that I had a... [text continues]

PATRICK A. WILSON *Patrick Wilson*
 Associate professor of environmental health... [text continues]

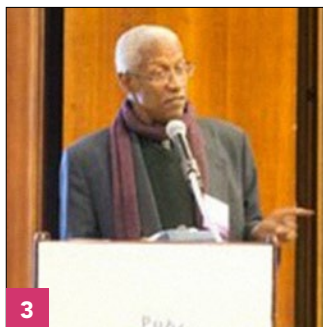



Opinionator
Exclusive Online Commentary From The Times

6

A Brief History of Panic
 by AMY L. FAIRCHILD, DAVID MERRITT JOHNS and KAVITA SIVARAMAKRISHNAN

In September of 1873, United States Sen. Louisiana received a telegram from his h... lines spoke of object desperation:



Health Advocacy Organizations and the Pharmaceutical Industry: An Analysis of Disclosure Practices

Sheila M. Rothman, PhD, Victoria H. Reves, PhD, Anne Friedman, BA, and David J. Rothman, PhD

Health advocacy organiza... [text continues]

5

Keeping Sexuality Secret Takes Mental Toll on Bisexual Men

Those who concealed their same-sex relationships had higher rates of depression and anxiety, study found

January 4, 2013 | RSS Feed | Print

HealthDay

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1) David Rosner, Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of SMS, was quoted in an ABC News article, "Lead Found in Eggs Laid by Chicken in New York City Gardens" http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/city-chickens-lay-led-eggs-researchers/story?id=17447183#.UH3AHG_7KB_

2) Professor Patrick Wilson was named a *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* Emerging Scholar for 2013. Every year, the Emerging Scholars edition features a diverse group of rising researchers, thinkers, and leaders in various fields.

3) Professor Mindy Thompson Fullilove was elected to The Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for the term December 2012 through December 2015. She is

one of only three public board members at the AIA and will share her insights on the problems of American cities from a psychiatric perspective.

4) Professor Robert E. Fullilove was honored with the Allan Rosenfield Award for Public Health and Social Justice at the Public Health Association of New York City (PHANYS) 2012 Awards Ceremony and Dinner on November 15, 2012.

5) Professor Sheila M. Rothman and her co-authors received an AJPH Paper of the Year award for their paper, "Health Advocacy Organizations and the Pharmaceutical Industry: An Analysis of Disclosure Practices" from the American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) during the Public Health Awards Reception and Ceremony at the 2012 APHA Annual

Meeting on Tuesday, October 30, in San Francisco, CA.

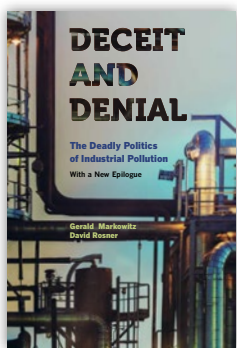
6) Professor Amy Fairchild, David Merritt Johns (PhD Candidate), and **Professor Kavita Sivaramakrishnan** wrote an online article included in the *New York Times*, "A Brief History of Panic." <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/28/a-brief-history-of-panic>

7) Professors Eric Schrimshaw and Karolynn Siegal had their study, "Disclosure and Concealment of Sexual Orientation and the Mental Health of Non-Gay-Identified, Behaviorally Bisexual Men" featured in a *U.S. News and World Report* article. <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/news/articles/2013/01/04/keeping-sexuality-secret-takes-mental-toll-on-bisexual-men>

NEW BOOK

The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution, With a New Epilogue

By **Gerald Markowitz** and **David Rosner**
 Published January 2013
 by University of California Press



Deceit and Denial details the attempts by the chemical and lead industries to deceive Americans about the dangers that their deadly products present to workers, the public, and consumers. The authors pursued evidence steadily and relentlessly, interviewed the important players, investigated untapped sources, and uncovered a bruising story of cynical and cruel disregard for health and human rights. This resulting exposé is full of startling revelations, provocative arguments, and disturbing conclusions—all based on remarkable research and information gleaned from secret industry documents. This book highlights the immediate dangers ordinary citizens face because of the relentless failure of industrial polluters to warn, inform, and protect their workers and neighbors. It offers a historical analysis of how corporate control over scientific research has undermined the process of proving the links between toxic chemicals and disease. The authors

also describe the wisdom, courage, and determination of workers and community members who continue to voice their concerns in spite of vicious opposition. After eleven years, SMS Professors Markowitz and Rosner update their work with a new epilogue that outlines the attempts these industries have made to undermine and create doubt about the accuracy of the information in this book.

Source: <http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520275829>

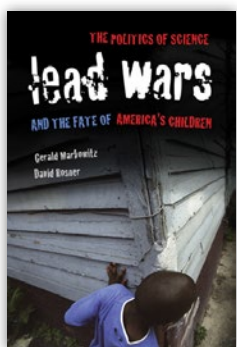
Gerald Markowitz, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor of SMS

David Rosner, PhD, is the Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of SMS, a Professor of History, and a Co-Director of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health

NEW BOOK

Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children

By **Gerald Markowitz** and **David Rosner**
 To be published April 2013
 by University of California Press



In this incisive examination of lead poisoning during the past half century, SMS Professors Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner focus on one of the most contentious and bitter battles in the history of public health. *Lead Wars* details how the nature of the epidemic has changed and highlights the dilemmas public health agencies face today in terms of prevention strategies and chronic illness linked to low levels of toxic exposure. The authors use the opinion by Maryland's Court of Appeals—which considered whether researchers at Johns Hopkins University's prestigious Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI) engaged in unethical research on 108 African-American children—as a springboard to ask fundamental questions about the practice and future of public health. *Lead Wars* chronicles the obstacles faced by

public health workers in the conservative, pro-business, anti-regulatory climate that took off in the Reagan years and that stymied efforts to eliminate lead from the environments and the bodies of American children.

Source: <http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520273252>

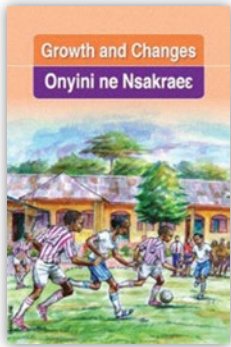
Gerald Markowitz, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor of SMS

David Rosner, PhD, is the Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of SMS, a Professor of History, and a Co-Director of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health

NEW BOOK

Ghana Growth and Changes

By Therese Ackatia-Armah and **Marni Sommer**
Published 2012 by
Grow and Know, Inc.,
Accra, Ghana



Ghanaian version of *Growth and Changes* provides simple and illustrated explanations about the changes faced by girls during puberty, i.e. physical changes, menstruation, menstrual hygiene and pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS). The book is adapted to local reality and translated into Twi, one of the local languages. It also includes a series of real-life stories told by the girls of Ghana and a section with 'true or false' and 'how to', 'is it normal if' answered questions.

In 2009 Grow & Know developed and disseminated the book *Growth and Changes* in Tanzania, which aimed at empowering and teaching 10-14 year old girls about their changing bodies. The book was written in English and Swahili (Vipindi vya Maisha). The book was an immediate success, had the support of UNFPA and UNICEF for the publication of additional copies and in August 2010, the girl's book received final approval from the Ministry of Education for use in

the primary school curriculum. After that, a participatory research with adolescent girls in Ghana, Ethiopia and Cambodia was realized with a context specific girl's puberty book being developed and published in each country.

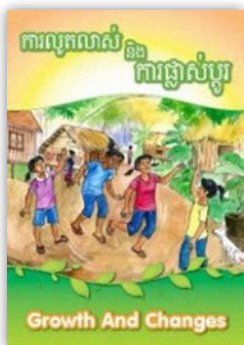
Source: <http://www.susana.org/lang-en/library?view=ccbctypeitem&type=2&id=1576>

Marni Sommer, DrPH, is an Assistant Professor of SMS

NEW BOOK

Cambodia Growth and Changes

By **Marni Sommer**
and Susie Connolly
Published 2012 by
Grow and Know, Inc.,
Cambodia



The Cambodian edition of *Growth and Changes*, in both Khmer and English provides simple and illustrated explanations adapted to local reality about the changes faced by girls during puberty, i.e. physical changes, menstruation, menstrual hygiene, pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS). It also includes a series of real-life stories told by the girls of Cambodia and a section with 'true or false' and 'how to', 'is it normal if' answered questions.

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Source: <http://www.susana.org/lang-en/library?view=ccbctypeitem&type=2&id=1571>

Marni Sommer, DrPH, is an Assistant Professor of SMS

Professor of
Sociomedical Sciences

Ronald Bayer



“Every student in public health is going to learn about the importance of p-values. I want them to understand there are other values that are just as important and if they don’t address them, they will miss key questions in public health.”

Ronald Bayer is a Professor in SMS, Co-Director of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health at MSPH, and Co-Director of the newly appointed WHO Collaborating Center for Bioethics. Prior to coming to Columbia, he was at the Hastings Center, a research institute devoted to the study of ethical issues in medicine and the life sciences.

Professor Bayer’s research has examined ethical and policy issues in public health. His empirical work has focused especially on AIDS, tuberculosis, illicit drugs, and tobacco. His broader research goal is to develop an ethics of public health. He is an elected member of the IOM, on its Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and has served on IOM committees dealing with the social impact of AIDS, tuberculosis elimination, vaccine safety, smallpox vaccination and the Ryan White Care Act.

How did you come to the SMS department, and how has the department changed or improved especially with regard to the ethics of public health? In the late 1980’s when I was still at the Hastings Center, I was asked to speak to the Board of Trustees of Planned Parenthood on the ethical issues posed by the AIDS epidemic and HIV screening. In the audience was Allan Rosenfield, who at the time was the Dean of MSPH, and after my talk asked if I was interested in joining the faculty. I had never heard of “SMS” but after giving guest lectures and being introduced to Eugene Litwak (SMS Chair 1985-1996), I joined the department. As I was not a sociologist but a quasi-historian, trained in political science at The University of Chicago, my interests in ethical issues in public health was at the time foreign to the department. In the 25 years that I have been in the department, I’ve seen it grow tremendously under different Chairs. Probably one of the most important decisions made by the department was to create a center specifically to look at the ethics of public health. Overall, I feel like I’ve had the most privileged professional life here, with colleagues that support each other intellectually and as well as collegiately.

You were among the first to design and teach a course in public health ethics in the United States during the late 1980’s when there were hardly any course models to draw on. Why is teaching on the ethics of public health so important? Every student in public health is going to learn about the importance of p-values. I want them to understand there are other values that are just as important and if they don’t address them, they will miss key questions in public health. The most important thing for a really educated professional in public health is knowing how to make judgments. Certainly quantitative aspects and measurements are crucial, but judgment is not simply a matter of knowing what works or what is most efficient. You have to ask: What should we be doing? Who has a duty to whom? To me, these can’t be answered with a simple metric. It has to be answered by making judgments of values.

Is there a book or article that you’ve enjoyed recently? I actually just read *The Harm in Hate Speech* by Jeremy Waldron. It really asks the question why the US, unique among democratic countries, protects racist speech. We say that it is a mark of our commitment to freedom, to defend the ideas or the freedom of expression of even those with the most repulsive ideas. Is it true that you can only have a robust democratic country if you let racists say the most awful things? This book really forced me to think critically about my own values.

Assistant Professor of
Sociomedical Sciences

Joyce Moon Howard



“By partnering with community members, we can tease out factors that are not easily discovered through “helicopter” type approaches to community research.”

Joyce Moon Howard is an Assistant Professor of SMS with affiliations at the Harlem Health Promotion Center, the Columbia Population Research Center, and the NYS Board for Tobacco Control and Prevention.

Most of Professor Moon Howard’s research that has used Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods has been focused on methodological challenges in survey and intervention research in urban communities; contextual and situational factors associated with health behaviors; and HIV and tobacco-related health outcomes and health disparities among African Americans. She has collaborated on several intervention studies examining community-based models of care for HIV-positive individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. She is keenly interested in contextual influences on HIV in African American communities, exploring the role and influence of religious institutions and leadership on HIV/AIDS risk and prevention. She was recently funded by the American Legacy Foundation to conduct a study on the impact of point of sales placement of tobacco products in retail outlets in Harlem using electronic survey tools.

Why is CBPR important in public health research? I think we have seen that with all the important and outstanding scientific research that has been accomplished and the improvement in quality of care in recent decades, and the billions of dollars spent on health care and increase in life expectancy overall, we have not eliminated nor in some cases reduced significantly disparities for several major health conditions. I think that the persistence of health disparities and poor health outcomes has forced us into considering different approaches. And, among those approaches we have begun to recognize the value in including those populations under study as partners or collaborators to help inform the research. By partnering with community members we can begin to tease out factors that are not easily discovered through “helicopter” type approaches to community research.

How have CBPR approaches improved research in public health? In public health we are concerned that findings from our research are translated and disseminated in ways that can ultimately result in improved health. CBPR approaches are important to the meaningful translation of evidence-based research into effective community-based interventions. The community participatory process in CPBR research brings together diverse expertise to examine and address complex public health problems, and community inclusion enhances the relevance and use of data for interventions. The result is studies that are designed with consideration to cultural and community sensitivities that generally facilitate participant recruitment and retention, which can be a major problem in many of the studies we undertake.

Do you have any favorite winter activities in NYC or elsewhere? I like taking long walks in the park because I love being outdoors. However, these days it is hard to carve out the time to spend meditative moments walking in the beautiful parks surrounding metropolitan New York. This is something I want to get back to doing.

Visiting Senior
Research Scientist

Le Bach Duong



“Thanks to the Institute’s involvement in the STAR Partnership, I knew the SMS department would be an excellent environment for me to work on my research, which is on social movements in HIV/AIDS.”

Le Bach Duong is a Visiting Senior Research Scientist in SMS on a Fulbright grant and the director of the Institute for Social Development Studies in Hanoi. His institute works on research, policy advocacy, and capacity building for academic/state institutions and civil society organizations in Vietnam.

There are three large areas of research and training at his Insitute, including (1) gender, sexuality and sexual health; (2) HIV and AIDS (focus is on social issues of the epidemic); and (3) social inclusion of marginalized populations, including people living with HIV, drug users, sex workers, rural-to-urban migrants, LGBT. His institute is also involved in the NICHD-funded Social Training and Research (STAR) Partnership, a collaboration between the SMS Department at the Mailman School of Public Health and the Center for AIDS Research and Training at Hanoi Medical University.

How did you come to do your research on your Fulbright grant at the SMS department? Thanks to the Institute’s involvement in the STAR Partnership, I knew the SMS department would be an excellent environment for me to work on my research, which is on social movements in HIV/AIDS. I got to know about the department through my participation in meetings between the department at Hanoi Medical University, and other research institutions in Vietnam. Researchers of my institute have also been trained and participated in a pilot project on social impacts of antiretroviral therapy under the STAR Partnership. I myself took a course on medical sociology organized by the department. But the major drives came from Professor Jennifer Hirsch who motivated me to work on my research project, and the mentorships provided by Profs. Richard Parker and Constance Nathanson.

What will be the focus of your research during your time here with us? I will be in the SMS Department from October 15th to mid-July 2013. The research project that I am working on under the Fulbright grant is on the historical construction of social movements in HIV/AIDS in Vietnam. I am particularly interested in examining:

- The structure of political opportunities and constraints under which HIV social movements in Vietnam have taken shape; and how social movement organizations (SMOs) take advantage of these opportunities to transform their network into actions.
- The roles of SMOs in shaping HIV policy and institutional practices as well as public discourse on the epidemic and in promoting broader social changes.
- Current and projected challenges to the sustainability and further development of social movements and their coping strategies in response to these challenges.
- Intellectual significance of Vietnamese case regarding the role of social movements in response to HIV in post-socialist societies.

Do you have any favorite winter activities in NYC or elsewhere?

I have a long to-do list to explore NYC, probably too long to accomplish in nine months. Any possible favorite winter activity will probably be spent in Central Park when there is a lot of snow—snow is something special for people from Vietnam.

Cheryl G. Heaton

DrPH '91



In 1991, you earned your DrPH in the SMS Department. What was your dissertation topic? My dissertation topic was: "In Harms Way: Urban Minority Youth and the AIDS Epidemic."

Briefly, what have been your professional activities since then? Since completing my dissertation I have served as Chair of the SMS Department, Director of the Center for Applied Public Health, and CEO of Legacy (the organization created out of the Master Settlement Agreement between the tobacco industry and the states' attorneys general threatening to sue them). Most recently I was named Dean of Global Public Health at New York University.

How has the "SMS lens" (seeing public health as embedded in particular social, cultural, economic, and political contexts) influenced your professional attitudes and approaches to addressing public health issues?

As a graduate of SMS, I am delighted to have been trained in a broad range of social science disciplines and I have appreciated the contribution this knowledge base made to my ability to analyze public health problems, to consider the roots of public health dilemmas and to craft creative solutions to these problems. The role social justice plays in ensuring, or failing to ensure, a healthy life is the key element public health professionals must remain cognizant of. In the absence of social justice, the social determinants of ill health—poverty, lack of education and lack of opportunity conspire to cut short lives and undermine the quality of life as well.

Nick Turse

MPH '01, PhD '05



What were the topics of your thesis and dissertation papers?

My thesis dealt with rampant experimentation on victims of leprosy (now Hansen's Disease) in Hawaii during the late 19th century. My dissertation was a very different topic: U.S. atrocities during the Vietnam War. In the course of that research, I traveled to the U.S. National Archives and discovered a collection of documents created by a secret Pentagon task force whose mandate was to track and tamp down war crimes allegations.

Briefly, what have been your professional activities since then?

I am the managing editor of The Nation Institute's TomDispatch.com, where I also regularly report on national security issues—everything from U.S. base-building in Afghanistan to military operations in Africa. I have freelanced on a variety of publications and have written/edited several books. I continued to work on expanding my dissertation into a book, *Kill Anything that Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam*, which comprehensively addresses the issue of civilian suffering during the Vietnam War.

How has the "SMS lens" (seeing public health as embedded in particular social, cultural, economic, and political contexts) influenced your professional attitudes and approaches to addressing public health issues?

Being an SMS student gave me an expansive vision of public health and helped me to understand war as a public health issue. But what most influenced me, during my studies, was the culture fostered by the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health—rigorous scholarship, an imperative to act, a freedom to go where my research lead, and constant encouragement to be fearless in my work. Mentors like SMS Professors Amy Fairchild, Ronald Bayer and, especially, David Rosner, gave me the confidence, education, and training to take on powerful institutions and daunting topics, even as a grad student.

Maria Caban

Senior Staff Associate



Since starting in December 1997, Maria Caban has worked on several types of projects including research and evaluation, health interventions and health promotion. Currently, she is the Project & Field Director of the Community Health Project, an ongoing prospective cohort study of persons living with HIV/AIDS in New York City and Rockland, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

What attracted you to SMS? As a sociologist, I was attracted to the community-based research conducted in the Department. I began working on a national multi-site project where I had the opportunity to not only conduct evaluation but to help community-based organizations learn the importance of evaluating their programs and how to incorporate research and evaluation from the onset. I enjoyed teaching them about logic models, research designs, instrument development, data collection and dissemination.

Interests outside of work? I volunteer with The Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) Hospice department, visiting patients who are terminally ill and providing support to them and their families. I also am a lector at my church and elected member of the Parish Council. I love volunteering and would suggest that everyone find something that they love to do and volunteer their time.

What are you reading now? As a PhD candidate at Fordham University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, I'm spending hours reading articles on mental health and service utilization among unstably housed individuals.

Dave Hunter

Senior Clerk



Dave Hunter started in December 2001 and has been involved with different aspects of the NYC & Tri-County CHAIN Study including data cleaning/editing/coding and assisting with project-related finances and administration.

What attracted you to SMS? A friend told me about the NYC & Tri-County CHAIN Study, which interviews HIV+ individuals. Being a part of the study has been interesting, reading about the different stigmas, stories and stereotypes these individuals have to deal with medically and socially being HIV+.

Interests outside of work? Outside of work, I spend quality time with my wife, 5-year-old daughter, and newborn son. Attending the barbershop weekly and talking sports, entertainment, and politics with the fellas is always enlightening. I also like to go out to dance parties every once in a while. Having lost my mother, brother, three uncles and a few very close friends in the past decade has made me value time with family and friends tremendously.

What are you reading now? The most recent stories about Hurricane Sandy have really impacted me since I was born and raised in New York. I have a few friends who've had to deal with tremendous loss. It makes me value the time we have on earth a lot more.

Favorite winter activities? I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and enjoying the holidays (eating and drinking). I always look forward to attending a SuperBowl Party, but sadly, I didn't see my NY Giants.

Marie Onaga

Project Director



Marie Onaga joined the staff of the Center for the Psychosocial Study of Health and Illness in January 2012. Together with Rachel Verni, she is a project director for a study that explores how heterosexuals use the Internet to develop sexual relationships, and how the online origin of these relationships may contribute to subsequent sexual risk-taking behavior offline.

What attracted you to SMS? I was excited to learn that this project, like many others at SMS, is deeply committed to understanding the social and cultural contexts in which the risk behaviors are necessarily embedded. We are interested not only in understanding whether something happens, but when and to whom and under what conditions. Human behavior does not occur within a vacuum, and this study's qualitative approach is especially suited toward understanding these phenomena in context.

Interests outside of work? I am currently in the dissertation stage of my Developmental Psychology Ph.D. at NYU. While it's been exhausting at times, I feel fortunate to be experiencing two roles at once, as each has allowed me insights to the other. Besides these activities, I also enjoy reading, playing piano, and spending time with my husband and cats in our cozy Brooklyn apartment.

Favorite winter activities? I love putting on big boots and trudging around the city after the first major snowfall of the season. For a few hours, New York City is magically quiet and beautiful.

Rachel Verni

Project Director



Rachel Verni joined the staff of the Center for the Psychosocial Study of Health and Illness in January 2012. She is the Co-Project Director of an NIH-funded study entitled "Online Partnering of Heterosexuals," which is investigating the ways in which heterosexual adults use the Internet to develop romantic and sexual relationships, with particular attention to how online relationship development might contribute to risky sexual behavior.

What attracted you to SMS? I was immediately drawn to my current position because it weaves together my ongoing research interests around public health issues, social psychology, and technology. My graduate student research centered on issues of privacy, identity, and power on social networking websites and relied on qualitative research methods, which provided a solid foundation for my current role in SMS. I have learned a tremendous amount in the year since joining the Department, both in terms of the research process and from the data we have gathered thus far in the project. I feel so grateful to work with such an experienced and welcoming team of researchers and look forward to developing future research projects based on our work together.

Favorite winter activities in NYC? When the cold weather arrives, I love baking for friends and coworkers. Also, having recently moved to Brooklyn in the past year, I enjoy exploring my neighborhood and spending time in Prospect Park.

Meet some of our doctoral students



S. Christopher Alley

Degree Program: PhD (Anthropology)
Chris received a B.A. in psychology and criminology from Boston University, and classical training in Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. He entered SMS in 2005, and is now a doctoral candidate in the Joint PhD Program in Medical Anthropology. His academic advisor is Professor Lesley Sharp. His dissertation, provisionally

entitled "Dengue Fever and Trash Collection in Brazil: Politics of Responsibility in Favelas of Rio de Janeiro," integrates methods and theories in public health and medical anthropology in an ethnographic investigation of overlapping domains of dengue control, social activism and health policy. In Fall 2012 he interned with the World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in Geneva, Switzerland. He is considering various post-graduation scenarios, including academic posts, jobs in global health governance at the United Nations and WHO, and post-doc training with the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service.



Stephanie Cook

Degree Program: DrPH
Stephanie Cook is a DrPH candidate and a recipient of the Initiative to Maximize Diversity Institutional Training Grant from 2008-2010. Stephanie received her BA in Psychology and Women's Studies from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2005. She received her MPH from Columbia University in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences in 2008,

and is currently a Ruth Kirschstein Individual National Research Service Award Fellow. Her substantive foci are young adult sexual health and mental health. Her methodological interests are in survey research design, structured diary design and community-based research. Stephanie's dissertation entitled, "Psychological Distress, Sexual Behavior, and Adult Attachment among Young Black Men who Have Sex with Men (YBMSM)," focuses on better understanding the relationship between mental health and sexual behavior, and examining adult attachment as a moderator. She hopes to obtain a tenure-track faculty position at a top-tier research institution and conduct health research that informs health related programming and policy.



Claire Edington

Degree Program: PhD (History & Ethics)
Claire Edington is an advanced doctoral student in the History and Ethics of Public Health program housed in the departments of Sociomedical Sciences and History. She is currently completing her dissertation entitled "Beyond the asylum: colonial psychiatry in French Indochina, 1890-1954" under the supervision of Professors Ronald Bayer

and Susan Pedersen. Drawing on archival research conducted over two years in Vietnam and France, including hundreds of patient case files, her dissertation considers the development of psychiatry in French Indochina as the product of everyday exchanges between lay people and experts. Her career interests are in teaching the history of medicine and public health at the undergraduate level and in continuing to research the dynamics of policy change in colonial and post-colonial Southeast Asia. Ms. Edington received her Bachelors degree in Public Health Studies and French Literature from Johns Hopkins University in 2006. She recently accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in the History Department at the University of Massachusetts-Boston starting Fall 2014. Before then, she will be completing a postdoctoral fellowship in the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University.



Nora Kenworthy

Degree Program: PhD (Political Science)
Nora Kenworthy has been a student in Sociomedical Sciences since 2006. Her research primarily focuses on the politics of health care access, and how health-promoting institutions affect political processes and forms of citizenship. Under the supervision of Professor Richard G. Parker, her dissertation research examines HIV program scale-up in Lesotho,

asking how it is changing democratic politics and relations between the state and citizens. Nora's research is supported by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Fulbright program, the American Association of University Women, and Columbia's Institute of African Studies. This fall, she received the Rudolf Virchow Award, given by the Society for Medical Anthropology to the graduate student whose work best advances the critical anthropology of global health. Nora received a BA in Political Science from Williams College, and prior to attending Columbia she worked with mothers2mothers, a grassroots NGO supporting prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.

Meet some of our MPH students



Natalie Dawe

Natalie is a second year student studying History and Ethics. She graduated in 2009 from Duke University with a BA in Public Policy. Natalie's academic and professional experiences have focused on improving child wellness through understanding the political and social histories of this population and applying them to policymaking. Natalie first became interested in public health

while conducting research on the nutrition needs of homeless children in Arizona. Before coming to Mailman, Natalie worked for Senator Richard Durbin (IL) in DC and served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA with a program committed to increasing access to higher education for Massachusetts youth. For her practicum, Natalie worked with the NYC Strategic Alliance for Health on its campaign to reform physical education in elementary schools. She is currently examining the impact of welfare reform on immigrant children for her thesis under the advisement of Professor Amy Fairchild.



Erica Levine

Erica is a second year student studying Health Promotion. Her main interest in public health revolves around finding innovative ways to leverage technology to promote population-based weight loss. Prior to starting at Mailman, Erica helped design and implement technology-based weight loss interventions in varied settings, including: low-income adults in a community health center, female African-

American church members, and most recently, adults in Beijing, China. She is also very interested in policy, and got a unique behind-the-scenes look through a summer practicum at the NYC Council, working in the Speaker's office on food issues. Erica plans to combine her interests in policy, technology, and the built environment by designing an intervention using Intervention Mapping to help adults in rural North Carolina manage their blood pressure. She is grateful for the help and support of her adviser, Professor Marita Murrman, and is very happy she ended up at Mailman.



Justin Rucker

Justin Rucker is a second year MPH student in the SMS research track. Prior to attending Mailman, Justin graduated with his bachelor's from the Gilling's School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. Currently, he is working on his practicum and master's thesis with Professor Patrick Wilson. He plans to use data from Wilson's Brotherhood Connect

Study to determine factors that strengthen the provider-patient relationship and encourage black men who have sex with men to discuss sex and sexual health with their medical providers and examine how that is associated with HIV testing behavior. Justin's primary research interests include preventative healthcare, healthcare seeking and access to healthcare for minorities, particularly African American men. Upon the completion of his MPH, Justin hopes to continue on to medical school and eventually combine skills from his MD and MPH to practice medicine and research disparities in healthcare access.



Sara Wee

Sara is a laid-back Oregonian who came to Mailman after coordinating a violence prevention program for a non-profit agency in California. Her undergraduate work in art and international relations (University of Oregon, 2008), international travels, and professional work built her interest in program, organizational and community capacity development, and advocacy for issues of violence against women. Sara

brought this experience to her practicum with the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence where she led a community assessment of Brooklyn communities with high incidence of intimate-partner homicides. She is incorporating all these experiences with her thesis, directed by Professor Marita Murrman of the Health Promotion Track. Her thesis is a proposal for a community-based, system-level intervention to help improve system response and protection for immigrant victims of partner violence. After graduation, Sara hopes to continue working in issues of violence through community outreach, innovative research/education and public advocacy.

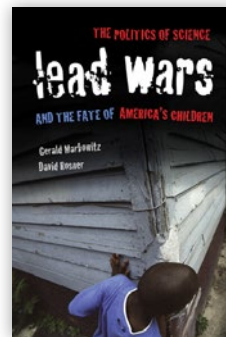
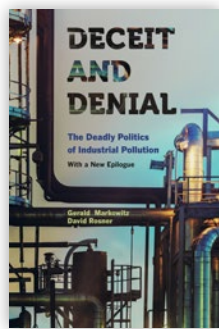


Center for History and Ethics

The Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health is a unique collaboration of historians and ethicists whose engaged scholarship informs public health policy. The idea behind the Center's research and teaching activities is simple: confront the challenges facing public health by understanding their ethical dimensions and political, social, cultural, and economic roots.

The Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health was established at the Mailman School of Public Health's Department of Sociomedical Sciences over a decade ago, bringing together historians and public health ethicists in a unique effort to establish both disciplines as integral to health policy and public health analyses. Co-directed by Professors David Rosner and Ronald Bayer, the Center boasts a distinguished faculty with a broad range of research interests who are devoted to continuing the Center's work pioneering new ways of thinking about ethics and population health. Professors Amy Fairchild, James Colgrove, and Kavita Sivaramakrishnan comprise the core faculty. Along with performing distinguished research on the most compelling and pressing public health issues of today, the Center's faculty is committed to training the next generation of engaged scholars through academic programs at both the master's and doctoral level.

While bioethics has stressed the importance of protecting individual patients and research subjects, public health ethics has made protecting populations a priority.



Research

At the Center, ethical questions inspire historical research, which in turn helps reframe contemporary choices and policy options. While historical analysis and ethical inquiry each impose unique methodological demands, they are mutually enriching domains of study. History provides the context for understanding why certain ethical questions emerge at a given moment and how they are understood, disputed, and resolved. Contemporary ethical inquiry can raise questions that set the stage for new historical investigations. The Center has been particularly vital in developing the field of public health ethics. While bioethics has stressed the importance of protecting individual patients and research subjects, public health ethics has made protecting populations a priority. In the words of Professor Bayer, "...you cannot do serious public health without encountering profound ethical issues, whether they are issues of privacy and the surveillance of disease, which is a fundamental

aspect of public health, or fairness and the distribution of risks and burdens, or occupational exposure, or exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment, or talking about questions around persuasion and coercion in public health." Current research includes the mass lead exposure of children in the United States that has resulted in David Rosner's and Gerard Markowitz's new book, *Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children* (University of California Press); the role of evidence in shaping public health policy at state and national levels; ethics and human rights as complementary but competitive narrative frameworks; the concept of aging in India; and the history and role of panic and fear in public health decision-making.

A WHO Collaborating Center for Bioethics

In November 2011, the Center received an official designation as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Bioethics, only the second col-

laborating center in the U.S., one of just six worldwide, and the only such center that explicitly focuses on the ethics of public health. The designation was based upon the Center's prior collaborative work, particularly focused on the ethical issues surrounding HIV, TB, public health surveillance, and vaccination, the promise of future collaboration, and a thorough vetting process on the part of both WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), WHO's Regional Office for the Americas. At the formal ceremony in October 2012, the WHO flag was presented to Professors Ronald Bayer and Amy Fairchild, named as Co-Directors of the WHO Collaborating Center.

Conducting blood pressure screenings to recruit participants for Project SHARE.



Harlem Health Promotion Center

The Harlem Health Promotion Center (HHPC) serves as a collaboration of community, academic and public health stakeholders that use research, education, and service delivery to improve the health and well-being of the Northern Manhattan communities of Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. HHPC is under the administration of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

H HPC is part of a national network of 37 Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). PRCs form an interdependent network of community, academic, and public health partners that conduct applied prevention research and create evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies that can bring long-term benefits to various underserved communities across the United States. PRCs also offer training and technical assistance to the public health community.

Over the years, HHPC has compiled an outstanding record for developing and sustaining partnerships with a variety of governmental agencies, healthcare providers, and academic institutions including Harlem Hospital, New York Presbyterian Hospital, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the New York State Department of Health.

HHPC makes use of community partnerships, communication and dissemination, training, evaluation, information technology, and infrastructure to improve the health and well-being of these community residents across a broad spectrum of health issues.



As an innovative and inclusive not-for-profit public health organization serving Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood, HHPC makes use of community partnerships, communication and dissemination, training, evaluation, information technology, and infrastructure to improve the health and well-being of these community residents across a broad spectrum of health issues. This goal is accomplished through the implementation of a socio-ecological model that incorporates community-based research, service delivery, and education in response to the evolving needs of the community.

Project SHARE

HHPC's community-based research goal is to conduct high quality prevention research aimed at implementing and evaluating sustainable and effective community-based strategies for addressing health disparities and priorities in the community. HHPC's Project SHARE program—Support for Hypertension Awareness, Reduction, and Education—is designed to reduce high blood pressure (hypertension) in the Northern Manhattan communities of Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood. After taking a brief health assessment survey, study participants are placed into one of three study groups to determine the most effective way of supporting blood

pressure reduction. Educational materials which address ways to control high blood pressure are provided, including information on: diet, physical activity, smoking cessation, stress management, and medication adherence, if needed.

GetHealthyHarlem.org (GHH)

Through an extensive community engagement process, HHPC, in collaboration with Columbia's Department of Biomedical Informatics, created the GetHealthyHarlem.org (GHH) website that launched in late 2008. GHH is a health information website where Northern Manhattan residents, businesses, and organizations can find local information about getting and staying healthy. By combining online health information (mindfully written to be health literate, culturally relevant and locally rooted) with social networking capabilities, GHH creates a unique online community capable of connecting and educating residents around health and wellness issues. GHH supports the efforts of Project SHARE by disseminating details about upcoming blood pressure screenings throughout Northern Manhattan, and providing relevant web-based health education articles and resources for study participants on a wide variety of health topics.

Project STAY

HHPC's health service delivery goal is to use a client-centered model and integrated team approach to provide careful, considerate, and developmentally appropriate medical and psychosocial services for youth at-risk for, or living with HIV in and around New York City. Project STAY—Services To Assist Youth—uses a multi-disciplinary team approach to provide comprehensive services. The team is composed of medical providers, social workers, a psychiatrist, case manager, patient navigator, and health educator.

There are opportunities at HHPC for student involvement as volunteers or for summer practicums. If you're interested in getting involved with any of these projects, contact:

Carly Hutchinson, MA, MPhil

Director of Communications and Community Relations
Harlem Health Promotion Center
215 West 125th Street, Ground Fl,
Suite B, New York, NY 10027
646-284-9726

clh47@columbia.edu

SMS Role in the new Core Curriculum

focus: *foundations studio*

In the Fall of 2012, the Mailman School launched its new Core Curriculum comprised of five broad areas of study, known as “studios,” with SMS faculty playing a prominent role.

The opening Foundations Studio featured SMS Professors Bayer and Fairchild teaching modules on the Ethics of Public Health and the History of Public Health, respectively. The Social, Behavioral, and Structural Studio include modules featuring SMS Professors Abraido-Lanza, Hirsch, Hopper, Parker, Sivaramakrishnan, and Wilson. In addition, SMS Professors Aidala, Bayer, Fairchild, and Hopper all took a lead role in the year-long Integration of Science and Practice (ISP) seminars, where a faculty works with a small group of students and a TA on critical cases in public health. The intent is to allow students the opportunity to understand how the many approaches and perspectives they were introduced to in the Core come to play in on the ground decision-making.

In this issue of SMS Social Forces, we focus on the content of the Foundations Studio, which was based on the idea that while challenges to the health of the public have an obvious biological foundation, they emerge at unique historical junctures and carry implications for the population as a whole while imposing particular burdens on those who are most socially vulnerable. If history helps us to understand these processes, both an ethics of public health and the perspective of human rights (third module of the Foundations Studio) give us analytic tools to understand and address the moral, social, and political forces at play and the capacity to judge what we have done and what we have failed to do in the name of public health.

Accordingly, students were asked to identify examples from other Core Studios where public health ethics, bioethics, and/or human rights perspectives and principles inform public health policy or debate, locating those examples in their historical context. In this way, the History and Ethics modules were able to impress on students that these areas are not simply backdrop, but inform all of our public health decision-making. This approach exemplifies the unique ways in which SMS integrates the social sciences into public health. History is not merely a chronicle of our successes, ethics not simply a list of hierarchical principles or rules, but critical ways of knowing and then judging in public health.

The 5 Studios of the Columbia MPH Core Curriculum

1. **Foundations of Public Health** begins with modules that examine public health history, ethics, and health and human rights. The studio serves as a stepping stone for understanding patterns of health disparities and domestic and international policy.

MODULES: ETHICS, HISTORY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. **Biological & Environmental Determinants of Health** examines the fundamental biological concepts and environmental factors that impact health status.

MODULES: BIOLOGICAL BASIS, ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HUMAN HEALTH

3. **Social, Behavioral, & Structural Determinants of Health** probes key influences on human health, including globalization and aging. Coursework on reproduction and sexuality is also part of this studio.

MODULES: GLOBALIZATION, HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR, LIFE COURSE, MATERNAL, REPRODUCTIVE, & SEXUAL HEALTH, SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

4. **Health Systems** delves into the workings of the U.S. healthcare system and that of other nations, comparing and contrasting them. This studio includes modules on health economics and healthcare systems throughout the world.

MODULES: COMPARATIVE HEALTH, HEALTH ECONOMICS, U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

5. **Research Methods** provides skills in biostatistics, epidemiology, qualitative research methods, study design, and systems thinking—all essential to conducting research in public health—and introduces students to the process of designing and evaluating public health programs.

MODULES: EVIDENCE, POLICY, & DECISION MAKING, PROGRAM PLANNING, QUANTITATIVE FOUNDATIONS, QUALITATIVE FOUNDATIONS, SYSTEMS THINKING

New SMS Course Offerings—Spring 2013

Mass Incarceration and Public Health in America | P6770

When: Thursdays, Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50 pm
Instructor: Ernest Drucker, PhD

This course will analyze the evidence relating to mass imprisonment as an important public health phenomenon—one that has generally not been recognized as such. More than the sum of individual crimes and their punishment, mass imprisonment is mass trauma—a population exposure profoundly affecting tens of millions of Americans and their families, as well as the (mostly poor) minority communities in which its impact is concentrated. The history and social dynamics of mass incarceration will be examined as one consequence of the US war on drugs, beginning in 1975 and continuing to the present. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: Define mass incarceration as a public health phenomenon; identify the populations most affected by mass incarceration; explain the role of drug laws on the public health impact mass incarceration; identify the causes and significance of prisoner reentry and re-assimilation; identify the risks of recidivism and its consequences for the epidemiology of mass incarceration; analyze the effects of chronic recurrent incarceration on individuals, families, and communities; evaluate alternatives to mass incarceration.

Confronting Obesity: Society, Structures, and Policy | P6750

When: Tuesdays, 5:30-8:20 pm
Instructor: Gretchen Van Wye, PhD

Obesity is a serious condition that increases risk for type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, certain types of cancer, and several other deleterious health outcomes. The US and NYC are facing an Obesity epidemic that threatens not only to cause increasingly severe health consequences but also billions of dollars in annual medical costs. Moreover, for the first time in decades, it threatens to reduce the life expectancies of today's youth by overwhelming public health improvements brought about in the 20th century. Numerous secular trends have precipitated the dramatic increases in obesity observed over the past several decades. This course will provide a broad overview of the socio-cultural factors associated with the obesity epidemic; identify promising strategies for intervention; and enable students to craft and assess multi-pronged solutions to this multi-factorial problem.

Poisoned Worlds: Corporate Behavior and Public Health | P6785

When: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:50 pm
Instructor: David Rosner, PhD

This course will trace the growing importance of occupational and environmental diseases such as tobacco related cancers, asbestosis and mesothelioma, and lead poisoning. Through the use of documents gathered in lawsuits, searches of medical and public health literature and other documentary sources students will evaluate debates about responsibility for arising conditions and chronic diseases. It will focus on the rising awareness of the relationship between low-level environmental exposures to synthetic materials and new conditions such as endocrine disruptions linked to BPA, behavioral problems linked to low level lead poisoning, PCBs in the environment and mesothelioma due to low level exposures to asbestos, among other issues. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to internal corporate documents developed through court cases. It will sensitize students to the ways in which public understanding of danger was shaped by corporate behavior through close inspection of a number of specific industries, among them: lead, chemicals, food, asbestos, and silica. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: analyze the history of knowledge regarding dangerous pollutants; critically discuss the variety of legal documents that address responsibility for disease; explain how historical knowledge can aid communities and individuals in quests for justice; utilize corporate internal documents in consumer court cases and education; appreciate the long history of debate over industrial and environmental damage.

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(OCT 2012–FEB 2013)

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GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Associate Research Scientist **Angela Aida**. MAC AIDS Foundation. Food Need, Food Assistance, and Health Outcomes among Persons Living with HIV/AIDS: Continuing Research to Inform Advocacy. January 1, 2013-December 31, 2013.

PhD doctoral candidate **Nadev Antebi**. The Kinsey Institute – Student Research Grant. From Minority Stress to Minority Growth: How Stigmatized Sexual Orientation is Associated with Positive Attributes and Growth in LGBQ Populations. 2013.

Assistant Professor **Diana Hernandez**. Provost Grant, Columbia University. Energy Inefficiency Equals Health Insufficiency: Understanding the Impact of Climate Change on the Housing and Health Prospects of Vulnerable Populations

PhD doctoral candidate **Sara Lewis**. Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture – Charles Hughes Fellowship in Cultural Psychiatry. 2013.

Professor **Lisa Metsch** in collaboration with Jorge Santana, MD at the University of Puerto Rico. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Enhanced Access to HIV Care for Drug Users in San Juan, Puerto Rico (R01 DA035280). February 2013-January 2018.

Professors **David Rosner** and Paul-André Rosental at Sciences Po. Alliance Program – Joint Project Grant. Conference on Silicosis: Industrial and Social Origins of Disease. 2013-2014.

calendar

WINTER 2013

Take note of these upcoming events

EVENT	TIME & PLACE	DATES	
FACULTY MEETING	11:30AM-1:00PM, MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY APRIL 30	—
FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND SMS GRAND ROUNDS	11:30AM-1:00PM, MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY APRIL 2	—
SEMINARS IN GENDER SEXUALITY AND HEALTH	11:30AM-1:00PM, MSPH ROOM 532	TUESDAY APRIL 23	—
MSPH ASSEMBLY	11:45AM-12:45PM, MSPH 8TH FL AUDITORIUM	TUESDAY APRIL 9	TUESDAY MAY 7
MSPH GRAND ROUNDS	4:00PM-5:30PM, ALUMNI AUDITORIUM	TUESDAY APRIL 10	TUESDAY APRIL 24
DEAN'S SEMINARS ON MASS INCARCERATION	12:00PM-1:30PM, (VARIOUS LOCATIONS)	THURSDAY APRIL 11	THURSDAY MAY 2
ANNUAL EUGENE LITWAK LECTURE	4:00-5:30PM, HESS COMMONS	WEDNESDAY APRIL 17	—

SMS
socialforces

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...goodbye!

The giraffes in the hallways of the SMS department were part of "Hike the Heights", an annual community event that takes place in the parks of northern Manhattan consisting of hikes along the Giraffe Path (a giraffe-shaped trail that connects 7 parks in northern Manhattan), the Parade of Giraffes, and a Community Party with arts, music, dancing, games, food and fun for children, youth, and adults! Hike the Heights is an initiative of City Life Is Moving Bodies (CLIMB), a project of the Community Research Group of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, founded on the belief that safe parks and neighborhoods are essential to all communities, and that all communities, regardless of socioeconomic background, are entitled access to them.

