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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Rutgers University, Department of Sociology
Expected May 2010
- M.A.** Rutgers University, Department of Sociology, 2004
Graduate Certificate, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, 2003
- M.A.** New York University, Draper Institute (Gender Politics), 2001
- B.A.** Sarah Lawrence College, Liberal Arts, 1997

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- Forthcoming, 2010** "Toward a Sociology of Perception: Sight, Sex and Gender." *Cultural Sociology*.
- 2006** "Unintended Consequences of the Feminist Sex/Gender Distinction." *Genders* 43.
- 2004** "Looking for the Body in Sociological Literature on Gender." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 48: 3-25.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming** "Perception: A Cognitive Sociological Approach." In *La Sociologie Cognitive*, edited by Fabrice Clement and Laurence Kaufman. (Paris: Ophrys/Maison des Sciences de l'Homme).

Book Reviews

- 2007** Review of Seckinger, Beverly. *Laramie Inside Out. Teaching Sociology* 35(1): 109-110.
- 2005** Review of Sloop, John. *Disciplining Gender: Rhetorics of Sex Identity in Contemporary U.S. Culture. Gender & Society* 19(4): 563-565.

RESEARCH AREAS

Sex and Gender, Cognitive Sociology, Sociology of Perception, Cultural Sociology, Social Theory, Sociology of the Body, Qualitative Methods

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dissertation

“Blind to Sameness: The Socio-Optical Construction of Male and Female Bodies”

In my dissertation I bring together cognitive sociology, visual sociology, and the sociology of gender to explore two central questions: how does perception work sociologically, and how does perception function in the case of sex attribution? In trying to capture the process of sex attribution, I faced a methodological challenge: How to study a process that is largely automatic and subconscious, and that most people believe is self-evident? My solution to this problem was to look for “outsiders” – people who either do not participate in sex attribution or do it very differently – and “experts” – people who are unusually self-conscious and deliberate about sex attribution. To help illustrate the socio-cognitive and sensory processes underlying sex attribution, I gathered narrative data by interviewing forty-one transgender people and twenty-seven blind people. Both of these populations speak from unique perspectives that magnify the social construction of dominant conceptions of sex. In highlighting their experiences, my intention is to explore the taken-for-granted cognitive and perceptual map of the body and bring some of what is normally backgrounded into the foreground.

Committee: Eviatar Zerubavel (chair), Karen Cerulo, Judith Gerson, Arlene Stein, Lynn Chancer (CUNY)

Articles

“A Blind Phenomenology of Sexed Bodies”

I argue that the alternate perceptual reality of blind people challenges dominant presumptions about the transparency and accuracy of visual perception and helps cultivate the mental flexibility necessary to see more of the complexity of bodies.

“Sexpectations: Socially Organized Selective Perception in Sex Attribution”

Using my interviews with blind and transgender people, I develop the concept of “sexpectations” - cultural categories, affective investments, and rules of relevance that precede our perceptions of human bodies and direct us to selectively perceive sex differentiated details.

“Thinking With Socio-Mental Filters: Exploring the Social Structuring of Attention and Significance” (with Thomas DeGloma)

Building on existing theories of social construction, we argue that the dialectic of attention and disattention is most evocatively captured by the metaphor of a filter.

AWARDS AND HONORS

National and Regional

- 2008** **Eastern Sociological Society**
Candace Rogers Award for the Best Graduate Student Paper
Paper: “Toward a Sociology of Perception: Sight, Sex and Gender”
- 2005** **Society for the Study of Social Problems**
Best Student Paper Award, Theory Division (Honorable Mention)
Paper: “Sex Seen: The Socio-Optical Construction of Sexed Bodies”

University Level

- 2009** **Rutgers University, Department of Sociology**
Award for the Best Article by a Graduate Student
Paper: “Toward a Sociology of Perception: Sight, Sex, and Gender”
- 2008-2009** **Rutgers University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**
University & Louis Bevier Dissertation Fellowship
University-wide competition that awards only four fellowships to all social science departments.
- 2006-2007** **Rutgers University, Center for Cultural Analysis**
Graduate Fellowship, “Mind and Culture” Working Group
University-wide competition that awards only five fellowships per year.
- 2006-2007** **Yale University, Center for Cultural Sociology**
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
- 2006** **Rutgers University, Department of Sociology**

Matilda White Riley Award for Best Qualifying Paper
Paper: "Bringing the 'Sex' Back In: Unintended Consequences of the Sex/Gender Distinction"

2003 **Rutgers University Department of Sociology**
Matilda White Riley Award for Best Graduate Student Paper
Paper: "The 'Real' and the 'Safe': A Sociological Perspective on the Classification of Sex Acts"

2001-2003 **Rutgers University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**
Sociology Excellence Fellowship

2000 **New York University, Draper Institute**
John W. Draper Scholarship for Academic Achievement

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2007-present Instructor, Writing Program, Department of English, Rutgers University

2003-2006 Instructor and Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University

Courses Independently Designed and Taught:

Contemporary Sociological Theory (2 semesters)
Sexuality and Society (6 semesters)
Sociology of Gender (3 semesters)
Expository Writing (4 semesters)

Courses Assisted:

Contemporary Sociological Theory
Research Methods (2 semesters)
Introduction to Sociology

Other Courses Prepared to Teach:

Classical Theory
Cultural Sociology
Sociology of the Body
Sociology of Perception/Visual Sociology
Cognitive Sociology/Social Psychology
Qualitative Methods

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

- 2009** “Blind to Sameness: Unseen Similarities between Male and Female Bodies”
- 2007** “Sexpectations: Socially Organized Selective Perception in Sex Attribution”
- 2005** “Bringing the ‘Sex’ Back In: Unintended Consequences of the Feminist Sex/Gender Distinction”
- 2005** “Thinking With Socio-Mental Filters: Exploring the Social Structuring of Attention and Significance” (With Tom DeGloma)
- 2004** “Sex Seen: The Socio-Optical Construction of Sexed Bodies”

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

- 2009** “Blind to Sameness: Unseen Similarities between Male and Female Bodies”
- 2006** “Sex Seen: The Social Enactment of Sex”
- 2004** “The ‘Real’ and the ‘Safe’: A Sociological Perspective on the Classification of Sex Acts”
- 2004** “Blind to Sameness: Exploring the Social Construction of Sex”
- 2003** “Looking for the Body in Sociological Literature on Gender”

Other

- 2009** “Methodological Challenges in the Sociology of Cognition,” Bridging Social Psychologies Conference, Northwestern University.
- 2004** “Looking for the Body in Sociological Literature on Gender,” Rethinking Gender Conference, University of California, Berkeley.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Research Assistant, Dr. Catherine Lee, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University, 2006-present.

Reviewer, *Body & Society* and *Sociological Forum*.

Interviewer, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers University, 2002.

Interviewer, The National Association of Mental Illness Advocacy Project, Rutgers University, 2002.

Writing tutor, Rutgers University, Livingston College Writing Center, 2004-2005.

Editorial Assistant, Annual Newsletter, Department of Jewish Studies and The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Rutgers University, 2007.

Website design and maintenance, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University, 2003-2005.

Website design, Initiative on Climate Change, Social Policy and Politics, Rutgers University, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Sections: Culture, Sex and Gender, Sociology of the Body and Embodiment

Eastern Sociological Society

REFERENCES

Eviatar Zerubavel

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