



SOCSource



SPOOKY ISSUE | HALLOWEEN 2013

Block Three: The Spooky Issue

Sometimes the world can be a scary place. And studying sociology can make us realize how scary the world truly is! Page 2 contains all sorts of reasons to be creeped-out this Halloween. Enjoy the read!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Kathy to Present at TEDx Mile High in Denver!

Kathy Giuffre will be giving a talk for TEDx Mile High on November 16th (<http://tedxmilehigh.com/>). Her talk, "Generous Women: Creativity in Social Networks", is based on her research on artists in the Cook Islands. Tickets are \$39.50 for students.

Livesay Award Currently Accepting Nominations

The Livesay Award was created in honor of Jeff Livesay, who brought PIFP to Colorado College in 2002 and has shepherded it through 10 years of growth to become a signature program on campus. The award will be presented annually to a Colorado College graduate who is living out the mission of PIFP in his or her life and career by contributing to systemic change, by increasing the capacity of the nonprofit sector, and by helping to build a new generation of nonprofit leaders.

If you know a CC grad who has made a significant contribution to the nonprofit sector in Colorado over the years, please nominate him or her for the Livesay Award! **Nominations must be submitted online by November 15, 2013.** (Visit the PIFP page of the CC website for more information and to submit a nomination.)

Block 7: Spatial Analysis of Social Issues with Wade Roberts

This new course examines the relevance of place in social life and the role of spatial thinking and analysis in understanding social issues and promoting social change. The course will emphasize applied sociology and the application of mapping (GIS) and statistics in support of social justice advocacy, social awareness, and community-based research. No prior experience with GIS is needed, however some prior experience with basic social statistics is required (i.e. research design).

Study Sustainable Development Abroad

Interested in sustainable development? Want to learn by doing and have an adventure of a lifetime? SO 290 "Sustainable Development Theory and Practice" is a course that teaches students the day-to-day workings of an NGO, macro-level sustainability issues, and approaches to development. By applying class concepts to real-life projects, students see sustainable development in action. This partnership between the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) and CC gives students invaluable first-hand experience on the how to put theory into practice.

The Bolivia and Uganda Summer Internship Expo will be on Wednesday, November 13th 12pm in Palmer 122!

RSVP to Eli by Monday, November 11th to reserve your spot and food: Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu

Sociological Imagination: First-Year Edition

Culture. Norms. Social networks. Interactions. Gender roles. Identity. These are all familiar topics for us here in the Sociology Department. But these sociological perspectives are relevant for students across this campus. Particularly those who are beginning their CC journeys, figuring it out, and finding their place: First-Year Students. The *Sociological Imagination: First-Year Edition* will be a lunch gathering available to any and all first-year students interested in learning about some basic sociological concepts and how they can be employed to take a critical look at the experience of being a first-year student at Colorado College.

This event is in addition to, not in place of, the regular Sociological Imagination Lunch, which takes place on November 6th.

Sticking Around for Block Break? The Sociology Department Has You Covered!

This coming block break (following B3), the Sociology Department will be hosting a series of fun and inclusive events, including films, food, and conversation! These events will be available for all students interested in having a little fun on campus over break! A full calendar will be released near the end of the block, so stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sociological Imagination Luncheon: The Affordable Care Act & "Brosurance"

Wednesday, November 6th: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Palmer Room 122 (Lunch Provided)

The Sociological Imagination Luncheon Series encourages students to apply a sociological framework outside of the classroom. Block 3 topic: The Affordable Care Act and "Brosurance."

RSVP to Eli by Monday, November 4th
Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu

The Sociological Imagination Luncheon: First-Year Edition

Thursday, November 7th: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Sociology Seminar Room (Lunch Provided)

First-years gather over lunch to learn about sociological habits of thought and how they are applicable to the experience of being a first-year student. This event is for First-year students only.

RSVP to Eli by Tuesday, November 5th
Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu

Community-Based Research Workshop 2: ABCD & Research Practices in CBR

Tuesday, November 12th: 12:30pm – 2 pm
Sociology Seminar Room

The Collaborative for Community Engagement is pleased to offer a workshop series focused on community-based research (CBR). This *second* workshop will introduce students to asset-based community development (ABCD) and research practices in CBR, including guidance for identifying research questions, choosing a research design, generating data, analyzing data, and reporting results. The workshop is open to all students interested in CBR.

RSVP to Virginia by Friday, November 8th
Virginia.Visconti@ColoradoCollege.edu

Bolivia and Uganda Internship Expo

Thursday, November 14th: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Palmer Room 122

Eat lunch and learn about students' experiences interning in Uganda and Bolivia last summer!

RSVP to Eli by Monday, November 11th
Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu

Kathy to Present at TEDx Mile High!

Saturday, November 16th: 4:00 pm
University of Denver Campus

Support Kathy as she presents her research on artists in the Cook Islands: "Generous Women: Creativity in Social Networks." Tickets are \$39.50 for students.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Monday, 11/11: O'Connor Grant Applications Due (Round 2) Check your email for more information soon

Friday, 11/15: Livesay Award Nominations Due

SPOOKY SOCIOLOGY

“What Scares You?” We asked some of our favorite faculty this question, and here is what they had to say!

Kathy Giuffre

“I am scared about the very distinct possibility that we will have to go through a government shutdown again in a few months. It is terrifying to me that things like WIC and Social Security checks depend on the whim of people like Michelle Bachman and Ted Cruz.”

Gail Murphy-Geiss

“What scares me? That Americans, when asked recently, didn’t know which was worse/better, the Affordable Care Act, or Obama Care, which are of course, the same thing. People didn’t know that! A working democracy requires citizens to actually KNOW stuff, so widespread ignorance, fed by selective media messages controlled by a small cadre of elites is TRULY scary.”

Wade Roberts

“I’m scared of how the Republican Party, and a particular faction within it, has responded to changing demographics in the U.S. Instead of seeking to compete for voters by adjusting their platform and appealing to the electorates’ interests, needs, and values, they have opted to pursue an agenda of disenfranchisement—all with the support of five Supreme Court Justices. To make matters worse, the most aggressive and hyperbolic elected officials within the Republican Party are often the most secure in their jobs, sitting atop particularly conservative districts that are unlikely to change for another decade or more. Ultimately, I’ll put my money on demographics, but it’s not going to be pretty or functional for the foreseeable future.” ... and germs.

And Now for Some Seriously Scary Halloween Facts to Brighten Your Day:

- 1 in 3 trick-or-treaters today will develop type-two diabetes
- Today’s trick-or-treaters have a life expectancy that is shorter than that of their parents
- The chocolate industry has engaged in the use of child slaves and other unethical treatment of growers
- One test of multiple brands of Halloween face paints found detectable levels of lead in all of them!
- There are more places in the United States to buy candy than to buy bread

Source: visual.ly/spooky-halloween-statistics

Gender on Halloween: What Halloween Costumes Tell Us About Who We Can (and Can’t) Be



Anyone who has been to Zeezos looking for a costume has probably noticed that Halloween costumes are seriously gendered, such that a great majority of costumes available to women are hyper-sexualized beyond recognition. I mean, just look at this comparison of a banana costume made for a man versus the female equivalent (left).

But did you know that this gendering and sexualizing of costumes starts at a VERY early age? In a content analysis of 469 children’s Halloween costumes, Nelson (2000) found feminine costumes to be clustered in a narrow range depicting beauty queens, princesses, and other exemplars of traditional femininity and contained a higher proportion of costumes of animals and foods. Masculine costumes, in contrast, emphasized the warrior theme of masculinity and were more likely to feature villains, especially agents or symbols of death. Gender-neutral costumes accounted for less than 10% of costumes examined.

Why does this matter? Well, Halloween is a time for children to exercise their imaginations and “try

on” different roles in a safe, limitless, and playful way. What happens when this opportunity for imagination and self-exploration is constrained by predefined and rigid gender roles, images, and symbols? Well, the result that children are socialized into a limited and oppressive understanding of the range of possibilities available for their own expression self. More specifically, as this article illustrates, that expression of self is different for boys, who are more often able to take on autonomous and powerful roles, than it is for girls, who are largely limited to various forms of passive, pretty, or comical roles, ranging from princesses to food items, with little room for flexibility or autonomy. So the next time you are shopping for Halloween costumes at the store and see these patterns emerge upon the shelves, think critically about the messages you are being sent about the realm of possibilities that you may or may not have in your pursuit for imagination and self-expression. You may not like what YOU SEE. Nelson, Adie. 2000. “The Pink Dragon is Female: Halloween Costumes and Gender Markers.” *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 24.



It’s Just a Costume, Right? Why Cultural Appropriation Matters

One last haunting thing to think about as we go out for a fun-filled night of Halloween festivities: **cultural appropriation**. It is unclear why anyone still thinks that dressing up as a Mexican or as a Geisha is okay, but nevertheless, it happens. Including on this campus. We in the sociology department urge you to exercise your sociological imagination not only in the classroom, but out in the world. This means being a critical thinker, mindful consumer, and compassionate, informed, and sensitive person who recognizes that your and your peers’ decisions and actions—including choice in Halloween garb—are situated within broader structures of power and privilege, and have implications for those beyond yourself.



Speak up. Friends don’t let friends dress in racist, sexist, or culturally exploitative costumes—on Halloween, or any other day of the year.



