

SOCSOURCE

BLOCK 5 | JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016

Welcome to Second Semester!

It's hard to believe that the second semester is already upon us, but in typical Block Plan fashion, campus is already in full swing. Here in the sociology department Block 5 will bring us many exciting events and opportunities to apply our sociological skills to the real world. Many of our seniors are immersed in thesis research and writing, a whole cohort of juniors has returned from a semester of studying abroad, and our faculty are busy designing and teaching classes new to the department. It's an exciting time to be a sociology major!

Mark Your Calendars

Faculty Research Talk: Professor Muñoz

Tuesday, January 26th, 2016
12:15 pm
Palmer Room 122

Professor Vanessa Muñoz will be giving a talk titled **'Then Send Me To Someone Who Can': Patient-Consumer as Middle Class Customization & Working Class Recognition**. Professor Muñoz will present early findings about social class differences in patient-consumerism—practices that challenge medical authority either by looking outside of one's doctor for medical treatments or questioning their recommendations. Her data includes interviews and observations with parents of children with severe food allergies, eczema, and asthma. She will discuss ongoing research in this area and methodological questions about class comparisons in qualitative research. Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP to Helen.L.Feldman@coloradocollege.edu by Monday, January 26th (include any dietary restrictions!).

The Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Thursday, February 4th, 2016
5 pm
Sociology Seminar Room

This block, the Student Advisory Board has decided that we need a little cheer in the department. However, as sociologists it is often hard for us to put our sociological imaginations away even when we are at a party. So, in honor of the impending approach of Valentine's Day, we will be throwing an **Anti-Valentine's Day Party**. Please join us in a thoughtful gathering where we will break off the shackles of scripted love and deconstruct our age of modern romance. There will be desserts, there will be good cheer, and there will be statistics.

I am single on Valentine's Day because I have not yet met someone who can handle all of my awesome.



someecards
user card

Save the Date

2016 O'Connor Lecture

Monday, February 22nd, 2016
7 pm
JLK McHugh Commons

The 2016 Daniel Patrick O'Connor Memorial Lecture will be given by Rev. Jay MacLeod, author of *Ain't No Makin' It*. MacLeod's talk will be titled "The Poor and the Poor in Spirit." MacLeod was a community organizer in



Holmes County, Mississippi for four years, and was a parish priest in Bedford, England, a neighborhood known for its cultural diversity. Rev. MacLeod will visit a sociology class earlier in the day and will host a breakout session in the afternoon for sociology students.

SPECIAL FEATURE: SOCIOLOGY ABROAD



Artwork by Michael Tompsett

The sociology department welcomes back our majors who were abroad! If you see these students in the hall, now you'll have some great questions to ask beyond, "How was your semester?" Read on to learn about some of the highlights of these students' travels.

Lydia Ballantine

Where did you study abroad and with what program?

The program was the CIEE Language and Culture semester in Dakar, Senegal.

What classes did you take while you were there?

- ◆ French
- ◆ Wolof (the national language of Senegal)
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Senegalese Society and Culture
- ◆ An internship seminar. I interned with the Senegalese Committee on Human Rights and for a brief time with an organization that worked with LGBT refugees from the neighboring country of the Gambia.



Lydia is second from the left

What were your most memorable moments?

Some of my best memories were having great conversations with friends and watching the sunset at the beach bar at Mamelles, taking a West African dance class, and going to an incredibly beautiful and unbelievably cold waterfall on our final trip. The experience that left the greatest impression and affected me the most was talking with a gay refugee who had recently arrived in Dakar after having spent months in prison. He had lived through things I could never imagine and yet was so open and willing to tell me, a complete stranger, his entire story.

One night, we had to evacuate our hut at an encampment we were staying at in the middle of the night because the whole backyard and much of the inside was invaded by safari ants. The solution for a carpet of flesh-eating ants? Sweeping the whole yard and the hut with a burning broom! It was really beautiful to watch except for the ants everywhere.

Strangest meal: maybe baguette with mayonnaise on it for breakfast. Or a spaghetti sandwich. Or sheep's jaw stew.

SPECIAL FEATURE: SOCIOLOGY ABROAD

Eliza Jacobson

Where did you study abroad and with what program?

I studied through the CIEE Social Sciences program at the University of Amsterdam.

What classes did you take while you were there?

- ◆ Dutch Public Health
- ◆ Introduction to Conflict Studies
- ◆ The Local and Global Complexities of Prostitution
- ◆ National Identity and the News



What were your most memorable moments?

It is hard to think of the most memorable moment from my experience abroad because most of my time there had a significant impact on me. My favorite thing, however, was being able to bike around the city. This made me feel like I was part of the culture and was an amazing way to experience and explore Amsterdam.



Natalie Shishido

Where did you study abroad and with what program?

I did the IFSA Butler Argentine Universities program in Buenos Aires. I traveled throughout Argentina and took a trip to Uruguay as well.

What classes did you take while you were there?

- ◆ History of Argentina
- ◆ Fictions of the Present (An Argentine literature and film course)
- ◆ Seminar in Political Science: History of Latin America, Society and State, and Contemporary History of Argentina
- ◆ Spanish

What were your most memorable moments?

I did a lot of traveling during and after my semester and had the opportunity to go to Patagonia. While I was there I went to a town called El Chalten and did a hike to an incredible view of Mount Fitz Roy (one of the most iconic mountains in Patagonia), a turquoise mountain pond, and a few glaciers. I also saw a fox at the top! It was probably one of the most impressive places I've ever been.



Bariloche, Patagonia

How did your time abroad affect you personally or academically?

I had some base knowledge about dictatorships in South America from previous classes at CC and specifically the most recent one in Argentina in 1983 which was incredibly violent and violated many citizens' basic human rights. Tens of thousands of people disappeared and were presumably kidnapped, tortured and killed by the state. Discussing the dictatorship with professors and other people who lived through it and were affected by it was very powerful. Democracy is not something that we necessarily have to think about everyday in the U.S. and I had definitely taken that for granted.

SPECIAL FEATURE: SOCIOLOGY ABROAD

Nikki Holzman

Where did you study abroad and with what program?
HECUA's Community Internships Semester in Ecuador.

What classes did you take while you were there?

- ◆ Community Participation and Social Change
- ◆ Politics and Development in Ecuador



How did your time abroad affect you personally or academically?

What I really enjoyed about HECUA is that each student is paired with a different internship. I was working with an organization called CENIT, which is a school that helps working children, their families, and members of the extended community. At CENIT I worked with the health team. Part of my work was to help children and their families find medical care (health care is free, but many of the families do not even know it). Once, I was talking with a woman in the market about going to the dentist because all of the teeth she had left were full of cavities. She told me that in the past, whenever she had a toothache, someone from the market would just pull out her tooth. I was astonished. I could not believe her rational, but at the same time, who was I to judge? Situations such as these challenged me to think about problems differently. It really made me realize how much I take for granted on a daily basis, especially the little things. My time abroad gave me a greater appreciation for what I have, taught me patience, compassion, spontaneity... and an urging ache to return to South America.

What was the most memorable moment?

There was a time when our group went to visit a small community on the coast called Olmedo. I had no idea what to expect from this field trip, but it turned out to be a life-changing journey. There was a day in particular that we worked with the local women collecting clamshells. Now, at first this may sound easy, but it was actually one of the hardest things I have done (both physically and mentally). We all crammed into a tiny boat to go to our first collection site, about a 30-minute boat ride from the town. Little did I know that we would be in knee deep mud, in a maze of mangroves, blindly sticking our hands in the mud searching for clams. The mosquitoes were in great numbers and the sun never seemed to take a break behind the clouds. Throughout the day, the woman I worked closest with continued to sing and keep our spirits high. Our group helped the local women with their work for 4 hours; half of what the typical workday for them looks like. My body ached afterwards. I was bitten and sunburnt— but all I could do was admire the strength and love for life the Olmedo women had. Also looking back, basically all of the interactions I had with my host family were comical. I can't say I am very good at Spanish, and my host family (mom 67, sister 45) did not speak any English. It made conversations difficult and frustrating at times, but interesting nonetheless. My mother once told me that I believe in the devil, and my love for chocolate is why I have an ugly face.



SPECIAL FEATURE: SOCIOLOGY ABROAD

Genia Niemeyer

What program did you participate in and what country were you traveling in?

I'm participating in CC's exchange program with the Institut d'études politiques de Paris, simply referred to as SciencesPo. I'm studying at the European campus in Nancy for two semesters.

What classes did you take while you were there?

I'm taking a wide range of classes which are all taught in different languages. I'm studying Molière in French, learn about "group-focused enmity" in German, and discuss the Euro Crisis in English.



How did your time abroad affect you personally and academically?

Now that I live in France, I'm as close to my family in Germany as I haven't been in five years. Being able to see them on a more regular basis has made me realize that I want to pursue a career that allows me to live on different continents while still maintaining close ties to my home country.

What was the most memorable moment?

On weekends my friends and I always go on long bike rides to explore the surrounding area. These hours when I think of nothing than the blue sky and the wind in my hair are part of the reason why I love living in France!

Nicole Tan

Where did you study abroad and with what program?

For my semester abroad, I chose "Social Change in Central America: Exploring Peace, Justice and Community Engagement" with the Center for Global Education. In my short 4 months, I country hopped from Guatemala to Costa Rica to Nicaragua.

What classes did you take while you were there?

- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Liberation Theology
- ◆ Citizen Participation within a Globalized Economy
- ◆ Cultural Conflict and Change in Latin America.

What was the most memorable moment?

When I sat outside in Cajola, Guatemala writing in my journal and my host aunt Araceli stopped to watch what I was doing. Araceli can neither read nor write. She laughs and describes road signs, newspapers and election ballots to me as squiggles. Even the noises from the radio are alien, because she speaks Mam, separate and apart from Spanish, the dominant language of her colonizers. And so she asked me to write out her name. She used this as a template and painstakingly copied out each letter, mimicking my movements to write out something integral to her identity.

How did your time abroad affect you personally or academically?

For every concept I have learned, I have a parallel face and story. I found myself having a class discussion, taking it home, and realizing that in every home stay, my family had lived through this. What may be described as a 'climate of terror' in a book translated to real life stories of missing family members, bags hidden under the stairs and a childhood spent fleeing. And now, I begin to see all my learning as someone's story and lived experience. den under the stairs and a childhood spent fleeing. And now, I begin to see all my learning as someone's story and lived experience.

