Vanessa Muñoz to Join Sociology Department in Fall 2014

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Vanessa Munoz to the Sociology Department! Vanessa will be receiving a PhD in Sociology from Brandeis University in 2014. She graduated summa cum laude from Emory University with majors in International Studies and Spanish. She also received a master’s in Sociology from the University of Maryland. After graduating from Emory, she worked on health policy issues in Washington D.C. Her research interests include medical sociology, qualitative methods, gender, families, and schools. Vanessa’s dissertation is a qualitative study of how families negotiate the diagnosis and management of children’s food allergies at home and school. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation and the University of Maryland’s Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity. While at Brandeis, Vanessa received departmental and University-wide teaching awards.

We got a chance to catch up with Vanessa and ask her a few questions to get to know her a little better.

Matt Bakker Accepts Job in DC!
The department's Visiting Assistant Professor, Matt Bakker - now in his 4th year with us - has just accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Sociology & Criminal Justice Department at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. He will be teaching courses related to his expertise in globalization, development, and migration; helping to expand Marymount's sociology program around the theme of "diversity in global context"; and pursuing community-engaged research and teaching opportunities in the DC area and in Latin America. After finishing off the academic year with us, Matt will begin his new adventure in the 2014-15 academic year. Congratulations, Matt!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Thesis Decompression Hour
Every Thursday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. // Eli's Office (Palmer 129)

Sociology & Economics Lunch Discussion:
The Gender Wage Gap
Thursday, February 27th, 12:00 p.m. // Palmer 230

Sociological Imagination First Luncheon:
Society & Higher Education
Wednesday, February 26th, 12:00 p.m. // Sociology Seminar Room

“Why Major in Sociology?” Information Session Lunch
Wednesday, March 5th, 12:00 p.m. // Palmer 123

*more information on page 2*

UPCOMING DEADLINES

March 1, 2014: AKD Undergraduate Paper Competition Submission Deadline (for papers written in 2013 only).

March 12th, 2014 (11:59pm): Unpaid Summer Internship Funding through Career Center (Priority Deadline) - Funds will continue to be awarded on a rolling basis until depleted or until the final deadline is reached on May 14, 2014 at 11:59pm.

Welcome, Vanessa!
Congratulations on the hire!
Thank you, Eli, I am thrilled to be joining the Sociology faculty and vibrant community at Colorado College. I look forward to participating in campus events and getting to know more CC students this coming year.

We are so thrilled to have you joining us!
What are some of the main things that drew you to CC?
The blocks (and bright students) of course! I admire the enthusiasm CC students have for practice-oriented study. I am also enthusiastic about the opportunity that the block system provides for venturing into the (sociological) “field” as a class.

What kinds of classes are you particularly excited about teaching?
I’m excited to teach qualitative methods, which is a hands on field course using sociological tools to study people’s everyday lives. I also enjoy teaching courses on health, gender, inequality, and families. In the future, I would like to teach a course on the sociology of disasters and emergencies.

What kinds of things do you like to do in your free time?
Running, yoga, reading (or listening to audio books of) flowery 19th century novels.

Do you have a favorite food?
Chocolate.

Favorite movie?
Cloud Atlas is my favorite recent movie.

Favorite show?
Downton Abbey.

Favorite travel destination?
Bahia, Brazil.

Fun fact?
I grew up in a tri-lingual household.

Sociology & Economics Lunch Discussion

Sociology and Economics Students and Faculty are invited to join in an inaugural inter-departmental lunch, at which we will discuss The Gender Wage Gap from both Economic and Sociological perspectives. The goal of this discussion is to highlight each discipline’s distinct theoretical framework and analytic tools, to learn from one another, and to share ideas across disciplines.

Thursday, February 27th, 12:00 p.m. // Palmer 230
LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP to Eli: Elizabeth.K.Michaels@CC.edu
New Visiting Faculty Join Department!
In addition to the hire of Vanessa Muñoz as a tenure-track faculty-member, the department will be welcoming two visiting professors for the 2014/2015 academic year. The beloved Deb Smith will be returning for another year with the department, and Mateo Muñoz will be visiting for the year as well. We are excited to have Deb back, teaching courses in Food & Social Justice (B1, B4), Sociology of Work (B3), Consumer Culture & Sustainability (B6), and Class Culture & Identity (B8). We are also excited to welcome Mateo Muñoz, who will be teaching courses in Sociology of Science (B2), Deviance & Social Control (B4), and Social Theory from the Margins (B8).

Learning the Food Ecology of Colorado Springs: From Lab to Field and Back Again
Have you seen the posters on the walls of Palmer second floor hallway? These posters depict different aspects of the food ecology of Colorado Springs and are the result of students’ creative projects in Deb Smith’s Block 4 Food and Social Justice course. We have our own paraprof, Eli Michaels, to thank for the inspired curriculum that allowed students to learn and apply GIS methods with ethnography and visual sociology for a study of local food ecology. Locating, interpreting and preparing project-relevant GIS data sets, Eli designed and organized the GIS assignment and, in collaboration with Matt Gottfried in the GIS lab, implemented a two-stage GIS methods practicum where students combined GIS analysis with qualitative data to produce the posters you see on the Palmer walls (and we have Matt’s generosity to thank for the labor and costs of printing those fabulous posters). Inspired by the success of Eli’s curriculum design, and hoping to further students’ appreciation for the value of mixed methods and local research, Eli and Deb have launched a similar curriculum for Deb’s Block 6 Consumer Culture and Sustainability class where students will use GIS, field observation, and visual sociology to explore how local shopping meccas, ‘three spaces,’ and social inequality come together to produce a ‘consumer ecology’ for Colorado Springs. Interested? Stay tuned for the next round of posters!

Matt Bakker Article Accepted for Publication
Matt Bakker’s article “Discursive representations and policy mobility: how migrant remittances became a ‘development tool’,” was recently accepted for publication in the journal Global Networks.

Kathy to give talk about Generosity and Creativity
Kathy will be giving a talk about generosity and creativity at the UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art (121 S. Tejon St -- next to Nosh) on Wednesday, February 26th, at 7 pm. Open to everyone! Here is the website: http://www.uccs.edu/goca/TALK/CHITCHAT-2014.html

Why Sociology? Info Session
The Sociology Department will be hosting an “Why Study Sociology?” information session for students interested in pursuing the sociology major. All majors are encouraged to come talk about their experiences!

Wednesday, March 5th at 12:00 pm
Palmer 123
Lunch Provided

Registration Fast Approaching!
Block 7 is right around the corner, which means it’s time to start thinking about next year’s courses! Here is the 2014/15 Sociology Course Schedule (new this year indicated in purple):

Block 1:
- SO314: Sociology of Culture, Kathy Giuffre
- SO301: Quantitative Research Methods, Wade Roberts
- SO100: Thinking Sociologically (FYE), Gail Murphy-Geiss
- SO241: The Nonprofit Sector, Jeff Livesay
- SO302: Qualitative Research Methods, Vanessa Muñoz
- SO190: Food & Social Justice, Deb Smith

Block 2:
- SO235: Sociology of Family (FYE), Gail Murphy-Geiss
- SO334: Social Theory, Livesay
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Sociology of Science, Mateo Muñoz

Block 3:
- SO100: Thinking Sociologically, Kathy Giuffre
- SO246: Health & Medicine, Wade Roberts
- SO334: Social Theory, Jeff Livesay
- SO116: Global Inequality, Eric Popkin
- SO112: Gender Inequality, Vanessa Muñoz
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Sociology of Work, Deb Smith

Block 4:
- SO229: Sociological Research Design, Gail Murphy-Geiss
- SO290: Topics in Sociology: Food & Social Justice, Deb Smith
- SO118: Deviance & Social Control, Mateo Muñoz

Block 5:
- SO105: Art & Society, Kathy Giuffre
- SO233: Spatial Analysis of Social Issues, Wade Roberts
- SO107: Inequality, Jeff Livesay
- SO235: Sociology of Family, Vanessa Muñoz

Block 6:
- SO105: Art & Society, Kathy Giuffre
- SO112: Gender Inequality, Vanessa Muñoz
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Consumer Culture & Sustainability, Deb Smith
- SO118: Deviance & Social Control, Mateo Muñoz

Block 7:
- SO130: Environmental Sociology, Wade Roberts
- SO229: Sociological Research Design, Gail Murphy-Geiss
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Sociology of Colorado College, Jeff Livesay
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Social Theory from the Margins, Mateo Muñoz

Block 8:
- SO312: Communities & Networks, Kathy Giuffre
- SO451: Senior Seminar: “Sociology Goes to the Movies,” Gail Murphy-Geiss
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Sociology of the body & Health, Vanessa Muñoz
- SO290: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Class Culture & Class Identity, Deb Smith