

Society for Cross-Cultural Research

Volume XXXII ❖ Number 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from our new home (Southern Utah University) in beautiful Cedar City, Utah, U.S.A. The purpose of this letter is to look back at 2008 and forward to 2009 and beyond.

First, thank you to the many people who made 2008 a good year for SCCR. Our annual conference was held in New Orleans, and was by all accounts the biggest SCCR conference in anyone's memory. I hope that we and SASci can meet again in New Orleans in the near future. Record number of newcomers and students attended, and I hope we can build on the success of the 2008 meeting at the Vegas 2009 conference.

Let us consider the future of SCCR. It is my first goal, and that of all the SCCR officers, to make SCCR a 21st-century organization. SCCR has proud and illustrious origins and history to build on, but it needs many improvements now. Going into the future, I and many others would like to see SCCR...

1. Become more open and inclusive towards newcomers
2. Appeal to disciplines beyond psychology and anthropology
3. Be more welcoming toward students and young scholars
4. Use the Internet more effectively to share members' ideas and achievements

5. Do more as an organization than just organize annual meetings

We are making an effort to recruit dynamic and energetic new officers for SCCR. If you are interested in becoming an officer, I invite you to step forward. But one big key to achieving the above five goals is the involvement of people who are not officers. Good leadership is essential, but progress must also rely on bottom-up initiatives. You will see in the near future specific efforts to improve SCCR, but I believe that our future lies in the hands of the non-officers. Please take the initiative to contact me or any officer; whatever you can offer (at any level, great or small) will be greatly appreciated.

I believe that in this era of widespread international misunderstanding, SCCR (and you, with cross-cultural interests) have something very important to offer academia and the world. Now more than ever there is a need for organizations like SCCR, and I invite you to help SCCR meet this need.

Respectfully,

David W. Shwalb
SCCR President (2008-2009)
shwalb@suu.edu ❖

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hello from the SCCR Student Advisory Committee! My name is Carrie Brown, and I am a Ph.D. student in Experimental/Developmental Psychology at Saint Louis University. I am also a founding member of SCCR's Student Advisory Committee. The Student Advisory Committee was formed at SCCR's 2008 meeting in New Orleans. The current Committee members are myself, Brien Ashdown (Saint Louis University), Sunny Carlisle (Akron University), Rayette Martin (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and Daneille Axt (University of Nevada, Las Vegas). One of the primary goals of the Committee is to get more students actively involved with SCCR. Currently, our Committee is working on preparations for the 2009 SCCR meeting in Las Vegas. Some of the events we are planning are:

1. A conversation hour with leaders of SCCR
2. A student social at a Las Vegas venue
3. A conversation hour about publishing and careers

We hope to have students actively involved in the 2009 meeting, serving as moderators of sessions, and presenting both posters and papers. Our Committee encourages you to attend the 2009 meeting, as it will be a great opportunity to meet and network with researchers and fellow students who share your interests. There are student paper and travel awards available (please visit the SCCR website for further information), as well as discount hotel rates and low registration fees, making the trip to Las Vegas an affordable one for students. We hope to see you in Las Vegas. If you have any questions about the 2009 meeting, or are interested in joining the Student Advisory Committee, please feel free to contact me at cbrown53@slu.edu. ☪

CALL FOR INFORMATION

Coming Soon: A New SCCR.org Web Site

Do you have something that could go on the new SCCR.org web site? We are looking for the following items to post on the new site (launching before the February conference). Please send any attachments, links, lists, photos, ideas, citations, etc. to: sccrwebmaster@selu.edu (Subject Header "For SCCR Web Site").

Photos:

Diverse research populations (include captions)
 Scenes of cross-cultural researchers "in action"
 Older historical culture-related photos (black & white accepted)
 Older photos from past SCCR conferences

Lists of:

Cross-cultural instructional films
 Graduate programs with cross-cultural emphases
 Other culture-related academic organizations
 Cross-cultural course syllabi

Addresses of cross-cultural listservs
 Culture-related job or grant opportunities
 Books published on culture-related topics
 Book publishers who are strong on cultural topics

Member Activities:

Your recent achievements (for News or Member Activities pages)
 Recent publication citations (books, articles, chapters, etc. on cross-cultural topics)
 Members' recent awards, fellowships, and other honors received

Links:

Web links to sites related to cross-cultural research
 Outstanding culture-related sites
 Sites of interest to undergraduate or graduate students

Other ideas:

Whatever other information you think would be useful to post/find on the sccr.org site

Send info to: sccrwebmaster@selu.edu
 (Subject Header "For SCCR Web Site") ☪

EXCELLENT STUDENT 2008 PAPER AWARD WINNERS

37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

The Walls That Encompass Us: Unpacking White Ethnicity

Danielle Axt, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

When asked how one identifies ethnically, Jake replied Italian, Italian American or white, all dependent upon context. Throughout our conversation, his ownership of these terms, his identification and articulation of what these terms meant were also in flux. Categories such as “white” and “Caucasian” demonstrate the pervasiveness of simplistic all encompassing methods of categorizing ethnic groups. This method of reduction conceals the multiplicity of factors that play upon constructions of identity. They provide a gross overgeneralization, limiting one’s ethnic identity to the narrow confines of a box (please check one: white, Asian American, Hispanic etc). One has only to apply for a job, school etc. to be confronted with these ineffective categories. My research demonstrates that within the confines of these categories, identities are not fixed. Instead, Italian Americans push against the boundaries by articulating distinctions not only among these pre-determined groups, but within.

The process of identity construction entails a close examination of the intricate web comprised of a multiplicity of factors that influence the formation of ethnic identity. Italian Americans continuously reinvent and recreate these reified boundaries forged by the state. By drawing upon interviews with Las Vegas Italian Americans as well as engaging with relevant anthropological theory, I demonstrate that ethnic identity is a process, continuously negotiated and cannot be confined to fixed strictly bounded categories.

For More Information Contact:
Danielle Axt, axtd@unlv.nevada.edu ❖

Biculturalism among University Students of Diverse Ethnic and National Backgrounds

Carrie Brown, Saint Louis University

Biculturalism was examined among 83 university students of diverse ethnic and national backgrounds. Participants completed an online questionnaire, which included a modified version of the Bicultural Identity Integration Scale (BIIS-1; Benet-Martínez, 2003); scales addressing bicultural behaviors, identity, and attitudes; the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM; Phinney, 1992); the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener et al., 1985); and open-ended questions asking about participants’ sources of cultural information. A factor analysis aided in validating the Bicultural Identity Integration Scale, and affirmed its acceptable use with diverse groups. Bicultural Identity Integration was found to be significantly related to, and predictive of, life satisfaction. In addition, a canonical correlation analysis produced 2 interpretable functions, which were labeled Conflict and High Ethnicity, and Distance and U.S Rejection. Conflict with High Ethnicity was characterized by high scores on the cultural conflict subscale of the Bicultural Identity Integration Scale; high scores on ethnic behaviors, ethnic identity, and the MEIM; and low scores on U.S. attitudes. Distance and U.S. Rejection was characterized by higher scores on both the cultural distance and cultural conflict subscales, and low scores on U.S. behaviors, U.S. identity, and U.S. attitudes.

For More Information Contact:
Carrie Brown, carriebrown13@yahoo.com ❖

EXCELLENT STUDENT 2008 POSTER AWARD WINNERS

37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

Risky Behaviors in Male versus Female College Students: A Modern Day Women's Lib Movement?

Ilse Carrizales and Sara Villanueva Dixon
St. Edward's University

Risky behavior such as smoking, drinking, use of illegal drugs, and unprotected sex is a problem that has plagued adolescents of both genders and different ethnic groups for generations. While findings regarding risky behavior show definite trends in the existing literature, the current investigation explored whether such findings examining gender group differences hold up across different ethnic groups. Similar to previous studies, we predicted that males would display riskier behavior than women. We also predicted that because of family dynamics and existing support systems within the Latino culture, this pattern would be seen less in Latino than other ethnicities.

For More Information Contact:
Ilse Carrizales, icarriz@stedwards.edu ❖

Living in a Patriarchal Society: A Case Study of Men Who Cheat and Beat in Bangladesh

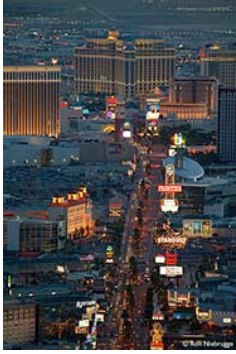
Jennifer Cheek, Southeastern Louisiana University
and Lauren Connell, University of New Orleans

Although nearly all societies are patriarchal, the oppression of women varies substantially with many Southeast Asian countries exhibiting high levels of oppression. Bangladesh is one of the most poor and densely populated countries in the world and suffers from several serious social problems. Bangladesh has an extremely high record of human right violations toward women including sexual discrimination, physical and psychological abuse, traditional dowry exchanges, trafficking, and murder. The most common form of violence toward women is domestic abuse and it is often the most underreported crime. Unlike most previous research in the field, this study analyzes data from male interviews of domestic violence instead of female interviews. The analysis of survey data collected among 4297 males as part of the 2004 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey is being utilized in this investigation to look at whether males who cheat are more likely to act violently toward women.

For More Information Contact:
Jennifer Creek, Jennifer.Cheek@selu.edu ❖

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

– Scholars – Students – Social Scientists – Nevadans – Newcomers –
ALL ARE WELCOME!



SCCR in Las Vegas
February 18-21, 2009

38th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY FOR CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH
(www.sccr.org)

Held jointly with meeting of Society for Anthropological Sciences
(www.anthrosciences.org)

All Submissions Deadline: December 31, 2008
(www.sccr.org/sccr2009/submissions.html)

WEB INFORMATION:

Conference: www.sccr.org/sccr2009/
Registration: www.sccr.org/sccr2009/registration.html
Discounted rooms at conference hotel:
www.sccr.org/sccr2009/hotel.html

Student Awards and Travel Grants available!
NEW! Online conference registration and fees payment
Questions to: sccrlasvegas@aol.com or
divalebill@aol.com

The Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR) is a multi-disciplinary organization. Its' members all share a common devotion to the conduct of cross-cultural research. SCCR members are professionals and students from the social science fields of Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, and related fields including Education, Family Studies, Social Work, Human Development, Psychiatry, Communications, Ethnic Studies, Business, etc. A distinguishing characteristic of the Society, compared with other academic organizations, is that it is fundamentally inter-disciplinary and provides members the opportunity to network with scholars from a wide variety of approaches to cross-cultural research (David W. Shwalb, Southern Utah University, President). ♡



at the Hilton Garden Inn Las Vegas Strip South
(702) 453-7830

Thanks to the Program Committee Members for Organizing the Spring 2009 Meeting!

Vicki Ashton (York College, CUNY)

Peter Gray (Univ of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Heidi LaPorte, (Lehman College, CUNY)

Susan Letteney (York College, CUNY)

Vadim Moldovan (York College, CUNY)

Mihaela Robila (Queens College, CUNY)



STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

China 2008

My name is Melissa Crosby and I am an Education Counseling graduate student at San Jose State University. This past summer I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to China through my graduate program. Dr. Xiaolu Hu, our department chair, and 23 of my classmates embarked on a three-week journey traveling through several Chinese cities. These cities included: Qingdao, Qufu, Jinan, Beijing, Shanghai, Wuxi, Suzhou, and Hangzhou. We



challenged ourselves to get out of our comfort zone and obtain a different perspective through an in-depth cultural experience. We also shared our counseling knowledge with the students

through the use of presentations.

I was not sure what to expect as we stepped off the airplane in Beijing, but after months of anticipation, I was excited to have finally arrived. I wanted to experience China with an open mind and an open heart, to let go of my preconceived notions, to put aside what others had told me and what I had read. My goal was to leave China with a new understanding of what it means to be culturally aware. Sometimes you have to be out of your comfort zone in order to truly experience a new culture.

During the first two weeks of our trip, we conducted counseling workshops and presentations at universities located in Qingdao, Qufu, and Jinan. Our large group was split into six subgroups, each with a specific presentation topic. My group chose to present on Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory and its' relation to career choice. We were asked to present

the information to the students as a western theory widely taught in America. The students asked many insightful questions and shared their thoughts and viewpoints on the theory. We learned from one another in an authentic cross-cultural setting. The dialogue con-

firmated to me that students everywhere deal with similar life questions.

We also met with university staff and discussed a wide range of topics regarding the American and Chinese educational systems.



Spending time with the students was my favorite part of the trip. In China, universities have hotels located on campus that house visitors. It was great to be on campus because the interactions with the students became a constant part of our day. The students at each university welcomed us with kindness and went out of their way to give us personal tours around their city. I appreciated seeing China in this way, as it added a special touch to the trip. I enjoyed experiencing the various cities from the students' perspectives, but even more than that, being able to talk with the students and learn about their lives.



Our talks included everything from the social networking Internet site, Facebook, to discussing various challenges we face as students trying to achieve our future career goals. These talks brought to light the many similarities between myself and the Chinese university students I had the privilege of meeting.

For our third and final week we traveled throughout Beijing and Shanghai, seeing many of the amazing and historic sites: Tiananmen Square, Ming Tombs, The Great Wall, Summer Palace and many others. Experiencing the sites in person brought them to life, captivating us in their grandeur.

I am thankful to have had the chance to visit China. It was an especially meaningful time as the 2008



Summer Olympics were to be held in Beijing just weeks after our departure. The people I met were excited to showcase their country and culture on the world's stage. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience and one that I would recommend to anyone. I am happy I was there with my classmates because it helped me process all that was happening, and without their encouragement and insight it would not have been the same. It is hard to put into words all that I learned from my few weeks in China, but this much is certain: I returned home with a new understanding and a deeper appreciation for the Chinese culture. I am forever grateful for the connections I made and look forward to visiting China again. 🍷

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Please remember to keep your SCCR membership current!

Membership dues can be paid via PayPal or by sending a check to the SCCR Treasurer at the following address:

Lisa Oliver

Department of Counselor Education

One Washington Square

San Jose, CA 95192-0073. 🍷

2008 SCCR MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS!



CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

Dear SCCR Colleagues,

Think about contributing to the Spring 2009 SCCR newsletter (to be published after the conference)! Please send me any of the following items to be included in the newsletter:

- Brief abstracts of current research articles or projects
- Job postings/position announcements
- Other general announcements (e.g., other conferences)
- Book blurbs by SCCR authors (with contact information for authors)

Please provide your material in unformatted text blocks only in Microsoft Word format. Send all items or any questions to ravisha.mathur@sjsu.edu.

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