

MA CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Social Change

Collective Organizing

Policy Analysis

Non-Profit Administration

Community-Based Research

- **What is Public Sociology?**
- **What do Public Sociologists do?**
- **What is the structure of the MA Concentration in Public Sociology at AU?**
- **What are some of the career prospects available to Public Sociology graduates?**
- **Academic Excellence: The Faculty**
- **Next steps!**

Herbert Gans wrote about Public Sociology in 1999:

Public sociologists *“(i.e., the scholars, critics, and others who speak to the general public on topical matters in which the public may or should be interested)”* can *“play a crucial role in modern society.”*

Public sociologists like public intellectuals *“are not only a bridge between intellectuals, academics, and the rest of society, but they also offer society at least a sampling of intellectual commentary on issues of the day.”*

“A public sociologist is a public intellectual who applies sociological ideas and findings to social (defined broadly) issues about which sociology (also defined broadly) has something to say.”

“Scientists’ taboos against addressing the general public must be overcome”

Herbert Gans (hjg1@columbia.edu) is Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and a past president of ASA. He received the ASA's Award for Public Understanding of Sociology in 1999.

Michael Burawoy popularized the term public sociology in 2005

“It is taking sociology to publics beyond the university, engaging them in dialogue about public issues that have been studied by sociologists. Indeed it is a triple dialogue – a dialogue among sociologists, between sociologists and publics and most importantly within publics themselves. The balance among these three types of dialogue varies giving rise to distinction between traditional and organic public sociologies.”

"The Return of the Repressed: Recovering the Public Face of U.S. Sociology, One Hundred Years On." (*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600, July, 2005)

Traditional public sociology

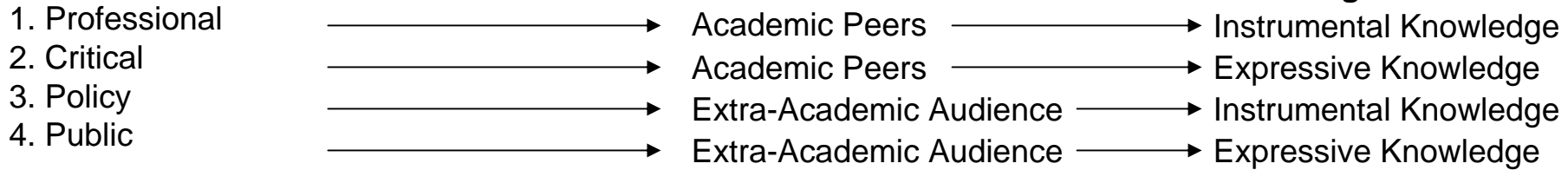
Conveys sociological information to a lay public through books (American Apartheid, op-ed articles), research/evaluation/policy reports

Organic public sociologists

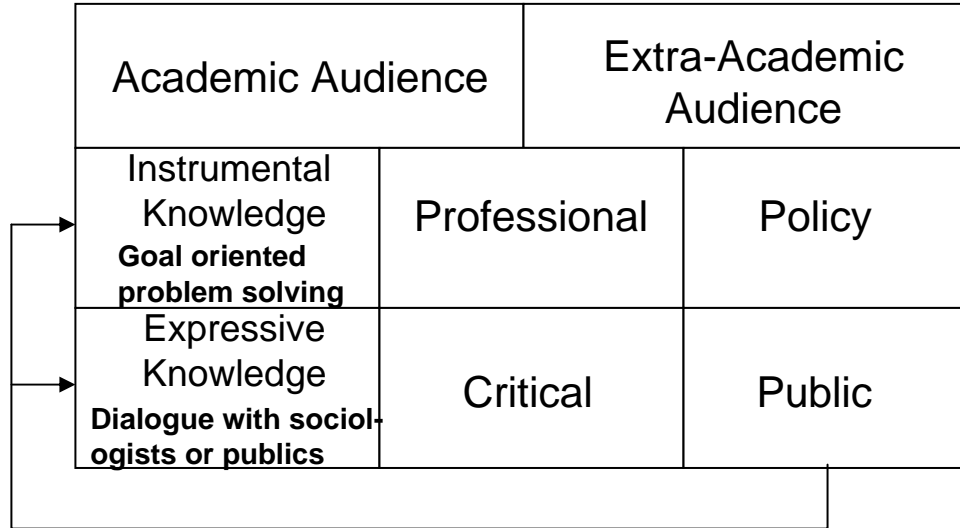
Are intimately and directly connected to politics, often articulating and representing issues that publics are already struggling with.

Organic sociologists publish reports that are used by local associations, task forces, neighborhood commissions, government agencies and are often engaged in a collaboration between academia and the community to support grass roots and community-based research, advocacy and consulting.

Burawoy's Four Types of Sociologies:



Burawoy's Four Types of Sociology and Division of Sociological Labor



- **Present community-based research on Capitol Hill**

Leslie Hossfeld, a recipient of a 2004 ASA Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) grant and more than 150 Robeson County politicians, business leaders, and unemployed individuals traveled from Lumberton, NC, participated in a congressional briefing to report on a study by Hossfeld on the impact of the precipitous job loss on the local economy and the need for business development. Policy recommendations to save rural jobs and rebuild rural counties in America hit hard by job losses were discussed

- **Evaluate and provide theoretical insight into innovative social programs**

Asked to provide an analytical and theoretical framework to a project designed to “*empower a new generation of advocates for social change and to nurture a lifelong commitment to civic participation and social justice activism,*” Sociologist Douglas Klayman developed a *program-theory-driven* methodology to assess the progress made by youth-led social movements in 32 cities nationwide using a life-cycle framework. The framework was used to explain how social movements function within the context of the grant program.

•Direct Population Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau

Sociologist Manuel de la Puente is Assistant Division Chief for Survey Methodology in the Statistical Research Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. Dr. de la Puente leads a group of twenty five survey methodologists, anthropologists, social psychologists, and other social scientists dedicated to the study of non-sampling errors in surveys and to the improvement of data quality.

•Manage Studies for Private Research Agencies

Cynthia Helba currently is a Senior Study Director at Westat, an employee-owned social science research company in Rockville, Maryland. Her responsibilities at Westat include project management and analytical consulting with an emphasis on multivariate statistical modeling. Dr. Helba is currently directing the Study of Data on Health and Well-Being of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other Native Americans (AI/AN/NA) for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services (OASPE/HHS).

•Play the role of public expert on pressing social issues

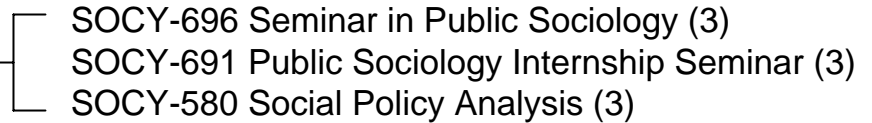
The Research Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science held a hearing looking into the condition of teacher education in STEM areas (i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The five-member witness panel included sociologist Elaine Seymour of the University of Colorado-Boulder. Seymour was the first to deliver her prepared statement. Seymour and other witnesses talked about changing the incentives to encourage the American culture and higher education/academic culture to learn to value teaching.

1. General Areas of Study

- Sociological Theory
- Research Methodology

2. Substantive Concentrations

- Public Sociology
- Race, Gender, and Social Justice;
- Global Sociology;
- Social Inequality;
- Gender and Family.

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- SOCY-696 Seminar in Public Sociology (3)
 - SOCY-691 Public Sociology Internship Seminar (3)
 - SOCY-580 Social Policy Analysis (3)

Required Courses in the Public Sociology Concentration

SOCY-610 History of Sociological Theory (3)
SOCY-611 Modern Sociological Theory (3)
SOCY-620 Social Research I (3)
SOCY-621 Social Research II (3)
STAT-514 Statistical Methods (3)
SOCY-795 Master's Research: Independent Study (3)
or
SOCY-797 Master's Thesis Independent Study (1-6)

SOCY-696 Seminar in Public Sociology (3)
SOCY-691 Public Sociology Internship Seminar (3)
SOCY-580 Social Policy Analysis (3)

Total credits required = 36

Elective Course Options

6-9 elective hours from one or more of the following from sociology:

- Race, Gender, and Social Justice;
- Global Sociology;
- Social Inequality;
- Gender and Family.

Or courses from other departments of interest, such as:

EDU-615 Education and Social Change;
COMM-644 Public Communication Writing;
SIS-545 Comparative-International Race Relations;
PUAD-604 Public Program Evaluation;
JLS-610 Justice and Public Policy.

The program of study leads to a variety of career prospects, ranging from grassroots organizing and work in community-based non-profit agencies and non-governmental organizations to employment in government agencies or legislative offices and jobs in "think tanks," research and advocacy organizations.

Specialized courses include projects that involve teamwork, engaging decision-makers and community groups, and the application of theory to current social problems. The public sociology concentration helps students develop a range of capabilities in such areas as:

- Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning;
- Managing Data Collection Using a Range of Methods of Observation;
- Interpretation of Findings Informed by Social Theory;
- Evaluation of Social Programs and Policies;
- Grant Writing;
- Collective Organizing;
- Policy Analysis.

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Professor Bette Dickerson, is past President of the Association of Black Sociologists and "Outstanding American University Professor of the Year." She is editor and author of numerous books and articles, including *African American Single Mothers: Understanding Their Lives and Families*.

Professor Kinuthia Macharia's interests include urban sociology in developing and developed countries, collective behavior and social movements. He also conducts research on the informal economy, micro-enterprises and micro-credit in developing countries. His book, *Social and Political Dynamics of the Informal Economy in African Cities: Nairobi and Harare* was published in 1997. He has also published numerous articles and speaks his native language, Kikuyu, as well as Swahili.

Dr. Celine-Marie Pascale's areas of specialization include gender/race/class, social and feminist theory, and ethics. Recent journal publications include: "There's No Place Like Home: The Discursive Creation of Homelessness," "Social Illusions: Homelessness and Public Policy" and an oral history in *Out in the Redwoods: Documenting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender History*. She is a member of the Advisory Board for Women and Gender Studies and the faculty representative for Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Honors Society for Sociology. In 2005, Pascale received the Multicultural Affairs/International Student Services Award for Distinguished Faculty in recognition of demonstrated scholarly accomplishments and unselfish commitment to the enhancement of cultural awareness at American University. In addition, Pascale was elected to the Executive Committee of the American Sociological Association Section on Race, Gender, Class, and serves as a member of the Constitutional Committee of the International Association of Qualitative Inquiry.

Professor Russell Stone's research and teaching interests include development, public opinion, social change, Middle Eastern and Third World societies, and environmental sociology. He has published on social change in Israel and the Middle East, and recently co-edited *Critical Essays on Israeli Social Issues and Scholarship*. Advisory editor for a book series on Israel Studies at SUNY Press, Dr. Stone speaks Hebrew and French. He is a consultant to research projects on environmental attitudes at Academic Silica in Taiwan and is working on a study of the impacts of the Love Canal crisis on the environmental movement in the U.S.

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Professor Salvador Vidal-Ortiz's academic interests include U.S. race and ethnic studies, Puerto Rican/Latino studies, and sex/gender/sexuality scholarship, including transgender/transsexual studies and Queer Theory. His article, *Latinos/as in the United States: Changing the Face of America* (with Gloria González-López), is currently under review. Dr. Vidal-Ortiz received the 2004-05 Race/Ethnic Minority Scholar of The Society for the Study of Social Problems, the 2004 Martin Levine dissertation proposal award from the Sociology of Sexualities Section of ASA and the 2005 Eastern Sociological Society Rose Laub Coser dissertation proposal award.

Professor Gay Young is interested in the broad area of gender and social change. She is completing a manuscript entitled *Gendering Globalization on the Ground: Women's Work and Empowerment in Northern Mexico*. The empirical analysis was based on field work in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, which was funded by a research grant from the National Science Foundation. Theory about gender inequality remains a fundamental interest. She anticipates shifting her empirical focus from Mexico and aggregate statistics to consider gender and social change in Palestine with a Fulbright Award at Birzeit University.

Students Interested in the MA Concentration in Public Sociology Should:

Complete the A.U. Graduate Application (Due Date = June 1)¹
<http://www.american.edu/cas/admissions/apply.cfm>.

Check on the Status of Your Application at the Graduate Admissions Office
Two Weeks After Submitting All Required Materials (202-885-3620)

Contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Douglas Klayman, for More Information
About the MA Program Klayman@american.edu and to Discuss Your Career
and Academic Interests

Wait to Hear from the Department Regarding Your Acceptance to the Program

¹Students interested in funding opportunities (i.e. grad assistantships/fellowships) must apply by February 1.