



Ellertson Fellowship E-Newsletter



FALL 2007

ISSUE 2

Pictures from the communications training in April



Top row: Deb Kacanek, Courtney Jackson (Ibis), Farzana Kapadia (Guttmacher), Rebecca Wind; Bottom row: Sarah Holcombe, Joanna Mishtal (Columbia), Rachel Jones, Jessica Gipson (Hopkins)



Many thanks to our Guttmacher Institute trainers: Rebecca Wind and Rachel Jones!

A little humor...

[Woman Overjoyed By Giant Uterine Parasite](#)
(*The Onion*, 8/27/07)

Note from the Fellowship Director

I am very happy to announce that we have launched recruitment for a third round of the Ellertson Fellowship. We are recruiting five fellows, one at each of our fellowship sites: [Columbia University](#), [the Guttmacher Institute](#), [Ibis Reproductive Health](#), [Johns Hopkins University](#), and the [University of California, San Francisco](#). Please spread the word at your institutions and encourage strong postdoctoral researchers to apply. Applications for the 2008–2010 fellowship can be submitted [online](#), now [through December 3rd, 2007](#). We look forward to growing our community of social science researchers who tackle critical questions related to abortion and reproductive health.

Fellows' Research Projects

The research projects of four 2006-2008 fellows have been approved and their studies are now underway. Congratulations to the fellows, and many thanks to the reviewers — Anne Biddlecom, Kelly Blanchard, Angel Foster, Donna Goldstein, Cynthia Harper, Carole Joffe, Rachel Jones, Fatima Juarez, Deb Kacanek, Jon O'Brien, Michele Rivkin-Fish, John Santelli, Michael Tan, Kathy Toner, and Laurie Zabin — for their time and input in reviewing the research proposals.



Dr. Courtney Jackson (Ibis Reproductive Health) is carrying out research on Ob/Gyn residency education, exploring the factors that influence residents' decision to train and intention to offer abortion care. Her study has three components: a content analysis of residency program websites, a national mailed survey of all (approximately 1,000) final-year residents, and in-depth interviews with 25-30 final-year residents. This research will be instrumental in helping Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health (PRCH) and others understand why residents choose to provide abortions or not, and will inform ongoing efforts to incorporate comprehensive reproductive health and abortion into routine residency training..

Dr. Joanna Mishtal (Columbia University) is expanding on her dissertation research by investigating the use of clandestine illegal abortions and of contraception and their relation to declining fertility rates in Poland. Her research explores women's fertility intentions and decisions. Her study uses a combined qualitative and quantitative research design: structured interviews in a descriptive cross-sectional survey administered to 450 women (quantitative portion), 50 of whom also participate in a qualitative interview, and a survey and structured interviews with 30 men using adapted instruments. As Poland's government continues to restrict reproductive health and abortion information and services, Joanna's research will provide valuable information on implications for women and couples and will describe how women and couples manage their fertility with little (legal access) to contraception and abortion.



Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

Training and Access Working Group Meeting

October 12, 2007
New York, NY

Women Deliver

October 18-20, 2007
London, UK

Marie Stopes International Global Conference on Safe Abortion

October 23-24, 2007
London, UK

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

November 3-7, 2007
Washington, DC

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Meeting

November 7-11, 2007
Indianapolis, IN

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting

Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2007
Washington, DC

Training and Access Working Group Meeting

March 2008
New York, NY

Women, Action & the Media

2008 Conference
March 28-30, 2008
Cambridge, MA

National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting & Social Scientists' Networking Meeting

April 2008

Population Association of America Annual Meeting

April 17-19, 2008
New Orleans, LA



Dr. Farzana Kapadia (Guttmacher Institute) is investigating the influence of partner characteristics and women's perceptions of partner suitability on their decision-making with respect to unintended pregnancy. Data collection began this past July at a single New York City clinical facility. Farzana is surveying two groups of women: those who decide to terminate their pregnancy and those who to carry it to term. Her work promises to provide substantial data on the role partners play in the complex and multi-factorial influences on women's decisions to terminate pregnancy.

Dr. Jessica Gipson (Johns Hopkins University) is undertaking a qualitative investigation of the ways in which reproductive decisions of young adults (ages 23-24) in the ongoing Cebu (Philippines) Longitudinal Health & Nutrition Study (CLHNS) are negotiated in a society in which where abortion is legally restricted and socially vilified. Her aim is to have this research inform a quantitative module on this topic in the CLHNS. Her research is politically salient, as policymakers, providers and advocates confront a fourfold increase in abortion incidence in Cebu, with similar increases in related hospitalizations, while abortion incidence elsewhere in the Philippines has remained unchanged.



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Effects of abortion legalization: researching abortion-related morbidity and mortality in Nepal

During the second year of her fellowship, Jillian Henderson (UCSF 2003-2006) initiated a research project to investigate the influence that abortion legalization has on the number and severity of complications treated at sentinel hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley, and the study continues to grow. Throughout the project, Jillian has had several opportunities for collaboration with family planning fellows, including Tabetha Harken (UCSF '08).

Jillian has drawn on the model of sentinel hospital studies conducted in the U.S. and other countries following changes in abortion policy that have documented dramatic decreases in the number and severity of complications from abortion. Her study focuses on two large hospitals that treat significant numbers of women for abortion complications. Reviewing seven years (three years pre- and four years post-legalization) of medical records and log books for all women admitted with complications of spontaneous and induced abortion at Maternity Hospital and Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, she is examining any changes in morbidity at the sentinel hospitals. Her study team is composed of researchers and physicians from UCSF and the two hospitals in Kathmandu.



She expects to have preliminary data from her study this coming December. Her hope is that publications and reports developed from the completed study data will be useful to advocates working to improve the legal status and safety of abortion services in Nepal and worldwide.

**Global Health Council
International Conference**

May 27–31, 2008
Washington, DC

**SisterSong Annual
Conference**

May 2008

**American Sociological
Association Annual
Meeting**

August 1–4, 2008
Boston, MA

**Reproductive Health 2008
(ARHP, SFP, SARC, PPFA)**

September 17–20, 2008
Washington, DC

Kim Price Update!



Kim Price, PhD, Ellertson Fellow (Ibis 2003–2006) has found a new home as an Assistant Professor in the Women’s Studies Department at San Diego State University. Kim is already quite active in the department teaching both “Women, Law, and Policy” and “Gender, Race, and Class” during this past spring semester. She was a faculty presenter at a Research Colloquium Conference Sampler, where she spoke on *Re-defining choice: Women of color and the emerging political movement for reproductive justice*. Kim is also leading an interdisciplinary research colloquium series on *Health and Healing*. She has published several essays recently (included in the list on page 4), and continues to work on her manuscript, *A Tale of Two Pills*. Kim has continued her advocacy work in various arenas. She

was also featured in her department’s [Spring 2007 transformations newsletter](#).

Social Scientists’ Networking Meeting at NAF

We had a lively meeting this past April in Boston. Joanna Mishtal’s panel – *Religious Clashes over Abortion: Comparative Perspectives* – brought religious practitioners and analysts, researchers and advocates, US and international together to discuss the implications of religious practices and fundamentalisms for access to abortion and other reproductive health care. Next year, we will allocate more time to group discussion at the end of the meeting— and plan to avoid the long skinny room set-up we suffered through!

We are beginning to plan the April 2008 Social Scientists’ Networking Meeting, and would like researchers to submit ideas for our two panels. We are especially looking for panels that span the communities participating at NAF — researchers, providers, and advocates — and that cover policy-relevant topics. Please send us your topic and possible speakers by December 15th, 2007 or feel free to contact [Sarah Holcombe](#) or [Carole Joffe](#) with any questions.

Fellowship “Webinar” Piloted

Keeping far ahead of mere mortal communicators, Joanna Mishtal piloted our first fellowship ‘webinar’. Participants from four sites received a verbal and visual update on her research over the summer. Joanna expects to share preliminary results at the fellowship meeting in early December. As one participant quipped, “Some people consider a summer project to be painting their living room; you completed data collection and cleaning for your research project!”

They Claimed What?

We see uncanny parallels in the extravagant claims made about research on the negative effects of abortion and of breast implants (and their common flaws, among others, of not controlling for women’s initial mental health status and other factors).

**Abortion in Young Women
and Subsequent Mental
Health**

(Fergusson et al., *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 2006)

**Excess Mortality From
Suicide and Other External
Causes of Death Among
Women With Cosmetic
Breast Implants**

(Lipworth et al., *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, 2007)

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Updates & Arrivals!

We are delighted to welcome **Farzana Kapadia**'s newest family member, Amena!



We salute **Michelle Hindin**, who was recently promoted to Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Congratulations to **Jillian Henderson** (UCSF 2003-2006) who received an NIH K-01 award in June for her study, "Women's reproductive health care in the transition from adolescence to adulthood."

Welcome back, Joanna! **Joanna Mishtal** just returned from three months of data collection in Poland.

Safe travels, Jessica! **Jessica Gipson** has been in the Philippines this month collecting data for her research project.



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Amy Schalet (UCSF 2003-2006) will join the board of Advocates for Youth. She will also assist Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health (PRCH) with a faculty training later this month.

Recent Publications by Current and Past Fellows

Coulter ID, **Ellison MA**, Hilton L, Rhodes H, Ryan G. Hospital-Based Integrative Medicine: A Case Study of the Barriers and Factors Facilitating the Creation of a Center. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation; MG-519-NCCAM; 2007.

Gipson JD, Hindin MJ. 'Marriage means having children and forming your family, so what is the need of discussion?' Communication and negotiation of childbearing preferences among Bangladeshi couples. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*. 2007 Mar-Apr;9(2):185-198.

Anderson R, Weisman, CS, Camacho F, Scholle SH, **Henderson JT**, Farmer D. Women's satisfaction with their on-going primary health care services: a consideration of visit-specific and period assessments. *Health Serv Res*. 2007 Apr;42(2):663-81.

Kraft JM, Harvey SM, Thorburn S, **Henderson JT**, Posner SF, Galavotti, C. Intervening with couples: assessing contraceptive outcomes in a randomized pregnancy and HIV/STD risk reduction intervention trial. *Women's Health Issues*. 2007 Jan-Feb;17(1):52-60.

Kapadia F, Latka MH, Hudson SM, Golub ET, Campbell JV, Bailey S, et al. Correlates of consistent condom use with main partners by partnership patterns among male injection drug users from five US cities. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. Article in press. Available online 2007 Feb 27.

Kapadia F, Latka MH, Hagan H, Golub ET, Campbell JV, Coady MH, et al. Design and feasibility of a randomized behavioral intervention to reduce distributive injection risk and improve health-care access among hepatitis C virus positive injection drug users: the Study to Reduce Intravenous Exposures (STRIVE). *J Urban Health*. 2007 Jan;84(1):99-115.

Price K. Hip Hop Feminists at the Political Crossroads: Organizing for Reproductive Justice and Beyond. In: Pough G, Richardson E, Raimist R, Durham AS, editors. *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminism Anthology*. Parker Publishing LLC. 2007.

Roth R. Incarcerated Women and Reproductive Justice. In: [Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change](#) (created for the 2007 U.S. Social Forum).

Roth R. [Locking Down Women's Rights](#). RH Reality Check. Available online 2007 Sep 24.

Recent Presentations, Classes, Lectures by Current Fellows

Gipson JD. Participated in session: Mismatches between Fertility Intentions and Behavior: Causes and Consequences. Population Association of America Annual Meeting; 2007 Mar; New York.

Jackson CB. Organized and led panel: The Sociology of Reproduction. Eastern Sociological Society Meeting; 2007 Mar; Philadelphia.

Jackson, CB. Invited lecture at graduate seminar: Reproductive Health in the United States. International Reproductive Health course at the Graduate School of Public Health, Harvard University; 2007 Apr; Cambridge, MA.

Jackson, CB. Translating Research Into Social Change: A Survey of Ob/Gyn Residents. Society for the Study of Social Problems 2007 Aug; New York.

Kapadia F. Taught Master's level course: Introduction to Epidemiology. New York University; 2007 Spring; New York.

Mishtal JZ. Invited presentation at faculty seminar: The Politics of Reproduction in Poland and the EU. University of Gdansk, Institute of Sociology and Philosophy; 2007 Jun; Gdansk, Poland.

Mishtal JZ. Invited lecture at graduate seminar: Reproductive Rights, Policies, and Health in Postsocialist Poland. Harvard School of Public Health; 2007 Apr; Boston.

Mishtal JZ. Invited lecture at graduate seminar: Gender, Subjectivity and Church-State Relations in Contemporary Poland. Dept. of Anthropology, New School for Social Research; 2007 Mar; New York.

Mishtal JZ. Conference paper: From Individual Objections to Systemic Restrictions: The Use of the Conscience Clause Policy in Reproductive Healthcare in Poland. Psychosocial Workshop Policy Panel, Population Association of America Annual Meeting; 2007 Mar; New York.

Mishtal JZ. Invited presentation: Abortion Policies and Grassroots Feminist Activism in Poland. Columbia University Students for Choice, Columbia University, 2007 Feb; New York.

