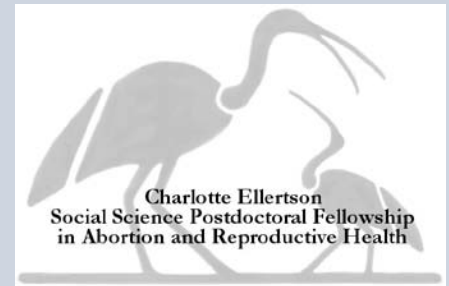


# Ellertson Fellowship E-Newsletter



WINTER 2009

ISSUE 4

## A Warm Welcome to new Ellertson Fellowship Staff!

**Ulla Larsen** joined Ibis Reproductive Health in November 2008 as the Fellowship Director. She received her PhD in Sociology and Demography from Princeton University and she did her post doctoral training at the University of California at Berkeley. Ulla has published more than 75 papers in peer reviewed journals, and her work has been funded by the NIH and the NSF, among others. Reproductive health is her main area of interest and her research work has been focused on infertility in developing countries.

**Alicia Flanagan** is the new Fellowship Assistant at Ibis Reproductive Health. She holds a BA in English and Art History from Tufts University. Prior to joining Ibis in February 2009, Alicia was employed with Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) in New York City. There, she collaborated on research projects related to contraceptive continuation, the intersection of environmental and reproductive health, the Human Papillomavirus, and intimate partner violence.



## Updates from the third cohort of Ellertson Fellows!

### Alison Norris, MD, PhD | Ellertson Fellow at John Hopkins University

In February and March 2009, Dr. Norris is evaluating the reproductive health needs in a rural area of West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Indonesia is a model for the world in the provision of contraception, with impressive changes at the national level (over 25 years, the country has experienced a drop in total fertility from 5.6 to 2.6, and trained midwives are stationed in 97% of villages), but significant areas of unmet need remain, particularly for adolescents, unmarried women, and poor women. Legal, social and financial barriers to contraception lead to unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion in these groups. Norris is planning a women's health survey in collaboration with an innovative health and environmental conservation project. While in Indonesia, Norris is also meeting with national reproductive health policy and program makers.



Starting in September, Dr. Norris will begin a study of contraceptive use and unsafe abortion in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Use of contraception in Tanzania as a whole remains quite low (in a national survey in 2004, only 20% of women were currently using contraception), and it is thought to be even lower in the semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar. Dr. Norris expects that three subgroups will have the largest barriers to using contraception: adolescents (who are, or perceive themselves to be, excluded from family planning services), women interested in effective methods for pregnancy spacing but who fear the health consequences of contraception, and women who encounter supply shortages and insufficient contraceptive counseling. The Zanzibari Ministry of Health has expressed strong interest in measuring the prevalence of unintended pregnancy and induced abortion. Dr. Norris will carry out a mixed-methods study in Zanzibar, using qualitative in-depth interviews to understand how contraception and abortion are viewed and utilized, and quantitative methods to estimate contraceptive need and abortion incidence. By collaborating with researchers and policy makers in the Zanzibari Ministry of Health and at UNICEF, Norris hopes that the research findings will have direct programmatic applications.

### Megan Kavanaugh, DrPH | Ellertson Fellow at Guttmacher Institute

Dr. Megan Kavanaugh is currently serving as Project Manager of a mixed-methods study investigating the role of abortion providers in helping women to avoid subsequent unintended pregnancies and abortions. She has completed the qualitative interview component with a small sample of providers, and she is currently developing a survey instrument to be administered to a national sample of abortion providers in

## In the news...

### [Calling for Health Care Relief at White House Health Care Summit](#)

RH Reality Check  
05 March 2009

### [Generation B: Where to Pass the Torch?](#)

NY Times  
08 March 2009

As the generation of women whose commitment to abortion was forged in the pre-Roe v. Wade days approaches retirement, will younger women take their places at the clinics?

### [Choice and Ethics: Discuss Amongst Yourself](#)

RH Reality Check  
09 March 2009

### [Obama to Lift Ban on Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research](#)

Washington Post  
06 March 2009

### [Obama administration may rescind 'conscience rule'](#)

Chicago Tribune  
27 February 2009

Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health released a report authored by **Wendy Chavkin** from Columbia University and Sara Rosenbaum from George Washington University:

### ["Women's Health and Health Care Reform: The Key Role of Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care"](#)



the spring of 2009. Results from this study will draw attention to contraceptive services currently available in abortion care settings and highlight existing barriers to integration of family planning and abortion services. In addition, Megan is collaborating with Guttmacher Institute colleagues to build on an existing project, "HIV Status and Achieving Fertility Desires," by incorporating a research component that explores community attitudes about, and stigmatization of, motherhood for HIV positive women in Nigeria

and Zambia who are deciding to continue or terminate their pregnancies. In January, Megan traveled with her colleagues to a project development workshop in Zambia to solidify study design and survey instrument structure, wording and flow.

### **Danielle Bessett, PhD | Ellertson Fellow at Ibis Reproductive Health**

In early February, Danielle participated in a working group on reproduction at the winter meetings of the feminist organization, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). The purpose of the working group was to draft a platform that will inform SWS's advocacy for U.S. health care reform, and Danielle's participation was supported by the Ellertson Fellowship. Danielle is proud that, as a result of the efforts of this working group, the SWS will focus not only on obtaining universal insurance coverage, but also on making women's access to comprehensive reproductive care a condition of that coverage and on linking programmatic initiatives on pregnancy and birth with abortion, contraception, and infertility. This approach to reproduction is integral to Danielle's own research interests on the intersections of pregnancy, birth, contraception, and abortion.



### **Julia R. Steinberg, PhD | Ellertson Fellow at UCSF**

In studying how reproductive health relates to the self, Dr. Steinberg has focused on the relationship of abortion and mental health. Research has consistently shown that women who have abortions generally cope well with their decision. Despite this, there are some (pseudo)studies with several limitations that claim to find the opposite. In order to address and expose these shortcomings, Dr. Steinberg has been writing and publishing on methodological issues to consider when evaluating work/studies on abortion and mental health. Additionally, stemming from her interest on how the individuals maintain positive views of their self, Dr. Steinberg is interested in how women who have abortions are able to cope so effectively, despite societal pressures. While it is common to talk about the stigma of abortion, little research has empirically tested how the stigma is manifested. Dr. Steinberg is thus beginning a research program that will examine this empirically. A first logical step is to understand how the stigma manifests in different social groups: How are women who have abortion judged? What are the attitudes individuals have toward women who have abortions? In a first study, individuals will be induced to produce judgments and attitudes towards women who vary on abortion history, childbearing history, socioeconomic status, and race.

### **Davida Becker, PhD, MS | Ellertson Fellow at UCSF**

Davida Becker is currently planning her Ellertson Fellowship Research Project which will focus on clients' experiences with legal abortion services in Mexico City, where first trimester abortion was legalized in April 2007. The study Davida is planning will use quantitative and qualitative research methods to better understand the areas of service provision that are working well from the client perspective, as well as areas that could be improved. Davida plans to share the information she collects through this research with policymakers and abortion service providers in Mexico City, in the hopes that the information will lead to improvements in abortion services.

## A Warm Welcome goes out to...

### Our 3 new Fellowship Advisory Committee Members!

#### Elizabeth Armstrong, PhD, AM, MPA

Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs; Director, Certificate in Health and Health Policy Program Office of Population Research, [Princeton University](http://PrincetonUniversity)

#### Bonnie Scott Jones, JD

Senior Attorney, [Center for Reproductive Rights](http://CenterforReproductiveRights)

#### Lynn Morgan, PhD, MA

Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College; Director of the [Five College Program in Culture, Health, and Science](http://FiveCollegePrograminCultureHealthandScience)

**Many thanks to all Advisory Committee Members. Ellertson Fellowship staff will be in touch with you soon regarding the review of fellows' proposals.**

#### Silvia De Zordo, PhD | Ellertson Fellow at Columbia University

Silvia De Zordo's doctoral dissertation is on state reproductive health policies and their impacts on the lives and fertility of working class, black women in Bahia (Brazil). Her research interests encompass family planning, contraception and abortion in Latin America, as well as gender and race studies, among other areas. As an Ellertson Fellow, she is drawing on her training in social anthropology to build on her dissertation work to investigate health professionals' moral and religious convictions and their perceptions of legal and illegal abortion in Brazil. She anticipates continued collaboration with Brazilian partners, including the Women and Health Research Center of the Federal University of Bahia which is concurrently researching legal abortion in the Northeast of Brazil.

### “Social science perspectives on the abortion conflict in the U.S.”

This winter, Family Planning and Ellertson Fellows participated in an on-line course taught by Professor Carole Joffe, PhD, Visiting Faculty, Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, UCSF, and professor of sociology, at U.C. Davis. Over the past eight weeks, Professor Joffe has stimulated lively discussions about the medical, social, political and cultural issues that connect to abortion. Week one began with the provider's perspective, and the course took off into the anti-abortion movement, key legal cases, the demographics of abortion recipients, difficult environments for abortion provision, the betrayal of abortion in popular culture, current controversies about the mental health consequences of abortion, the fight for reproductive rights and comprehensive sexuality education, to its final week on conscience laws and HHS regulations. The syllabus alone provides a weighty defense for supporting current and future cohorts of social science researchers whose work has the potential to inform policy and program design in abortion and reproductive health.

Please contact us at [fellowship@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:fellowship@ibisreproductivehealth.org) to sign up for notifications of the next sessions.

### Training and Access Working Group (TAWG)

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Ellertson fellows Danielle Bessett, Silvia De Zordo and Megan Kavanaugh attended the Training and Access Working Group (TAWG) spring meeting at the Guttmacher Institute in New York City. Representatives from over 20 organizations came together to discuss recent developments in abortion funding in the current economic crisis, review reproductive health issues in the first 60 days of the Obama administration, explore innovative models of abortion training and service delivery and learn about recent findings from an ACLU abortion messaging project. Other highlights of the meeting were the afternoon break-out sessions: Danielle joined a session on adoption as part of the pro-choice movement, Silvia attended an abortion service training panel and Megan participated in a session on advocacy related to repealing the Hyde amendment. All three fellows were excited to learn about the successes and challenges of colleagues in abortion advocacy and were thrilled to put faces with the names of so many people they've come to know through various reproductive health list-servs. Each left the meeting with new ideas about approaches to achieving the goal of reproductive justice and a renewed appreciation for the work of reproductive health colleagues across the country.



Danielle Bessett, Megan Kavanaugh, Silvia De Zordo

## Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

### [American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting](#)

March 31-April 4, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois

### [National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting & Social Scientists' Networking Meeting](#)

### [National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association Conference](#)

April 26– 29, 2009  
Bethesda, MD

### [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#)

April 30 – May 2, 2009  
Detroit, Michigan

### [Global Health Council International Conference](#)

May 26-30, 2009  
Washington, DC

### [NCRW 2009 Annual Conference](#)

June 10 – 12, 2009  
New York, NY

### [American Sociological Association 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting](#)

August 8-11, 2009  
San Francisco, CA

### [Reproductive Health 2009](#)

Sept 30 – Oct 3, 2009  
Los Angeles, CA

### [Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, 2009 Conference](#)

November 5-8, 2009  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
Abstract Deadline: 1-May-09

### [American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#)

November 7-11, 2009  
Philadelphia, PA

### [American Anthropological Association](#)

Philadelphia, PA  
December 2 – 6, 2009  
Abstract Deadline: 1-April-09

## Social Scientists' Networking Meeting at NAF

We are very excited about our 2009 program. The first half of the meeting will include a panel on *Access to abortion: The enduring problem, methods of study, and implications for healthcare reform* facilitated by Carole Joffe, PhD and including the following panelists: Robin Rothrock, MD; Courtney Jackson, PhD; Larry Finer, PhD; Angel Foster, DPhil, MD, AM; and Amy Allina. As in years past, we anticipate a lively discussion.

**Hope to see you there!**

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CURRENT AND PAST FELLOWS

Balcazar H, Northridge ME, Benjamin GC, Kapadia F, Hann NE. Resolving conflict. *Am J Public Health*. 2009 Mar;99(3):394-6. Epub 2009 Jan 15.

Becker D, Tsui AO. Reproductive health service preferences and perceptions of quality among low-income women: Racial, ethnic and language group differences, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2008, 40(4):202-211.

Becker D, Klassen A, Koenig M, LaVeist T, Sonenstein F, Tsui A. Women's perspectives on family planning service quality: An exploration of differences by race, ethnicity and language, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, forthcoming, September 2009.

Gipson JD, Hindin MJ. "Having another child would be a life or death situation for her": understanding pregnancy termination among couples in rural Bangladesh. *Am J Public Health*. 2008 Oct; 98(10) 1827-32. Epub 2008 Aug 13.

Kavanaugh ML, Schwarz EB. Counseling about the use of emergency contraception in the United States. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*, 2008 June; 40(2): 81-6.

Kavanaugh ML, Saladino RA, Gold MA. Emergency Contraception Services for Adolescents: a National Survey of Children's Hospital Emergency Department Directors. *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* (accepted for publication April 7, 2008). April 2009 (anticipated).

Kavanaugh ML, Schwarz EB. Prospective assessment of pregnancy intentions using a single vs. multi-item measure. *Perspectives in Sexual and Reproductive Health* (accepted for publication November 18, 2008). September 2009 (anticipated).

Schalet, A. *Raging Hormones, Regulated Love*. University of Chicago Press (September 28, 2009).

Schwarz EB, Kavanaugh ML, Douglas E, Dubowitz T, Creinin MD. Interest in intrauterine contraception among seekers of emergency contraception and pregnancy testing. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. (accepted for publication January 14, 2009). May 2009 (anticipated).

Steinberg JR, Jordan B, Wells ES. Science prevails: abortion and mental health. *Contraception*, 2009 Feb; 79(2): 81-3. Epub 2008 Dec 11.

Steinberg JR, Russo NF. Abortion and anxiety: what's the relationship? *Social Science Medicine*. 2008 July; 67(2): 238-52. Epub 2008 May 28.

### RECENT PRESENTATIONS BY CURRENT AND PAST FELLOWS

Becker D, Klassen A, Koenig M, LaVeist T, Sonenstein F, Tsui A. "Women's perspectives on family planning services: Findings from a qualitative study," oral presentation at American Public Health Association Meeting (APHA). Oct. 25-29, 2008, San Diego, CA.

Becker D, Klassen A, Koenig M, LaVeist T, Sonenstein F, Tsui A. "A qualitative exploration of differences by race, ethnicity and language in U.S. women's experiences with family planning care," poster presentation at UCSF Second Annual Health Disparities Symposium, October 24, 2008, San Francisco, CA.

Bessett D "Pregnancy Mythologies: The Role of Devalued Cultural Knowledge in Women's Reproductive Experiences," Presentation at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. March 19-22, 2009.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### [Contextual Approaches to Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy \(R01\)](#)

**Due Dates:**

**Feb 5; June 5; Oct 5**

Expiration Date: January 8, 2012

### [Contextual Approaches to Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy \(R21\)](#)

**Due Dates:**

**Feb 16; June 16; Oct 16**

Expiration Date: January 8, 2012

### [Mentored Research Scientist Research Career Development Award \(K01\)](#)

**Due Dates:**

**Feb 12; June 12; Oct 21**

Expiration Date: January 8, 2012

### [Women's Reproductive Health Research \(WRHR\) Career Development Program \(K12\)](#)

**Application Due Date:**

**Mar 27, 2009**

### [Society for Family Planning 2009 RFP](#)

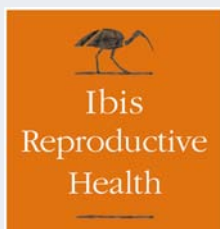
**Application Due Date:**

**April 7, 2009 at 11:59 PM (PST)**

### [2009 NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program \(DP2\)](#)

**Application Due Date:**

**May 27, 2009**



**Bessett D** "Women's Perspectives on Maternity Leave and Its Effects on Pregnancy Practices and Birth Outcomes," Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Council of Contemporary Families (Chicago, IL) in April 17-18, 2009.

**Bessett D** "'Normality' in Fetal Development and Prenatal Care: Women's Interpretations in a Context of Inequality," Presentation at the Sociology of Reproduction regular session panel at the American Sociological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA. August 8-11, 2009.

**Gipson JD**, Muntifering C, Chauwa F, Taulo F, Tsui AO, Hindin MJ. *Assessing the Potential Impact of Gender Norms and Gender Inequality on a Couples' Home-Based Intervention in Malawi*. Poster presentation at the Population Association of America Meeting, Detroit, MI. April 30 – May 2, 2009.

**Gipson JD**. *Gender, Power, and Reproductive Behavior*. Discussant at Population Association of America Meeting, Detroit, MI. April 30 – May 2, 2009.

**Kavanaugh ML** *Post-abortion contraception: Preliminary findings from interviews with abortion providers* Presenter at the Family Planning and Preventive Services Division Meeting at Colombia University, April 7, 2009.

**Kavanaugh ML**, Jones RK, Finer LB. "Providing contraception to patients in the abortion care setting: a qualitative exploration of practices and barriers." Poster presentation at the National Abortion Federation annual meeting, Portland, OR, April 29, 2009.

**Norris A** "Intimate Partner Violence and STI among men and women in a Tanzanian sugar plantation." Awarded as 'best poster' with cash prize of 1000 Indian rupees. International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health, Mumbai, India, February 2009.

**Norris A** served as rapporteur for symposium: 'Men as perpetrators and victims of GBV.' International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health, Mumbai, India, February 2009.

**Steinberg JR** Evaluating research on abortion and mental health: Presentation for Carole Joffe's social science perspectives on abortion, March 3, 2009.

**Steinberg JR** Abortion and mental health. Presentation for Bixby Symposium, October 3, 2008.

### Teaching

Alison Norris will be co-instructing a course: "History of east Africa: health, environment and society" for 5-week Yale Summer School course, to be based in Mombasa, Kenya, July-August 2009. She also taught "Overview of Abortion Worldwide: Incidence, consequences and policy response" as an invited lecturer for Johns Hopkins School of Public Health course: Issues in Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Developing Countries (course director Cynthia Stanton), December 2008.

Danielle Bessett was as a guest lecturer in the Fall 2008 "Biology of Difference" course, UMASS Amherst, Women's Studies Department. She has developed a new course, "Women and U.S. Health Care Systems," which she is teaching this spring in the Masters of Women's Health program at Suffolk University.

Jessica Gibson will be attending a Tibetan medicine conference and co-teaching a 2-week, intensive public health and research methods course at Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College in China this summer.

---

### **Ellertson Fellowship Staff**

**Ulla Larsen, PhD** *Fellowship Director*

**Alicia Flanagan** *Fellowship Assistant*

Ibis Reproductive Health

17 Dunster St., Ste 201

Cambridge, MA 02138

T: (617) 349-0040

F: (617) 349-0041

---