



## GEP News

**Hongmian Gong** (*Geography*) has coauthored an article on New York City library services to come out in *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie (Journal of Economic and Social Geography)* and an article on New York City public transit to come out in *Transportation*. Gong has recently obtained \$23K in funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation and University Transportation Research Center to conduct research on residential locations of temporary workers in New York City.

**Marnia Lazreg's** (*Sociology*) book *Torture and the Twilight of Empire: From Algiers to Baghdad* was released. Lazreg appeared several times in October 2007 on CUNY-TV as a guest commentator on two films about Algeria.

**Haydée Salmun** (*Geography*) has accepted an invitation to join the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Diversity Task Force.

**Regina Miranda** (*Psychology*) coauthored a paper "Brooding and reflection: Rumination predicts suicidal ideation at one-year follow up in a community sample" in *Behavior Research & Therapy*. Miranda has a paper on "Suicide attempt characteristics, diagnoses, and future attempts: Comparing multiple attempters to single attempters and ideators" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.

**Sangeeta Pratap** (*Economics*) presented her paper "Financial crises and recoveries: A disaggregated approach" at Wesleyan University, the Cornell-Penn State Macro Workshop and at the meeting of the Southern Economic Association in New Orleans in fall 2007.

**Pamela Stone's** (*Sociology*) book, *Opting Out?*, has been selected for Author-Meets-Critics sessions at the Eastern Sociological Society and the Southern Sociological Society in 2008.

## GEP Highlights

Over the past few months the Gender Equity Project has made some exciting new changes to our website. Not only have we updated the resource materials and made our navigation more user friendly, but we have also developed a new framework for accessing workshop materials. All workshop materials can be viewed by subject, date, or program, enabling users to find what they are looking for easily and quickly. Visit us at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity).

On October 24, 2007, the GEP hosted a panel discussion titled "Work and Family: Striking a Balance or Opting Out?" **Robert Drago**, Labor Studies and Women's Studies, Penn State University and author of *Striking a Balance: Work, Life, Family* (Dollars & Sense, 2007), **Pamela Stone**, Sociology, Hunter College and author of *Opting Out? Why Women Really Quit Careers and Head Home* (University of California Press, 2007), and **Janet Gornick**, Political Science, Baruch College and author of *Families That Work: Policies for Reconciling Parenthood and Employment* (Russell Sage, 2005) discussed issues related to balancing family and work life for women from different economic backgrounds in the United States and Western Europe.

## Highlight on Research

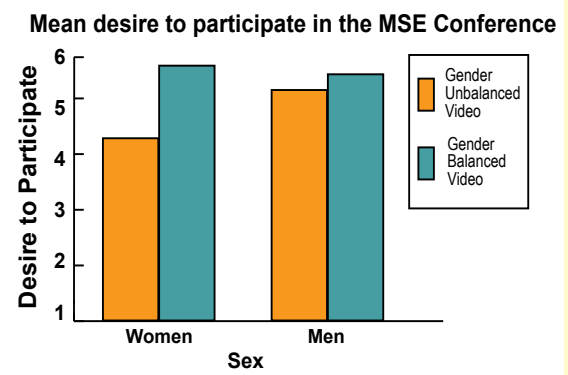
### Signaling Threat: How Situational Cues Affect Women in Math, Science, and Engineering (MSE) Settings

Murphy, Steele, and Gross (2007) tested whether threatening features of a setting – such as poor numerical representation – can make even highly confident, highly domain-identified women avoid or leave MSE fields.

Stanford University students (N=47) were shown advertising videos for an MSE summer leadership conference. Half of the participants watched a gender-unbalanced video which depicted approximately 150 people in the ratio of 3 men to 1 woman and half watched a gender-balanced video where the ratio was 1 man to 1 woman. Afterwards, the participants were asked to recall the details in the video and to rate their anticipated sense of belonging and the likelihood that they would participate in such a conference.

Results showed that:

- Women who watched the video with the gender imbalance expressed a lower sense of belonging and less desire to participate in the conference than women who watched the balanced video.
- Men were more interested in participating after viewing the gender-balanced video, but their sense of belonging was unaffected after watching either video.



Murphy, N., Steele, C., Gross, J. (2007). Signaling threat: How situational cues affect women in math, science, and engineering settings. *Psychological Science*, 18, 879-885.



**Erica Chito Childs**, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Gender Equity Project associate, has a number of recent and forthcoming publications. Her first book, *Navigating Interracial Borders: Black-White Couples and Their Social Worlds* (Rutgers, 2006), received a stellar review in *Contemporary Sociology*, the discipline's top journal of reviews:

Over the years, Chito Childs's work has charted the critical contours of the discourse on interracial intimacies with incisive sociological clarity—this book is no different...an impressive culmination of her work while simultaneously pushing the rest of us to ask more pertinent and central questions about interracial intimacy and sexuality in the racialized social structure of the United States...This study will set the standard for interracial scholarship for decades to come...

Chito Childs's work was also featured in a fall 2006 *DuBois Review* journal symposium which included a critique of her *Gender & Society* article, "Looking behind the stereotypes of the 'Angry Black Woman': An exploration of black women's responses to interracial relationships." She recently finished her second book, *Fade to Black and White: Interracial Images in America*, which will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2008. In this book, Chito Childs examines media and film images of interracial intimacy, and media depictions of high-profile cases involving interracial sex such as the recent Kobe Bryant case. Chito Childs argues that representations of interracial unions reveal that interracial sexuality is still problematic and that interracial relationships are depicted in very particular ways. She is currently conducting two large qualitative research projects, including an ethnographic study of the racial, gender, and class dynamics operating between caregivers (for children and the elderly) and their employers (parents/families) in one neighborhood of New York City. The other project is an ethnographic study of kindergarten children at two different NYC public schools, which examines how race and class affect the way children are treated in the school and social service systems.

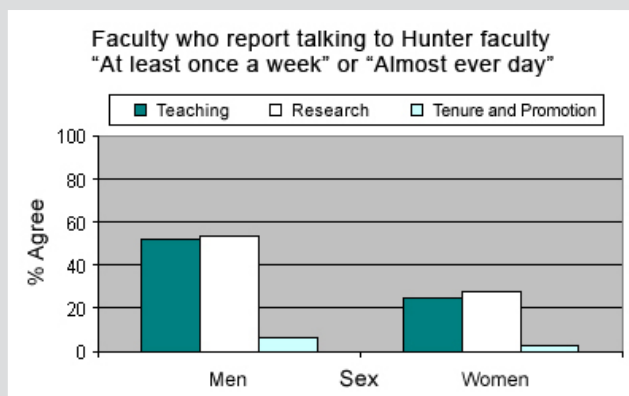
## Sex Comparisons in the Sciences

## Other Science Faculty in the News

Together with the Provost's Office, the GEP surveyed faculty in the natural and social sciences during the Fall 2007 semester. Of the 195 science faculty members, 101 (52%) completed the consent form and 89 (46%) completed the entire survey.

To assess professional networks, we asked faculty how often they talked to their chairs and other faculty about teaching, research, and tenure and promotion (T&P):

- Neither men nor women science faculty talk to their chairs
  - 72% of men and 84% of women report talking "almost never" about teaching
  - 75% of men and 82% of women report talking "almost never" about research
  - 85% of men and 92% of women report talking "almost never" about T&P
- Men talk more often than women to Hunter faculty (see graph)
  - 52% of men and 25% of women report talking "at least once a week" about teaching ( $\chi^2 = 11.43, p < 0.01$ )
  - 53% of men and 28% of women report talking "at least once a week" about research ( $\chi^2 = 5.21, p = 0.07$ )
  - 81% of men and 89% of women report talking "almost never" about T&P (*n.s.*)
- When people talk to faculty outside of Hunter, it is about research
  - 65% of men and 73% of women report talking "almost never" about teaching
  - 39% of men and 35% of women report talking "at least once a week" about research
  - 89% of men and 95% of women report talking "almost never" about T&P



**Jonathan Conning** (*Economics*) is one of four Hunter faculty members named a Fulbright Scholar this year. He is lecturing and conducting research at the Centro de Economía Aplicada (Applied Economics Center) at the University of Chile. His research is focused on two areas: (1) Chile's mechanisms to expand financial access to the small-business sector and the poor, particularly the use of loan-guarantee funds that are allocated through market auctions; and (2) an economic history of 19th-century frontier land settlement policies.

**Nancy Foner** (*Sociology*) published an article on New York as an immigrant city in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* in fall 2007 and on US immigration policy in *Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas* in spring 2008.