Application for Ashby Dialogue Grant

Title of proposed inquiry: Enduring Inequalities: Class, Race, Gender

Funds requested for:

- ☑ Fall semester only;
- ☑ Spring semester only;
- ☑ Academic year

Faculty coordinator:

Name: **Sarah Daynes**  (scdaynes@uncg.edu)  Department: Sociology

Other faculty participants:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie Brown</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Shelly Brown-Jeffy</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Charles Egeland</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<td>Jenifer Hamil-Luker</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Eric Jones</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Markham</td>
<td>Environmental Studies &amp; Sociology</td>
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<td>Arthur Murphy</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<td>Saundra Westervelt</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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Student participants:

We will draw both undergraduate and graduate students from sociology (BA, MA) and anthropology (BA), limiting the size of the student group to 15 in order to have manageable discussions. We have prepared a list of students; we will contact them upon confirmation of the Ashby Dialogue.

Names and institutions of proposed visitors (specify payment amount):

**Bruce Haynes**, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California Davis ($2000)
Enduring Inequalities: Class, Race, Gender

Project narrative

Inequality has been the single most important object of study in the social sciences, ever since sociologists started questioning social processes in the 19th century. In fact, it could be argued that the twentieth century was that of inequality and its discontents: from Marxist analyses of class stratification to DuBois’ assertion of the centrality of the color line in America, questions related to economic, social, and cultural inequalities have shaped the way we understand our society. The social transformations that have happened in the wake of World War II have been rooted in debate over inequalities, from the Civil Rights and Women’s Rights movements to immigration rights and marital equality. In the past few years, inequality has come back to the forefront, perhaps unexpectedly. Since the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president in history, the resilience of race as a central mechanism of inequality in American society has been questioned and debated. In several states, labor unions have been legally weakened and their power limited; from “binders full of women” to the “47%,” inequality was central to the 2012 presidential campaign.

During a year-long Ashby dialogue, we will explore these issues that are central to our local communities: inequality and poverty. Not only does inequality structure the society we live in: it is an eminently local and global issue, which our students do not only study in the classroom but also experience first-hand. We propose, with this Ashby dialogue, a continuous dialogue on race, class, and gender inequalities over two semesters, based on documentary film screenings and readings of studies of inequality in the social sciences. The films and related readings we have chosen will provide students with practical and theoretical ways to better understand the complex consequences of inequality (from health to the environment to immigration) and the society they live in.

Film screenings will be public events, each introduced and commented by an appropriate faculty member. Readings will be discussed in closed sessions restricted to our group of students, each moderated by an appropriate faculty member. One public lecture on race and class will be given by Dr. Bruce Haynes (sociology, University of California Davis), who will also meet with our group in a closed session to discuss his book The Ghetto. Note: The students in our Ashby group will also actively participate in the organization of the Harriet Elliott Lecture Series in Spring 2014, which the department will sponsor as a part of its centennial.

**August.** Public screening: Miss-Representation (commentator: Gwen Hunicutt).


**October.** Public screening: The Garden (commentator: Arthur Murphy). Reading group: Dumping in Dixie (moderator: Bill Markham).

**November.** Public lecture on race and class by guest speaker Dr. Bruce Haynes. Reading group: The Ghetto (moderator: Sarah Daynes, with Bruce Haynes).


**February. (Black History Month)** Public screening: February One (commentator: Paul Luebke). Group visit at the Civil Rights Museum.

**March and April.** Public screening: Inequality For All (commentator: Steve Kroll-Smith). Reading group: Class Matters (moderator: Shelly Brown-Jeffy). Our group will also organize and attend the Harriet Elliott lecture series (date TBA, in March or April).
Guest speaker

Dr. Bruce D. Haynes is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California Davis who works on suburbanization, ghetto, the black middle class, race and racial formation, and urban community organization. He recently co-edited the volume The Ghetto: Contemporary Issues and Controversies, which brings together prominent scholars to examine marginalized urban spaces and the usefulness of the concept of ghetto. He is the author of Red Lines, Black Spaces: The Politics of Race and Space in a Black Middle-Class Suburb (Yale University Press, 2001), which draws upon historical documents, unpublished census records, in-depth interviews, and participant observation to show how a combination of systematic factors led to the racialization of a typical suburban community and shows how both race and class came to serve as alternative, sometimes competing strategies for the pursuit of local interests and community mobilization. He was born in Harlem, New York, to a family of social workers. After receiving his doctorate (CUNY, 1995) he taught sociology and African-American Studies at Yale University (1995-2001). He joined the faculty of the University of California, Davis in 2001 where he is currently Associate Professor of Sociology. In 2009, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Diversity and the Martin Luther King Outstanding Educator Award.

Film list

Miss-Representation (Jennifer Siebel Newsom, 2011)

Interweaves stories from teenage girls with provocative interviews from Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Rosario Dawson or Gloria Steinem. As the most persuasive and pervasive force of communication in our culture, media is educating yet another generation that a woman's primary value lay in her youth, beauty and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader, making it difficult for women to obtain leadership positions and for girls to reach their full potential.

Into The Abyss (Werner Herzog, 2011)

In Herzog’s documentary, sorrow spreads like an oil slick on water. (...) Mr. Herzog, interviewing killers, survivors, witnesses and officials in law enforcement and corrections, is polite even when asking uncomfortable questions, and the seriousness of his intentions allows humor and absurdity to bubble up amid all the pain. (...) the grim ordinariness of the narrative makes its Dostoyevskian dimensions all the more arresting. (The New York Times)

The Garden (Scott Kennedy, 2008)

Planted and operated by mostly low-income Latino families, the South Central Farm (offered by the city in 1992 as a form of therapy after the Rodney King riots) grew into a bountiful provider of fruits, vegetables and spiritual well-being. But when, in 2004, the gardeners received a notice to vacate, director Scott Kennedy was there to capture the ensuing conflict. Juggling politics, race and religion, Mr. Kennedy struggles to untie a baffling tangle of backroom conversations and off-the-record dealing. (The New York Times)

Unnatural Causes: In Sickness and In Wealth (PBS, 2008)

Set in Louisville, Kentucky, it is a story about health, but it's not about doctors or drugs. It's about why some of us get sicker more often and die sooner in the first place. What are the connections between healthy bodies and healthy bank accounts and skin color? How do social policies and the way we organize work and society affect health? Solutions, the show suggests, lie not in more pills but in more equality. In Sickness and In Wealth sets out the series’ main themes: that health and longevity are correlated with socio-economic status, that people of color face an additional health burden, and that our health and well-being are tied to policies that promote economic and social justice.
February One: Story of the Greensboro Four (2009)
Four students from A&T University staged a sit-in at the Greensboro Woolworth’s five and dime store and requested to be served lunch. Based largely on first hand accounts and rare archival footage, February One documents that sit-in that not only challenged public accommodation customs and laws in North Carolina, but served as a blueprint for the wave of non-violent civil rights protests that swept across the South and the nation throughout the 1960’s.

Inequality for All (Jacob Kornbluth, 2012)
With Robert Reich (UC Berkeley, former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration). At the heart of the film is a simple proposition: what is a good society, and what role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of our nation’s economic health? We are endeavoring for Inequality for All to be a paradigm-shifting, eye-opening experience for the American public. We want to accurately show through a non-partisan perspective why extreme income inequality is such an important topic for our citizens today and for the future of America.

Book list

The Ghetto: Contemporary Issues and Controversies (Bruce Haynes and Ray Hutchinson, 2012).
Too often the term “ghetto” is simply applied to any African American community, to the inner city as a whole, or recently to anything that is degraded or unrefined. But what is a ghetto? Does it arise organically from cities, or is it a consequence of social conflict and government policy? Concise, original essays from top scholars around the world clearly describe essential arguments and discoveries, making the current discussion of marginalized urban spaces accessible for all readers and students of urban studies and sociology.

Dumping in Dixie (Robert Bullard, 2000)
Starting with the premise that all Americans have a basic right to live in a healthy environment, Dumping in Dixie chronicles the efforts of five African American communities, empowered by the civil rights movement, to link environmentalism with issues of social justice. In the third edition, Bullard speaks to us from the front lines of the environmental justice movement about new developments in environmental racism, different organizing strategies, and success stories in the struggle for environmental equity.

Life After Death Row (Saundra Westervelt and Kimberly Cook, 2012)
Contrary to popular belief, exonerees are not automatically compensated by the state or provided adequate assistance in the transition to post-prison life. With no time and little support, many struggle to find homes, financial security, and community. (...) The authors weave a nuanced fabric of grief, loss, resilience, hope, and meaning to provide the richest account to date of the struggles faced by people striving to reclaim their lives after years of wrongful incarceration.

A team of reporters spent more than a year exploring ways that class, defined as a combination of income, education, wealth and occupation, influences destiny in a society that likes to think of itself as a land of unbounded opportunity.