Social Justice Center Newsletter

Upcoming Events


April 5 & 6, 2010: William Ayers, educator and activist, Public Lecture, TBD.

Announcements


For those doing disability related research, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) Resource Library website is back and online. [http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/library/](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/library/)

This is an improved website with an easy to use Search tab feature. Disability websites are now “cataloged” just like books and included in the WIND Library online catalog. A library blog will list current disability related topics and events.

Membership

As always, the Social Justice Research Center would like to facilitate continued growth of our presence on campus. One way this is made possible is by promoting further expansion of membership to the Center. You can help us in our endeavors by encouraging others to join as affiliates and associates at our homepage: [http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/](http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/).
Highlighted Book


Highlighted Journals

Social Justice, founded in 1974, Social Justice is a quarterly nonprofit educational journal that seeks to promote human dignity, equality, peace, and genuine security. As one of the few independent journals from the 1970s to have survived, its contents reflect its origins and ability to renew its vitality through a series of often tumultuous decades. Its early focus on issues of crime, police repression, social control, and the penal system has expanded to encompass globalization, human and civil rights, border, citizenship, and immigration issues, environmental victims and health and safety concerns, social policies affecting welfare and education, ethnic and gender relations, and persistent global inequalities. The journal has framed its vision of social justice with an understanding of the international dimensions of power, inequality, and injustice. www.socialjusticejournal.org

 BORDER-LINES Journal of the Latino Research Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, is an interdisciplinary academic journal dedicated to the dissemination of research on Chicana/o—Latina/o cultural, political, and social issues. Border-Lines is a refereed journal that seeks to publish scholarly articles drawn from a variety of disciplines such as Anthropology, Education, Geography, History, Human Health, Literary and Cultural Studies, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology. http://www.revolution.h-net.msu.edu/announce/show.cgi?ID=163622
The women weaved their shuttles of yarn back and forth across the tightly pulled strings attached to their waists. I felt the eyes of one woman turn toward me and size me up, almost as if to say, “Wonder what she might buy?” But that was not why I was there in Santo Tomas Jalieza, a small indigenous community outside of Oaxaca City in southern Mexico. I nervously walked toward the three women sitting closely together on a bench chatting. “I am looking for the Consuelo, the president of the co-op,” I told them. Her black hair pulled into a ponytail, her dark eyes showing surprise, the woman in the center answered, “I’m Consuelo.”

It was a Saturday afternoon in the summer of 2009 and the smell of impending rain was in the air. “My name is Kashmira Gandhi,” I told her, “I am a Master’s Student in International Studies and Women’s Studies at the University of Wyoming.” I explained that I had come to Oaxaca to interview women who were members of women’s artisan cooperatives. Prior research had established that participation in cooperatives and subsequent increases in income could lead to positive changes in familial, communal, and political gender roles. I wanted to find out what, if anything, happened when co-op members faced harder times. Oaxaca, a colonial city with a famed artistic community, was the ideal site for this research. Three years earlier in 2006, teachers’ protests exploded into a 6-month, city-wide shutdown that killed the tourist industry. As visitors fled, they took with them dollars that the region’s artisans depended on. So what happened in the lives of women’s cooperative members? Did they lose their freedom to travel, did the community treat them differently, were there new changes to their gender roles? “This is my research question,” I explained to Consuelo, “Would your group be interested in participating?”

Consuelo and the cotton weavers of Textiles Jalieza became one of four women’s cooperatives that helped me explore this topic along with the wool rug weavers of Vida Nueva, the potters of Mujeres Barro Rojo, and the embroiders of Arte y Tradición San Juan Chilateca. I conducted 32
interviews with women, ranging in age from their early 20s to their mid 70s, and found that every woman’s life had been affected. Some looked for new income opportunities; others found themselves spending more time in the home, but not a single woman escaped the economic hardship brought on by the protests. However, some news was more encouraging: more and more women were participating in local politics and most women felt that the community continued to respect them and their cooperatives. While each individual’s story was unique, a preliminary finding of this research is that those women who were empowered before the protests suffered a knock to their pocketbooks but not to their independence—an encouraging fact for development professionals who support cooperatives as a way to improve women’s rights. As I continue analyzing the women’s interviews, and trends emerge, I hope that I will be able to truly answer the questions I first proposed to Consuelo. This research was made possible by the generous support of the University of Wyoming’s Social Justice Research Center, the University of Wyoming’s A&S/Saunders-Walter Study Abroad Scholarship, and the University of Wyoming’s A&S Summer Independent Study Award.
EVENT INFORMATION

Sandy Grande
Associate Professor

Save the Date!!
November 19th & 20th, 2009
2p-3:30p Public Lecture

Public Lecture with Dr. Sandy Grande, author of “Red Pedagogy: Native American Social and Political Thought” Sponsored by the Social Justice Research Center, and American Indian Studies.

Dr. Grande will be signing her book, following the Public Lecture. The UW Bookstore has ordered 10 copies that should be available several days prior to the lecture. If you would like to reserve one of the 10 copies, please contact Joyce Smith at jmith@uwyo.edu.
The Social Justice Research Center would like to announce William Ayers as our Spring Guest Lecturer.

William Ayers, Distinguished Professor of Education and Senior University Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and founder of both the Small Schools Workshop and the Center for Youth and Society, teaches courses in interpretive and qualitative research, urban school change, and teaching and the modern predicament. A graduate of the University of Michigan, the Bank Street College of Education, Bennington College, and Teachers College, Columbia University, Ayers has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, the cultural contexts of schooling, and teaching as an essentially intellectual, ethical, and political enterprise. He is currently the vice-president of the curriculum division of the American Educational Research Association, and a member of the executive committee of the UIC Faculty Senate.