

UC Berkeley

The 150 Women Project - Holding Series

Title

Celebrating the Women Behind UC Berkeley Sociology

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/981562ss>

Author

Harding, David

Publication Date

2025-10-27

Celebrating the Women Behind UC Berkeley Sociology

Compilers:

David Harding, Sociology Department Chair

Noah Barrientos, Sociology Department Manager

Allena Cayce, Executive Administrator, Communications & Marketing Manager

Nataly Torres, Student Assistant, Class of 2026

The Department of Sociology is honored to participate in Berkeley's 150W Project, commemorating 150 years of women's transformative presence at UC Berkeley. On October 3, 2020, we celebrated a defining moment in university history—the 150th anniversary of the UC Regents' groundbreaking decision to admit women on equal terms with men. Since then, generations of extraordinary women have shaped the fabric of this institution and beyond. In that spirit, we proudly recognize the visionary women of Berkeley Sociology—past and present—whose scholarship, leadership, and advocacy continue to inspire change and pave the way for future generations.

Margaret Trabue Hodgen (1890-1977)



Margaret Trabue Hodgen. Photo: *John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation*.

In Memoriam, University of California Systemwide, 1977.

The death of Margaret T. Hodgen on January 22, 1977, marked the passing of one of the University's most distinguished scholars. Born in Woodland, California in 1890, she earned her Bachelor of Letters degree in 1913 and her Ph.D. in economics in 1925 from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1924 she became a teaching fellow in the Department of Social Institutions under Professor Frederick J. Teggart and later

was appointed Assistant Professor. On her refusal to sign the Regents' Loyalty Oath, she was dismissed from the University, then reappointed with other nonsigners on order of the California State Supreme Court; but she did not return to active service and remained on leave until her retirement in 1955. She served as chairperson of the department from 1937 to 1946. During 1951-52, she was a fellow of the Huntington Library, and a Guggenheim fellow during 1953-54.

Her early writings reveal a strong interest in women, labor, and race. In 1920 she published a book, *Factory Work for Girls*, and she also wrote about women in industry and in trade unions; her works include an article on *The Fitness of British Labor to Rule*, a book, *Workers' Education in England and the United States* (her doctoral dissertation) (1925), and an essay on the Negro in the *Anthropology of John Wesley*, for the *Journal of Negro History* (1934). Broadly speaking, her main scholarly interests during her career at the University in Berkeley and during her retirement years at the Huntington Library were in three separate but related fields: the history of ideas, cultural diffusion, and the comparison of histories.

Four original books or monographs came from her pen from 1936 to 1974. The *Doctrine of Survivals* (1936) analyzed the idea that relics, material or immaterial, of the past still surviving in a culture indicate the origin and subsequent stages of cultural evolution, a doctrine given prominence by Edward Tylor in *Primitive Culture* (1871). She also analyzed the ideas of developmentalism, degenerationism, and the relationship of survivals to theories of social origins, with chapters on the critics of the doctrine, the revisionists, and on social change and social fixity. Her most extended research resulted in the publication of *Change and History. A Study of the Dated Distributions of Technological Innovation in England* (1952). This work, which occupied her from 1935 to 1950, listed and mapped technological innovations in England from the prehistoric period to the end of the nineteenth century. From these basic data, she was able to isolate periods of accelerations and geographical shifts in innovations. She studied the nature and types of innovators and their milieu; primary and secondary innovations; distributions and processes; and the relationship of technological innovations to migrations.

In *Early Anthropology in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (1964), she set forth in a masterly manner the classical and biblical sources of ethnological theory, and described in detail the questions raised by the growing volume of ethnological materials of the New World. It is an excellent example of her sure grasp of ideas and their history, a particularly cogent and thoughtful analysis of concepts of cultural diversity, diffusion, degeneration, environmentalism, the "noble savage," and the place

of the “savage” in the chain of being. In her last publication, *Anthropology, History, and Culture Change* (1974), she returned to her interest in the comparison of histories—the use and analysis of dated events as a means of explaining the processes of cultural change. She selected two already assembled collections of dated events: the dates and places that presses were established during five decades in the fifteenth century, from 1450 to 1500; and the places and dates of the formation of every Christian group or church from A.D. 1 to A.D. 400. She then compared the two histories and came to conclusions based on history, not theory, regarding the nature and the processes of cultural change. In addition to the books and monographs, she wrote several short, spirited, and original articles on such subjects as the fairs of Elizabethan England; glass and paper; Karl Marx and the social scientists; a review of Oswald Spengler's *Man and Technics*. These and other essays showed the depth of her knowledge of cultural diffusion and the intellectual history of the social sciences. They were concerned with acculturation, processes of cultural change, innovation, and the influence of ideas. Her works were well received not only in the published reviews but in personal letters expressing the esteem in which her contributions were held. For many years she taught courses in the history of social thought on the graduate and undergraduate level in the Department of Social Institutions. In the late twenties, she instituted a reading course for undergraduate students and reserved for them in the Doe Library a room stocked with important recent and contemporary works on social thought, the history of ideas, anthropology, and sociology. She was a stimulating teacher, invariably well prepared, always with suggestions for further reading; she was particularly effective in smaller classes.

From 1925 until Frederick J. Teggart's death in 1946, Margaret Hodgen worked in close association with the then chairman of the Department of Social Institutions. Her many acknowledgements of his encouragement and inspiration are touching witnesses of their close association. They greatly admired one another, and after Teggart's death she grasped every opportunity to keep his teachings alive, to call attention to his contributions to the methodology of history and his advocacy of the comparison of histories. She wrote the article on Teggart in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*.

Margaret Hodgen was a kind and gracious woman. She encouraged the young and the uncertain when they most needed encouragement, and she richly deserved the respect, admiration, and devotion of her students. She had a strong independent mind; she was firm in her convictions, clear and unequivocal in expressing them. Two days before her death in her eighty-seventh year, she was at work in the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, where she had spent many years after her retirement.

Clarence J. Glacken, K.E. Bock, E.W. Strong, 1977.

Faculty Member: 1925-1976.

Notable Publications:

- *Anthropology, History, and Cultural Change*. University of Arizona Press, 1974.
- *Early Anthropology in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1964.
- *Change and History: A Study of the Dated Distributions of Technological Innovations in England*. Johnson, 1952.
- *Workers' Education in England & the United States*. K. Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1925.

Awards: Guggenheim Fellowship for Social Sciences, US & Canada

Gertrude Jaeger Selznick (1915-1979)



Gertrude Jaeger Selznick. Photo: Courtesy of Doris Fine

In Memoriam, University of California Systemwide, 1979.

After a long illness, Gertrude Jaeger, Professor of Sociology, died on September 4, 1979, at the age of sixty-four. With her passing the University of California lost one of its most fertile minds, one of its truly dedicated and exciting teachers, and a faculty member whose contribution to the opening of opportunities for women in academic life is inestimable.

According to the official campus press release, she was a “noted scholar and feminist.” A noted scholar she was. And her feminism (which was always linked to a larger humanism) did not arise simply from abstract scholarly ideals, but from a lifelong struggle to realize her potential in an era in which social institutions and public attitudes discouraged the full intellectual development of women. In high school she was forced to wrap her schoolbooks under plain covers so that her mother, who wanted her to be a secretary, might not know she was taking mathematics. Finding the intellectual and cultural climate of her family too confining, she left home at seventeen, supporting herself through secretarial and similar work, and taking college courses at night. Like so many women of her generation, the broad outlines of her career were shaped by constricting stereotypes and opportunities. Like many other faculty wives, her specific movements in time and space were linked to those of her husband, Philip Selznick, for more than forty years her intellectual companion and co-worker. In the late 1930s Selznick and Jaeger were active in the socialist movement, and they married in 1939. When Selznick was working on his study of the Tennessee Valley Authority, she completed her undergraduate work at the University of Tennessee, majoring in mathematics and philosophy and graduating with honors in 1943. When her husband went into the army, she attended the University of Chicago where she received her MA in philosophy. The Chicago experience was especially important to Gertrude Jaeger. Although her main interests were ethics and pragmatism, she was also a close student of Rudolf Carnap and helped him with his book, *Meaning and Necessity*. She was a contributor to the Great Books project “Syntopicon,” which was then being prepared, and she was part of a lively intellectual circle that included Daniel Bell, Saul Bellow, Gertrude Himmelfarb, and Irving Kristol.

When Selznick became a Professor at UCLA, she entered the Ph.D. program in philosophy there. Her dissertation on “Functionalism, Freud, and the Philosophy of Value,” analyzes the development of the Freudian model and compares it with John Dewey's psychology and theory of value. With the responsibilities of motherhood and faculty wifedom it was not until 1960 that she completed the degree requirements. In addition to Freud, she was a keen student of the American pragmatists, and had a special interest in philosophy of science and the logic of inquiry. With the first class citizenship of an academic appointment closed, Gertrude Jaeger concentrated on writing and research. She made important contributions to her husband's authoritative introductory textbook in sociology (written with Leonard Broom), and in 1959 published her own text in *Social Problems* with Earl Raab. She also collaborated with Selznick in the influential essay, “A Normative Theory of Culture,” the scholarly

contribution of which she was the most proud. In this period, she also contributed immensely to the building of community feeling in the Department of Sociology at Berkeley. At the parties and dinners for which she and Philip Selznick were famous, Gertrude Jaeger displayed a consummate graciousness, a sparkling conversational ability and wit, the finest in gourmet cooking, and the ability to make graduate students and young faculty members feel at home. Critical to her development as a sociologist was her appointment as a research associate at the Survey Research Center in 1959. For more than a decade, with Charles Glock as director, SRC became her intellectual home. Her acute logical powers flowered—she was, in Glock's words, “The Paul Lazarsfeld of SRC;” also the generalist, the institution's idea person, and in addition became proficient in quantitative data analysis. All of these attributes were expressed in her major research monograph on antisemitism and racism, *The Tenacity of Prejudice* (with Stephen Steinberg, 1969).

In 1966, Ms. Jaeger began teaching in the Department of Sociology as a lecturer, without stipend, because of the nepotism rule. She pioneered in the revision of that rule, and also in the opening of that other provision so important to women academicians, the half-time appointment. When a regular appointment became possible in 1972, she was immediately made a full Professor, passing over the lower ranks. And sociology had its first tenured woman faculty member since the retirement of Margaret Hodgen more than a generation earlier. In the same year, she was elected president (the first woman in that position) of the Pacific Sociological Association. Her presidential address was “The Concept of the Social Self in Mead and Freud.”

In the department Gertrude Jaeger served as a model of an intellectually powerful woman, a brilliant scholar and a dedicated teacher. More comfortable in the give-and-take of discussion than in the lecture hall, her seminar on Freud, a legend in its own time for intellectual excitement, was a perfect vehicle for her acute, penetrating mind and a “must” experience for any graduate student seriously interested in social theory. If, when her students arrived for the seminar, she would be playing Beethoven on the piano, she would begin that class comparing the composer with Freud. Neither such creativity nor the energy and intensity of her intellect could be confined. She honored the halls, the office, wherever she went, with her disputations, the what-follows-from-what,” unthreading the weave in some student's assertion. Her sentences and her laughter echoed through Barrows Hall: “How can you say that Mead didn't write about culture?” Professor Jaeger worked closely with some of the department's best students, upon whom she made lasting intellectual and personal impacts. She had a special interest in women and insisted that they continue to work and grow

intellectually, even during personally difficult times, both for themselves and, as she would say, “for other women.” And while with the most gifted she could be extremely supportive, her strict standards did not make for easy relations with some women students, for whom perhaps she expected even higher than usual levels of excellence. In her memory, the department has established an annual Gertrude Jaeger prize for the best theoretical paper by a woman graduate student. Her students were especially prominent among those who came to visit and say goodbye during her long and courageous struggle with cancer. With these friends she talked freely and honestly about her illness, setting an example in death as well as in life. Also memorable in her last year were two formal ceremonies which brought her together with her friends, admirers, fellow scholars, and feminist comrades. First, at a “retirement dinner,” sponsored by the Society for Women in Sociology, and second, at a Department of Sociology evening, people paid tribute to her accomplishments and to her character: the honesty, sense of conviction, personal dignity, and above all, her passion for ideas, or as Philip Selznick put it, “her unflagging devotion to examined life.” In his moving statement Selznick also thanked his “best friend and closest colleague” who “has furnished my mind and nourished my spirit.” To those whom she touched most profoundly, Gertrude Jaeger gave a philosophy of life and the object lesson that in order to be at once a human being and an intellectual, a woman and an academic, one has to fight and struggle, to seek always to grow.

Bob Blauner, Arlie Hochschild, Leo Lowenthal, 1979.

Faculty Member: 1966-1978

Notable Publications:

- *Tenacity of Prejudice: Anti-Semitism in Contemporary America*. Harper & Row, 1972.
- *Social Problems*. Harper & Row, 1959, co-authored with Earl Raab.

Arlie Hochschild (1940 -)



Arlie Russell Hochschild. Photo: Paul572, 10 January 2017

Arlie Hochschild is a notable sociologist whose work has significantly shaped the understanding of emotions in personal and social contexts. She became a faculty member after earning her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 1969, advised by Neil Smelser. Hochschild focused on multiple areas including family, market culture, global patterns of care work, and social psychology. Hochschild's work has explored the intersections between culture, politics, and emotions, examining how emotions play a central role in shaping social behaviors and political ideologies. Hochschild's main idea is that emotions are not individual experiences, but are deeply social and shaped by cultural norms and expectations. She claims that emotions like joy, anger, grief, jealousy, and even love are influenced by social interactions and are often defined by what she terms "feeling rules," which are the unwritten guidelines that tell people what emotions are appropriate to feel in specific contexts. She explains that these are learned through socialization and are reinforced through everyday interactions with family, peers, and institutions. Hochschild's work has reshaped the field of sociology by demonstrating that emotions are not just biological or psychological occurrences, but are fundamentally social and shaped by power, culture, and politics. Hochschild was an inspiring lecturer and has had a powerful impact through her work inside and outside the classroom.

Faculty Member: 1971-2006

Notable Publications:

- *Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right*. The New Press, 2024.
- *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*. The New Press, 2017.
- *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*. Metropolitan Books, 1997.
- *The Second Shift: Working Families and the Revolution at Home*. Viking, 1989.
- *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. University of California Press, 1983.

Awards: Guggenheim Fellowship, Fulbright Fellowship, Mellon Fellowship, American Sociological Association Awards: Charles Cooley, Jessie Bernard, Public Understanding of Sociology.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Barrie Thorne (1942 -)



Professor Barrie Thorne. Photo: Heidi Elisabeth Sandnes

Barrie Thorne joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1995 as both a Professor of Sociology and Gender and Women's Studies. She was previously a faculty member at Michigan State University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Oslo. She earned her BA from Stanford in 1964 and her MA and PhD in Sociology from Brandeis University (1967, and 1961, respectively). Thorne's research and teaching focus on the sociology of gender; feminist theory, the sociology of age relations, childhood, and families. She is a former Vice President of the American Sociological Association and a former Chair of the ASA Sections on the Sociology of Gender, and the Sociology of Children and Youth. Thorne is known for her work breaking down barriers for women in sociology and the role of women in society. She co-directed the Berkeley Center for Working Families, which worked towards building a feminist intellectual community focused on the themes of "cultures of care" and the changing contours of family life in the context of global economic restructuring. Thorne was also on the Board of the Berkeley Faculty Association; she was an active member who played a role in the broader movement to challenge the privatization and defunding of public education.

Faculty member: 1995- 2012

Notable Publications

- *Feminist Sociology: Life Histories of a Movement*, with Barbara Laslett. Rutgers University Press, 1997.

- *Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School*. Rutgers University Press, 1993.
- *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions* (revised edition), with Marilyn Yalom. Northeastern University Press, 1992.
- *Language, Gender and Society*, with Cheri Kramarae and Nancy Henley. Newbury House, 1983.
- *Language and Sex: Difference and Dominance*, with Nancy Henley. Newbury House, 1975
- *Education for the Professions of Medicine, Law, Theology and Social Welfare*, Everett C. Hughes and others. McGraw Hill, 1973.

Awards: Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award from the Graduate Assembly at the University of California, Berkeley, Townsend Center for the Humanities Senior Fellow, American Sociological Association Jessie Bernard Award, Norwegian Research Council, Social Scientist Visiting Fellowship.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Victoria Bonnell (1942 -)



Victoria Bonnell, Photo: (c) 2013 Grisha Freidin

Victoria Bonnell is an outstanding historical sociologist whose work has focused on Soviet and East European society, social change, and the sociology of everyday life. She earned her BA at Brandeis University in 1964, her MA from Harvard University in 1966, and her PhD from Harvard University in 1975. Bonnell's approach to sociology incorporates multidisciplinary perspectives, drawing on history, anthropology, literary theory, visual art, and political science. Her research contributes to our understanding of social, political, and cultural transformation in Russia, including key historical events such as the 1905 and 1917 Russian revolutions, the rise of Stalinism, and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Bonnell's work is distinguished by its focus on how these major political and historical shifts impacted national identity, collective memory, and the role of visual culture in shaping social perceptions. Furthermore, Bonnell contributed to discussions on methodology, especially in historical and comparative research. She served as Director of the Institute for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies from 1995 to 2005. The institute supported academic research for graduate students and faculty and provided a lively intellectual community for those on the Berkeley campus and in the Berkeley community interested in Soviet and post-Soviet studies.

Faculty Member: 1976 - 2014

Notable Publications:

- *Iconography of Power: Soviet Political Posters under Lenin and Stalin*. University of California Press, 1997.
- *Roots of Rebellion: Workers' Politics and Organizations in St. Petersburg and Moscow, 1900–1914*. University of California Press, 1983.
- *The Russian Worker: Life and Labor under the Tsarist Regime*, University of California Press, 1983.

Awards:

Heldt Prize in Slavic Women's Studies for Best Article: "Representation of Women in Early Soviet Political Art," *The Russian Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3; Guggenheim Fellowship; Honorable Mention, Vucinich Prize American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, for *Roots of Rebellion*.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Ann Swidler (1944 -)



Ann Swidler Photo: Courtesy of Dept. of Sociology

Ann Swidler received her BA (1966) and MA (1971) and PhD from UC Berkeley in 1975. Her research focuses on the interplay between culture and institutions, which examines both how culture functions in social life and how people actively use it to navigate their world. She also investigates religion, institutionalization, and collective action, with a particular focus on responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa. Swidler's work explores African chieftaincy, religious congregations, and NGOs, with a current project investigating the social ecologies of religion in Malawi. In this project, she studies how religious networks such as village leaders, religious leaders, and local officials generate collective capacities for social action. Swidler taught courses in the sociology of culture, the sociology of religion, and sociological theory, with an increasing interest in political sociology, development, and the sociology of science and medicine. Her work examines how cultural and religious practices influence collective behavior and social change, especially in the context of sub-Saharan Africa.

Faculty Member: 1987- 2017

Notable Publications:

- *Challenging Modernity. With Bellah, Madsen, Sullivan, and Tipton. Columbia University Press, 2024*
- *A Fraught Embrace: The Romance and Reality of AIDS Altruism in Africa*, with Susan Watkins. Princeton University Press, 2017.
- *Meaning and Modernity: Religion, Polity, Self*, with Madsen, Sullivan, and Tipton. University of California Press, 2001.
- *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. University of Chicago Press, 2001.
- *The Good Society*, with Robert N. Bellah, Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, and Steven M. Tipton. Knopf, 1991.
- *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*, with Robert N. Bellah, Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, and Steven M. Tipton. University of California Press, 1985.
- *Organization Without Authority: Dilemmas of Social Control in Free Schools*. Harvard University Press, 1979.

Awards: Elected Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The League of Women Voters Award, Fellow, Successful Societies Program, Canadian Institute, Guggenheim Fellow, Social Science Distinguished Teaching Award, UC Berkeley.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Nancy J. Chodorow (1944 -)



Nancy J. Chodorow, Photo: Courtesy of Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute

Nancy J. Chodorow was a Professor of Sociology and Clinical Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. She was also a faculty member of the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute and a practicing psychoanalyst. She earned her PhD in sociology from Brandeis University in 1975 and received psychoanalytic training at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. Chodorow's work focuses on psychoanalysis and gender, particularly how mothering shapes psychological development and social roles. Her interests include the challenges of psychoanalytic practice, particularly paradoxes such as the balance between the analyst's a priori theories and the open, exploratory nature of the therapeutic process. Her work is also concerned with how cultural differences and political beliefs impact the therapeutic relationship, especially when patients use political ideologies like feminism to rationalize or avoid confronting psychological conflicts. Chodorow was also interested in the challenges that the socially or politically aware analyst faces when patients use feminist or other political beliefs to rationalize or ignore painful psychological conflicts. She is widely appreciated for her contributions to the fields of sociology, psychoanalysis, and gender studies.

Faculty Member 1986- 2009

Notable Publications:

- *The Psychoanalytic Ear and the Sociological Eye: Toward an American Independent Tradition*. Routledge, 2020.
- *The Power of Feelings: Personal Meaning in Psychoanalysis, Gender, and Culture*. Yale University Press, 1999.
- *Femininities, Masculinities, Sexualities: Freud and Beyond*. University Press of Kentucky, 1994

- *The Reproduction of Mothering*. University of California Press, 1978. (2nd ed., 1999)

Awards: Jessie Bernard Award of Sociologists for Women in Society, Distinguished Contribution to Women and Psychoanalysis Award from the American Psychological Association, L. Bryce Boyer Prize of the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

Further information can be found [here](#)

Kristin Luker (1946 -)



Kristin Luker, Photo: Courtesy of Berkeley Law

Kristin Luker joined the faculty at UC Berkeley Law and the Department of Sociology in 1986, after teaching at UC San Diego for 11 years. She was appointed to the Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt Chair in 2006 and has held several prestigious fellowships, including Ford, Guggenheim, and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships. In 1997, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Luker has been involved in public policy discussions, having met with President Clinton in 1993 to address national issues and providing testimony to the White House on teenage pregnancy in 1994. Her main research interests were gender, sexuality, women, and welfare. She founded the UC Berkeley Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice, which seeks to secure reproductive rights and justice through research, bolstering law and policy advocacy efforts, and shaping academic and public discourse ([Berkeley Law](#)).

Faculty member: 1994- 2005

Notable Publications:

- *Salsa Dancing in the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-glut.* Harvard University Press, 2010.
- *When Sex Goes to School: Warring Views on Sex--and Sex Education-- Since the Sixties.* W.W. Norton, 2006.
- *Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of the Teenage Pregnancy Crisis.* Harvard University Press, 1995.
- *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood.* University of California Press, 1984.
- *Taking Chances: Abortion and the Decision Not to Contracept.* University of California Press, 1975. (2nd ed., 1991)

Awards: Open Society Institute Individual Project Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Elected to Sociological Research Association. Chosen as one of three sociologists to meet with President Clinton to discuss “issues confronting the nation.”

Further information can be found [here](#)

Kim Voss (1952)



Kim Voss, Photo: Courtesy of Kim Voss

Kim Voss arrived at Berkeley in 1986 with a PhD from Stanford. She also holds a BA from Catawba College (1974) and an MS from Cornell University (1977) in the Sociology of Development. Throughout her academic career, Voss has been widely recognized for her studies on social movements, labor, inequality, higher education, and comparative-historical sociology. Voss’s research is concentrated on labor and social movements, particularly how these movements shape, and are shaped by,

inequality and political change. One of her central interests is understanding how labor movements adapt and respond to shifts in economic, political, and social conditions. A current example of this is her investigation on precarity—the condition of living with insecurity, uncertainty, and unstable economic circumstances in the San Francisco Bay Area. She examined workers who experience instability, economic vulnerability, and a lack of social protections, and how this impacts their political attitudes and engagement with social movements. Her work on precarity also looks at how communities address issues of economic inequality, affordable housing, and worker rights in response to the challenges of living and working in the Bay Area. Voss is an engaging professor who has taught both graduate and undergraduate students, as well as a campus leader. Between 2004 and 2007, she served as the first female Chair of the Sociology Department, and has served as an Associate Dean in the Social Science Division and the Graduate Division and multiple terms as Acting Dean of the Social Sciences Division.

Faculty Member: 1986 - Present

Notable Publications:

- *Rallying for Immigrant Rights: The Fight for Inclusion in 21st Century America*, edited with Irene Bloemraad. University of California Press, 2011.
- *Rebuilding Labor: Organizing and Organizers in the New Union Movement*, edited by Ruth Milkman and others. Cornell University Press, 2004
- *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement*, with Rick Fantasia. University of California Press, 2004.
- *Inequality by Design: Cracking the Bell Curve Myth*, with Claude Fischer, Michael Hout, Martin Sanchez Jankowski, Sam Lucas, and Ann Swidler. Princeton University Press, 1996.
- *The Making of American Exceptionalism: The Knights of Labor and Class Formation in the Nineteenth Century*. Cornell University Press, 1993.

Awards: First Elected Chair of the Labor and Labor Movements Section of the American Sociological Association, The Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America, Regents' Junior Faculty Fellowship.

Further information can be found here, ([page](#))

Margaret Weir (1952 -)



Margaret M. Weir. Photo: Annette Hornischer

Margaret Weir is Professor of Sociology and Political Science and Avice M. Saint Chair in Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught courses on urban society and politics, political sociology, and the welfare state. Before coming to Berkeley in 1997, she was a Senior Fellow in Governmental Studies at the Brookings Institution (1992-1997) and a member of the faculty of the Government Department at Harvard University (1985-1992). She received her BA in Political Science from Antioch College in 1975, her MA in Sociology from Brandeis University in 1978, and a PhD in Political Science in 1986 from The University of Chicago. Throughout her career Weir has written widely on social policy and politics in the United States. She conducted a study of metropolitan inequalities in the U.S. with a particular focus on poverty and the politics of coalition-building in metropolitan America over the past two decades. She has also worked on the politics of health policy in the states. Articles from this project examine the role of organized labor in promoting health access and of insurance companies in constructing narrow risk pools.

Faculty Member: 1997 - present

Notable Publications:

- *We the People* W.W. Norton. (with Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore Lowi, and Caroline Tolbert) (tenth edition), 2014
- *The Social Divide: Party Politics and the Future of Activist Government* Brookings Institution and Russell Sage Press. (Editor), 1998
- *Politics and Jobs: The Boundaries of Employment Policy in the United States* Princeton University Press, 1992
- *The Politics of Social Policy in the United States* Princeton University Press (co-edited with Ann Shola Orloff and Theda Skocpol), 1988
- *Schooling for All: Class, Race and the Decline of the Democratic Ideal* (New York: Basic Books (with Ira Katznelson), 1985

Awards: Matina S. Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor, Radcliffe Institute, National Academy of Social Insurance, Member American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Fellow.

Further information can be found [here](#)

Laura Enríquez (1956 -)



Lara Eriquez. Photo: Courtesy of Dept. of Sociology

Laura Enríquez, a sociologist of development in Latin America, began teaching at UC Berkeley in 1990 after receiving her BA in Sociology and Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara (1977) and her PhD (1985) and MA (1979) in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research focuses on social transformation in Latin America through the lens of agricultural (and broader economic) policy and emigration. Her work has explored the impacts of agrarian reform, food policies, and economic strategies in countries like Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela. Enríquez's early publications analyzed the Sandinista agrarian reform in Nicaragua and modifications in Cuban agriculture, which followed the collapse of its socialist trade partners. Her more recent research has shifted to focus on Latin American migration to Europe, especially the migration of women to Italy. She investigates the push factors that drive this migration, the reception of migrants in Europe, and their ongoing connections to their home countries. Her latest book, *Children of the Revolution: Violence, Inequality, and Hope in Nicaraguan Migration*, presents oral histories of Nicaraguan women who migrated to Italy in the aftermath of their home country's social revolution and its subsequent embrace of neoliberal economic policy, showing how class, gender, race, ethnicity, and immigration status shaped their experiences.

Faculty Member: 1990- 2025

Notable Publications

- *Children of the Revolution: Violence, Inequality, and Hope in Nicaraguan Migration*. Stanford University Press, 2022.
- *Reactions to the Market: Small Farmers in the Economic Reshaping of Nicaragua, Cuba, Russia, and China*. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2010
- *Agrarian Reform and Class Consciousness in Nicaragua*. University Press of Florida, 1997.
- *Harvesting Change: Labor and Agrarian Reform in Nicaragua, 1979-1990*. University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

Awards: Social Science Division Distinguished Teaching and Service Award, Fellowship: Graduate Educational Opportunity Program, UCSC, Junior Faculty Mentor Grant, Office of the Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley.

Further information can be found [here](#)

Raka Ray (1962 -)



Raka Ray. Photo: Courtesy of Sociology Department

Raka Ray is a sociologist with interests in gender and feminist theory, postcolonial sociology, and the emerging middle classes, with a focus on India. She earned her AB of Sociology from Bryn Mawr College (1985), and her PhD and MA of Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1987 and 1993, respectively). Her work explores social movements, reproduction of inequality, postcolonial sociology, gender, class, neoliberalism, and pedagogy, and intersects with multiple subfields, including law, politics, sexuality, and religion. Ray investigates social movements through the political fields that affect women's

movements in India. She also links the reproduction of inequality to the growth of the middle class and democracy in India. She suggests that the cultural dominance of the middle class has compromised democratic possibilities in Indian politics. Ray's interest in gender is fundamental to her work as a scholar, and how she studies gender has continually evolved. In her latest book, *The Social Life of Gender* (Sage 2018), co-written with former students (Jennifer Carlson and Abigail Andrews) she brings forward a new global perspective to teaching Sociology of Gender in the United States. Since 2020, she has served as the Dean of Social Sciences at UC Berkeley.

Faculty member: 1993- Present

Notable Publications

- *The Social Life of Gender*, with Jennifer Carlson and Abigail Andrews. Sage, 2018.
- *Handbook on Gender*. Oxford University Press, 2012.
- *Elite and Everyman: The Cultural Politics of the Indian Middle Classes*, with Amita Baviskar,. Routledge, 2011.
- *Cultures of Servitude: Modernity, Domesticity, and Class in India*, with Seemin Qayum. Stanford University Press, 2009.
- *Social Movements in India: Poverty, Power, and Politics*, with Mary Katzenstein. Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.
- *Fields of Protest: Women's Movements in India*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999.

Awards: UC-Berkeley Graduate Division Graduate Mentoring Award, Humanities Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley, Distinguished Teaching Award for the Social Sciences Division.

Further information can be found [here](#)