

Perspectives

Spring 2012

Article 1

5-1-2012

Introduction

Kendall Clark

University of New Hampshire, Durham

Zach Field

University of New Hampshire, Durham

Samantha Story

University of New Hampshire, Durham

Meredith Underwood

University of New Hampshire, Durham

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.unh.edu/perspectives>

Recommended Citation

Clark, Kendall; Field, Zach; Story, Samantha; and Underwood, Meredith (2012) "Introduction," *Perspectives*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholars.unh.edu/perspectives/vol4/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Journals and Publications at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Perspectives by an authorized editor of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact nicole.hentz@unh.edu.

Introduction

Kendall Clark, Zach Field, Samantha Story, and Meredith Underwood

Welcome to the 2012 edition of *Perspectives*. As the school year comes to a close we often find ourselves reflecting on the past nine months. We've seen change, both in ourselves and in the world, and as I'm sure anyone will agree, it can be challenging. With the economic hardships and unprecedented social unrest, the future may seem uncertain. It can help to step back and put everything into perspective. Whether we are preparing for life after college or for the next year here at UNH, sociology has the intrinsic ability to allow us to make sense of the world around us. This year's edition focuses on four overarching themes, consisting of Sexual Orientation and Gender, Family and Community, Environment and Health, and Education. Boasting an impressive array of original research and a titillating spectrum of sociological theories, this edition continues the tradition of student excellence and sociological understanding. So please, sit back, enjoy, and gain some perspective.

While looking at themes of Sexual Orientation and Gender, students touch upon attitudes and experiences of sexual diversity as well as gender roles. In her paper, Alli Puchlopek reports on her research study of opinions that undergraduate students have toward bisexual individuals. She feels that this is an under researched topic, and she focuses on the bisexual population to draw attention to a relevant sexual identity. Arianna Schaaff gathers literature to discuss suicide rates among heterosexual and homosexual adolescents and young adults. She recognizes that beyond an individual's sexual orientation, there are other factors to consider when looking at suicide rates. Kiley Schlieper completed a research study to explore undergraduate students' experiences being bullied in a college setting. Results of this study show a relationship between gender and either physical or emotional bullying. Victoria J. Browall analyzes literature on the relationship between advertisements and gender roles in American marriages. She argues that advertisements in the media present unrealistic gender expectations for contemporary marriages. These four authors recognize the complexities of gender and identities amongst members of varying communities.

Six of our *Perspectives* articles focus on Family and Community. Amber Carlson explores the effects of family life, community, and peers on deviant behavior among adolescents. She looks at the correlation between environment and juvenile deviance. Kelby Mackell presents findings from a survey to gain knowledge about the UNH campus and students' perceptions of African-American involvement in the college community. Halie Olszowy explores the effect of income and gender on parental-involvement in single-family and step-parent families. She strives to discover the effects on the education of children in these families. Audrey Hickey's article focuses on teen magazines, parents, and adolescent females. She is particularly curious about the impact on teen magazines on females' sexual scripts and contraception. Nathaniel Ascani delves into labeling theory and its relationship with delinquency, specifically its effects

on sanctioning delinquent peer association. Lastly, Maura Gallagher uses a survey to discover female opinions regarding modern relationships. She explores women's perspectives of hooking up on college campuses. All of these articles provide a variety of insight on family and community.

In this year's edition, several authors examine Environment and Health issues through a sociological lens. Senior and fellow *Perspectives* editor, Zach Field examines grassroots organizations in Central America and their effectiveness in instituting cultural changes in traditional agricultural practices. Whitney Mills explores how inadequate sanitation, lack of clean water and malnutrition are part of the social and cultural issues that contribute to the cycle of poor health in Central America. In "Individualism, Environmentalism, and Social Change," Alex Chelstowski examines how the notion of individualism affects consumer habits, which ultimately conceals larger institutional problems that lead to issues of environmental degradation and disparaging civic participation. Rebecca White's essay addresses how serious health risks disproportionately plague those of low socioeconomic status, and how low status areas do not have geographic access to food stores selling healthy foods. In the article titled "The Effects of Social Integration on Stress and Risk of Depression in College Students," Cristina Calderan studies how college students' levels of social integration affects their feeling of stress and depression.

The last sociological topic focused on within this edition of *Perspectives* is Education. To begin the discussion, Mackenzie Colburn presents an analysis of inequalities found in the American educational system. She discusses relevant literature as well as information from schools in the state of New Hampshire. In the article following, Mackenzie Keene discusses her survey research study that explores the correlation between socioeconomic status and the academic achievement of undergraduate students. Keene finds that students who work for pay during the academic year tend to have lower GPAs than students who do not have to work for pay during the academic year. Alexandra Kovalik explores a different aspect of education among college undergraduates. She presents findings on the association between multilingualism and GPA. She argues that we need more research to better understand multilingual students. The last article, by Kristi Leclerc, also focuses on undergraduate students. The author investigates factors that contribute to college students' credit card debt, including academic achievement and level of financial education.

The 2012 edition of *Perspectives* includes a compilation of sociological articles that touch on relevant issues in our contemporary society. With the combination of literature reviews and research papers, the undergraduate authors included in this edition have showcased their interest and extensive knowledge on each of their respective topics. By presenting this diverse collection of papers, we hope to educate and interest readers in the sociological issues of the twenty-first century.