Research Connections

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Welcome to CRGE’s spring 2007 edition of Research Connections. In fall 2006, I was appointed Director of CRGE. This year has been full of excitement and stimulating activities as we launched our symposium on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, an intellectually stimulating graduate colloquium series, and a qualitative seminar series. My comments focus on our accomplishments this year, the importance of the work that the Consortium does, the role this work plays in transforming the campus, and some of the challenges we face on a daily basis.

This issue of Research Connections is particularly important as it contains excerpts from our successful national fall symposium, Rebuilding with Tools for Social Justice: Hurricane Katrina One Year Later. Held October 18, 2006, this day-long symposium brought an intersectional lens to understanding how the rebuilding process in New Orleans is shaped by the history of extreme economic inequality in the Gulf Coast Region. Important questions were raised about the rebuilding of New Orleans – who is benefiting? For whom is the city being rebuilt? Why are poor blacks much less likely to return to New Orleans? How can the rebuilding process be made more equitable rather than its current pattern of wealthier neighborhoods benefiting much more than poorer neighborhoods? This symposium is a prime example of how an intersectional lens brings to light questions that disrupt the status quo and question hegemonic power.

Other activities this year include a scholarly group of presenters for the graduate colloquium. Drs. Angel David Nieves and Mary Corbin Sies were instrumental in organizing sessions with provocative presentations by such notable scholars as Drs. Celine-Maria Pascale, Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, Mitchell Duneier, and Annette Lareau. Graduate student presentations on their cutting-edge intersectional work remain an integral part of the last session of the colloquium series.

This academic year CRGE also sponsored a collaborative qualitative seminar series with the support of the Maryland Population Research Center, faculty from the Departments of Sociology, American Studies, and Family Studies. We hosted speakers who addressed important intersectional questions on such topics as African American middle class families and the effects of integration vs. segregation on family life, gender and transnational migration, and network formations among mothers in daycares. The group also invited experts on qualitative software programs to speak about two important programs (NUD*IST and ATLAS.ti) designed for qualitative research.

These intellectual activities all represent critical knowledge that goes beyond maintaining a “status quo” of scholarly thinking and expands intellectual terrain for
addressing the social inequalities that exist in our society. CRGE has been in existence for about seven years and has been successful in promoting new types of scholarship, supporting and mentoring junior faculty of color, and training and mentoring promising future scholars.

In addition, Dr. Bonnie Thornton Dill and I are completing an anthology for Rutgers University Press entitled *Emerging Intersections: Building Knowledge and Transforming Institutions*. This anthology includes the original work of key intersectional authors with whom we have worked and commissioned papers over the last seven years. The scholarship showcases the innovative and interdisciplinary contributions that an intersectional lens can provide in expanding our understanding of how inequality shapes the lives of people of color, particularly historically under-represented groups. It will also analyze how public policies reinforce existing systems of inequality, and how research and teaching the intersectional perspective compels scholars to also become agents of change within institutions. The authors examine the multiple disparities that impact people’s lives and expand upon the oftentimes constrained and incomplete picture of the social processes involved. The explicit assumption underlying this anthology is that all of us are participants in a social world that systematically rewards and/or challenges us based on our race, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual orientation, and ability. The scholarship interrogates how resources flow towards some groups and away from others; part of the answer lies in the role that social institutions play in distributing resources. We expect that the major contribution of this book will be to clarify how entrenched ways of producing knowledge can work to maintain systems of disadvantage and advantage and to explore the meaning of institutional change and social justice.

As we continue our work, we remain cognizant of the University as a social institution. We acknowledge that our achievements have had an impact at UM; but we continue to struggle with many of the challenges that hinder our ability to expand our efforts and be a truly transformative institution on this campus. Our most recent challenge was the end of the University block grant for CrISP scholars. After long and difficult negotiations with UM administrators, we have been able to obtain cooperation from several deans to sponsor a CrISP scholar. This is a successful outcome but it also diminishes both infrastructure supports of CRGE as well as autonomy in allocation of resources. Diminished funding from external grants in these conservative political times has also seriously challenged our ability to engage in social justice research.

As we continue to search for new ways to address disparities at all levels of knowledge production, we would like to recognize the difficulty inherent in promoting collaborative work in a competitive environment that values individual achievement. The scarcity of resources at the University places programs in competition with one another rather than in cooperation. The price of institutional change continues to be paid by the few faculty who invest in pursuing social change often at the cost of their scholarly production, time spent away from their personal lives, and lack of adequate compensation from the University. These are challenges that we must assess and face as we continue our work at CRGE. Increasing access to higher education has long been one strategy to improve the social capital of underrepresented groups and improve life chances. Unfortunately, progress has been slow. In the academy itself, we still observe major disparities in the professoriate of color at full professor or in high level administrative positions and in the distribution of resources. Our work continues to provide voice to these disparities and to promote small but significant changes. We look forward to the new academic year to continue to open and maintain a space for collaboration and exploration of intersectional scholarship as a vehicle for social justice and social change.
Evacuated to Iowa after Hurricane Katrina tore through the Gulf Coast, a man who had lived his entire life in New Orleans responded to the question, “What do you miss most?”: “I miss the familiar....”

Before Katrina, African American working class women labored hard, reproduced the social and domestic networks and workforce that built the city, perpetuated the culture across the generations, and provided an environment where family members wanted to stay and where those who left and “made it,” returned often, and sometimes, to stay. The author came to know these women while working with them in political organizations and community projects, and became interested in how they made their lives within the harsh realities they had to negotiate daily; and in the forms of resistance in which they engaged as they confronted entrenched, historic racial discrimination and segregation that was laced throughout every institution in the city.

The women of New Orleans—workers, producers and reproducers, consumers and caretakers—bore the brunt of the interlocking forms of oppression produced in the intersectionality of race, class, gender and age. The world observed the practical implications of this intersectionality August 30 as thousands of working-class and poor African American women, caring for children and the elderly, struggling to survive the storm and the subsequent series of man-made disasters that escalated daily during those unforgettable 120 hours following Katrina’s landfall. Black communities, built on land made unsafe through government incompetence and political intrigue, were destroyed—Lower and Upper Ninth Ward, Gentilly, and the East, and beautiful Black people—babies, children, women, men, grandmothers and grandfathers—were once again thrown into a Diaspora.

With Katrina, the levees holding Lake Pontchartrain from the city broke in several places and turned New Orleans into a bowl holding five to 25 feet of water for over two weeks. The incompetence and arrogance of the city, state and federal government as they replied to the Katrina threat and the resulting devastation wrought by the storm seemed almost fitting given the poverty and under-

development experienced by thousands of people who lived in the “city that care forgot.”

New Orleans, before Katrina, was a bifurcated city, populated by a large number of poor and working-class African Americans, a small number of middle class blacks, and a slightly larger number of whites made up of mostly middle and upper middle class. The poor suffered from a literacy rate just over 50 percent and were locked into low paying menial jobs and informal sector activities. Low ranking civil servants earned so little that they were eligible for food stamps. Women worked hard and long hours and could be observed at transit points in their blue, black, brown and grey uniforms, heading to or returning from caring for someone. The poor and working class lived in the public housing units dotted throughout the city. Many lived within blocks or literally next door to the middle class. The seemingly invisible black middle-class lived in various enclaves throughout the city, the Uptown area and Algiers, but primarily lived in the East, Gentilly, and the Upper Ninth Ward.

Many of the Black middle class, civil servants, educators, university faculty and staff, and professionals (attorneys, physicians and nurses, and social services employees) owned and rented properties to the working poor and working class, as did their white counterparts, in some of the most dangerous parts of the city—crime ridden, environmentally challenged, and land with a history of frequent flooding. These properties, many uninsured or underinsured, represented major loses to both the owners and the renters. The white middle- and upper-middle class community lived in wealthier, geographically elevated neighborhoods or in gentrified, old historic black communities such as Bywater and Treme, the oldest Black community in the United States. Whites, owners of large rental property portfolios, continued to increase their wealth and be indifferent to the poor and working-class people they drove by or employed daily as housekeepers, maids, gardeners, and handymen. All of the pre-

More than a year later, a house in New Orleans still lies in a state of destruction. (Photo courtesy of Jackie Litt.)
dominantly Black neighborhoods, across all classes were destroyed by standing water. Wealthy whites living in the Garden District and Uptown, often the scene of much street crime before Katrina, received wind damage but no devastation from flooding.

The following is a glimpse of 19 adult and elderly women who evacuated New Orleans before, during, and after the catastrophic August 29 hurricane. All interviewees lost most of their belongings and homes. All of those who rented lost everything. Most went back to New Orleans as soon as the city was opened to see the condition of their homes. Several said they went back numerous times attempting to salvage “things,” but often to no avail. Women spoke of the new responsibility of caring for parents, especially mothers, who had been independent before the storm and now had lost everything except their daughters. Elderly women spoke of losing everything including their pots which they had cooked so many meals in for so many people. The pots were a chronicling of the lives women had led.

The interviews took place during December 2005 in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Baker, Louisiana, and strove to understand how women felt about the devastation they had experienced and what they felt about beginning new lives. Only four short months after the hurricane, it was clear that most women were still in shock. But at the same time, each person had begun to take action, some positive, given their new realities. Many women, elderly and mature, living in the trailer park in Baker, Louisiana, spoke of returning to New Orleans, even while landlords were repairing properties to rent to new tenants able to pay two to five times what had been paid. Their desire to think of no future other than returning to New Orleans was riddled with what we all run toward: familiar surroundings, family and support networks, a sense of community built throughout the lives of each individual, a need to be rooted in their own histories which were intertwined with the histories of friends and extended families and institutions (churches, schools, and social clubs) throughout the city. All interviewees living in the trailer park, retired or employed, were renters in New Orleans.

Class was the demarcating line among the interviewers. Many of those relocating to Baton Rouge thought they might stay in that city until “life settled a bit” in New Orleans; they made pragmatic decisions about the rebuilding of ineffective levees and the concern for environmental hazards lurking around a city plagued with these problems before Katrina. Baton Rouge women, educators and retirees with stable families (long employment histories, college educated, and homeowners) were staunchly middle class or had been born into middle class families. They also were part of the “color Creole” prevalent in New Orleans where life opportunities and valued resources were enjoyed far more by lighter complexioned African Americans than their darker sisters. Class determined the decisions women made. For example, two daughters pooled family money and purchased a four-bedroom home so that their elderly parents would have a stable, comfortable environment in which to live even though the parents’ home in New Orleans received no water. The daughters were concerned about the chaos in New Orleans and the cost to aging parents. Clearly the availability of wealth—credit cards, strong credit rating, knowledge of available resources—allowed middle-class evacuees, from the beginning of the evacuation through the relocation, to make qualitatively different decisions than the renters.

Homeowners, while having eight to 20 feet of water in their homes for two weeks, have the land and some structures on the property but lost all of the content. A few homeowners were without insurance or underinsured, which for all practical purposes, meant they had nothing. Insurance companies were slow to pay and forced those with credit to the breaking point; many tried getting aid from the Red Cross and the Salvation Army after running charging hotel fees, clothing and food on their cards. Consignment stores became frequented establishments.

Conclusion
For those women and men, young and old, rural and urban and from varied ethnicities, poor and not so bad off, the leaving of their beloved city marked the beginning of a grieving process impossible for those who did not experience the catastrophe to understand. The grieving is centered in the erasure of cities, neighborhoods, communities, families—that familiar life that people took for granted and expected it to continue, no matter how good or bad it was. Americans were marooned in their own city; homes were washed away as thought they had never existed; and the world looked on with pure astonishment and shock as the most powerful nation stumbled and bumbled its way through a self-generated mess.
More than a year after the country’s response to one of the most destructive hurricanes precipitated the deaths and displacement of thousands of people and the destruction of billions of dollars in property, local community residents and activists, Black and progressive leaders and others concerned about more equitable redevelopment are struggling to be heard. Black and other disenfranchised people want to be included in redevelopment plans so that poor people of color and historic African American populations have a chance to rebuild their city and their lives.

Plans project a whiter, richer New Orleans with parks and other “greenspace” over the neighborhoods where many of the Black and poor once lived. Unchallenged, the reconstruction will be a goldmine for contractors and developers.

In terms of the reality of economic action, those with the resources, capacity, and power to proceed with the rebuilding are pursuing a traditional corporate gentrification model of urban development in the name of “New Urbanism” in New Orleans, ignoring most of the economic, environmental, and health needs and interests of the historic African American population, as well as low-income residents in general. Those of us who study cooperative business development find that cooperative economic development solves many problems created by market failure, economic discrimination and underdevelopment. Cooperative businesses are group-centered, needs-based, and asset building local development strategies based on pooling of resources, democratic economic participation, and profit sharing. They are locally con-

trolled, internally driven democratic institutions that promote group learning, economic interdependence, consolidation of resources, development of assets and protection of people and the environment. Cooperatives stabilize their communities - increasing economic activity, creating good jobs, increasing benefits and wages, and encouraging civic participation. Community-based, cooperatively-owned enterprises are characterized by greater community input and participation in the planning, development and governance of commercially-viable socially-responsible businesses. Cooperatives provide mechanisms for low-resourced people with few traditional opportunities, to create new economic opportunities for themselves.

African Americans have a strong but hidden history of cooperative ownership in the face of market failure and racial discrimination. This research report is an excerpt of a larger project that contributes information about viable strategies for economic renewal, particularly relevant to the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in ways that retain and benefit long-term and low income residents of color. Here I will first discuss the general redevelopment climate and strategies currently being pursued in New Orleans. I then highlight some of the cooperative development activity currently taking place in New Orleans.

The state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans unfolded several different plans for rebuilding after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Louisiana plan in particular uses inclusive language about the return to better conditions for all citizens. The Bring New Orleans Back Commission’s “Action Plan for New Orleans” consisted of a set of sub-committee reports and presentations. The reports covering City Planning, Transit, Economic Development, Culture, Health and Social Services, Education,
Criminal Justice System, and Government Effectiveness were developed with limited input from city residents and with little consideration of the specific needs that would be required to enable people to return to the city.

Other concerns are that the board is appointed not elected, the plan has no basis in law, the City Council was circumvented, and no public hearings were held. The New Orleans plan only projects a city of 181,000 by September 2006 and 247,000 by 2008. New Orleans, however, had a population close to 500,000 on August 28, 2005 before Hurricane Katrina hit. So who are the citizens these plans mention? Where will the rest of the residents be and what will or has happened to their homes and livelihood? Another plan funded by Ford Foundation did focus on neighborhood by neighborhood redevelopment, however only certain planning experts would be authorized. In addition, the reality has been that neighborhoods already coming back and dominated by an existing elite were able to move forward with plans. Devastated neighborhoods are being left out or swallowed up by a dominant neighboring constituency.

Important questions not being addressed in the current climate include: Who is at the table, and are all the stakeholders making the decisions present and recognized? Are “citizens” all the previous residents or a certain subset? Do the various stakeholders have the resources and voice to participate equally and effectively? Can the models of development and the business plans proposed actually achieve the goals as stated? What strategies and models would achieve such goals? How do we evaluate the planning process and the suggested strategies? Since these questions are not asked, the answers cannot be discussed. Survivors, New Orleans residents or should-be residents, want more relief, the right to return, that all of New Orleans be rebuilt—not some of it—with much strengthened levees, environmental sustainability and protections, and relief from unjust hotel evictions.

**Viable Cooperative Development Models**

I turn now to a discussion of cooperative enterprises and their work in New Orleans both prior to and following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. All of these cooperative enterprises have many things in common. Members are from marginalized communities and were not being served well or at all by prevailing market forces or government agencies. They needed to generate income and build assets, and generally have control over their own economic lives and their communities. They came together (often with the help of a leader or community organization), studied their circumstances, studied the alternatives, and pooled their resources - talents and capital. They launched businesses that would address their needs and keep them in control. The development plans for New Orleans and the Gulf Coast might better meet all their goals if they recognized the existing cooperative enterprises in their midst and added cooperative development to the strategies they will be advocating and supporting.

The cooperative and worker-owned businesses in New Orleans that existed before the flooding are now working to re-establish themselves in New Orleans, and to help develop more cooperatives. The Crescent City Farmers Market in New Orleans had been an outlet for many of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund’s Mississippi farm cooperatives. It was reopened in November 2006 after being totaled in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Its reopening helped local farmers reestablish themselves.

In addition, the cooperative movement has been very much involved in relief efforts and rebuilding. Cooperatives from around the country (including the Federation/LAF’s Indian Springs Farmer’s Association in Mississippi, whose own facilities were damaged and whose members’ farms suffered “excessive losses”) donated produce, biodiesel fuel and other supplies to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The Federation has also begun to provide training workshops on advocacy and cooperative development. The Federation plans to help develop housing cooperatives, worker-owned cooperatives for clean-up, rehab and construction, as well as a shrimpers and fishers coops, while continuing its ongoing work with farmer cooperatives and credit unions. The Common Ground Collective is focusing some of its efforts on developing cooperative businesses in New Orleans. They plan to launch a number of cooperatives in construction, seafood production, housing, and other areas in the near future. The Common Ground Collective also helps support three community gardens. A local church is working with African
American master craftsmen to revitalize a local apprenticeship program as a cooperative venture to train young people in construction crafts, pass on trade skills, and revitalize the Black skilled workforce. A variety of grassroots organizations are also discussing joint projects, and better ways to work together and link projects to one another.

However the task is gargantuan and the resources for grassroots economic organizing meager. In addition, with so many residents scattered around the country, it is difficult to organize them, and neighborhoods that were much less decimated and have resources are dominating the neighborhood development efforts. In addition, in the meetings I have attended, residents/survivors want more information about viable alternative models of community-based economic development. More information needs to be exchanged about cooperative economic development and in particular cooperative development among communities of color.

Conclusion
Viable models exist that can address the issues and uphold the principles that have guided innovative economic responses to market failure, poverty, and marginalization particularly in African American communities and communities of color. Because the Gulf Coast and New Orleans are areas in which the gaps between rich and poor and Black and White are glaring and disturbing, there has actually been discussion nationally and locally (though not as much media coverage) of alternative development strategies and principles and priorities for rebuilding. However, there is still little discussion or recognition of grassroots economic organizing, and in particular cooperative economic development and strategies for building a community-based economy in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

This is an excerpt from a presentation based on published and unpublished writings by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, including an early version of “African-American Economic Solidarity: How Co-ops can be Central to the Rebuilding of New Orleans” (Dollars and Sense July/August 2006, pp. 24-26) written with Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo.

The Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity is home to an innovative two-year graduate fellowship program designed to develop national and international leaders in the research and scholarship of intersectional analyses. Each year, a diverse group is recruited to foster scholarship on intersectionality and social justice with the goal of promoting meaningful social change. This year’s scholars wrote poems in their Intersectional seminar to share with you.

### Bridge Closed for Reconstruction

**MAREN CUMMINGS**

**PH.D. STUDENT, WOMEN’S STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK**

There was no day that the bridge wasn’t there. But one day, it simply did not connect A to B anymore. A is for African
B is for Bridge
S is for Sankofa that looks back to go forward.

In the hours of darkness, under the moon’s third eye, The bridge doubled back- into the shape of you and I. An unclosed circle that you began and I return to Frowning on one side, smiling on the other. It all depends on whose view, but whose viewing is better than our reflection?

Your tears are my rain, flooding the space beneath me, filling the space around you. Your last gasp for air is my fresh breath to get ready for the rising tide.

Overcome by each wave- the first, the second, and the third. Lapping waters, churning at the base of the bridge-coercing, pushing, striking then gently pulling back in retreat.. the backlash. Realizing that this bridge will stand. Not to with-stand or spite the waves, But to simply be. Because it is, and it will not be for anything else.

Existence is a bridge from the fore to the hereafter, But when each moment is an eternity, the bridge is the point. The focus, the reason, the end to its own means.

Meaning, that when the bridge doubled back to the shore of origin, Originally assured that its use was its own because no one knew it could change, Move about face- about its own face Creating the watery eye of you and I

Passing me the key, your view in my hands, The option to stay and reflect or go in any direction With Your map, My mind, and Our being.

### A Bridge’s Break

**ANONYMOUS**

I hear you, Bridge to Power. Nobody wants to be a bridge to someone else’s destination. But as you hold up a path for others to cross You should know that you do not stand alone. Your beams are connected To another arm, another woman, another bridge to true self.

When your arms tire of holding manhood Womanhood
And human-ness above your own head
Drop the globe and use me as a slate to mediate your own fears and weaknesses.

What am I?
I am a gray bit of soil
Born out of a struggle that is still fought
A struggle in which we both fight.

My branches have also been climbed, Picked for fruit that turned sour anyway They have been broken
And some will never grow again.

I am here to grow branches that won’t break I am here to grow more

So exhale on my back And read your Bridge Poem aloud And when you leave, You will have planted a seed By which something might grow That will make us all useful.
During the last week of August 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast with an impact that not only wreaked great physical destruction, but also left uncovered the startling inequalities that have shaped the lives of all Americans. The storm revealed what American have not wanted to see about their country: the contemporary face of a system based on continuing privilege and disadvantage. Using an intersectional lens to analyze the wide-ranging fallout of the storm reveals underlying connections to deeply embedded beliefs about critical social issues: whose life is worth saving, who deserves what kind of quality of life, and how structures of race, class, gender, and ethnicity shape opportunity in our society.

Intersectional analyses provide a crucial analytical framework for understanding these issues. Race, gender, and class mutually shape forms of oppression in our society and have played a critical role in the historical antecedents and aftermath of Katrina. Intersectionality places the lives of people of color and those who have suffered from systemic discrimination at the center of analysis and interprets their lived experiences as essential to understanding the U.S. history of intertwining racism, gender bias, homophobia, and economic inequality.

CRGE has compiled this resource page as a reference tool from the Katrina symposium held October 18, 2006. Visit CRGE’s Web site at http://www.crge.umd.edu/research/katrina-resources.html for links to the resources listed here, as well as more of interest.

Community Organizations Working Towards Rebuilding

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
Web site: http://acorn.org/?9703

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (AEHR)
Web site: http://www.neworleansnetwork.org/contact/viewc.php?c_id=31

Common Ground Collective
Web site: http://www.commongroundrelief.org/

The Opportunity Agenda
Web site: http://www.opportunityagenda.org

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
Web site: http://www.ssrc.org/program_areas/mdps/katrina/index.page

Publications Now Available


Hartman, Chester and Gregory D. Squires, eds. There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina. New York: Routledge, 2006.


CRGE and the Maryland Population Research Center (MPRC) are pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Building the Qualitative Community Seed Grant Awards. These awards are for faculty at University of Maryland engaged in qualitative research methods.

Congratulations to the faculty below for their engaging research projects.

**DR. TARA BROWN, DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**
“Project ARISE – Action Research into School Exclusion”

Excerpt from proposal: “Project ARISE focuses on the experiences of eight adolescents participating in a year-long Action Research Seminar in a non-public, urban alternative school serving youth who have been excluded from public schools, largely due to disciplinary troubles. Overarching research questions: 1. How do adolescents in an alternative school explain and understand their schooling experiences and how are their perceptions of those experiences shaped (if at all) through participation in classroom learning to which those experiences are central? 2. What is the impact of experientially-relevant, technology-rich academic research curricular intervention on students’ intellectual engagement and development?”

**DR. SANGEETHA MADHAVAN, DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**
“Gender and Generational Effects of HIV/AIDS in Rural South Africa”

Excerpt from proposal: “The main hypothesis driving this research is that the distinctive age and gender pattern of HIV/AIDS mortality and morbidity affects household structure and composition in ways not seen with other causes of death. ... Given that women of reproductive age are at substantial risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and because HIV/AIDS is likely to cluster in households, it is crucial to understand the ways in which age and gender condition the impact of HIV/AIDS on the household and family. The proposed research will provide insights into gender dynamics, power distribution and generational cooperation and tensions.”

**DR. SUSAN ROBB JONES, DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND PERSONNEL SERVICES**
“Constructing Identities at the Intersections: An Autoethnographic Exploration of Multiple Dimensions of Identity”

Excerpt from proposal: “The purpose of this research is to explore multiple identities using an intersectional framework that connects personal autoethnographic narratives with sociocultural contexts. The focus is on the lived experience of identity (re)construction when multiple and intersecting social identities and sociocultural influences are considered.”

**DR. LAURA MAMO, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**
“Risky Subjectivity: Making Meaning of and Acting on Risk for Alzheimer’s Disease (AD)”

Excerpt from proposal: “As a pilot study, this research utilized qualitative in-depth interviewing of genetic family members of people with AD in an effort to examine cultural and subjective understandings of the etiology of AD, interest in genetic testing for AD, and meanings and practices of memory enhancement in the context of genetic risk as it is culturally understood.”

**Noteworthy Accomplishments**
Hispanic Business named CRGE Director Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana as one of its 15 Elite Women for 2007.

The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents recognized CRGE Founding Director Dr. Bonnie Thornton Dill as Outstanding USM Educator and Researcher.