John F. Roatch and Linda Haskell Lectures

February 28, 2020 | 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
University Club of Phoenix

Watts College
of Public Service and Community Solutions
Arizona State University
School of Social Work
WORDS OF WELCOME

Dear friends,

I first came across the concept of superdiversity in a conversation with Professor Jenny Phillimore the Director of the Institute for Research into superdiversity at the University of Birmingham. I thought that the term superdiversity - utilized in the study of diverse people migrating to European countries, particularly the U.K., - truly captured the complexity of backgrounds coming together with new immigrants and refugees. Their differences reflected not only race and culture, but religions, languages and paradigms to be considered in accommodating their arrival in the new milieu. The similarity of challenges to ours today, as we grow culturally, racially and linguistically into a different society, made the exploration of the concept of superdiversity most intriguing. Prof. Phillimore directed me to Prof. Pemberton, who is at the University of Keele, working on superdiversity and health services.

In our changing milieu, superdiversity is also reflected in new family arrangements, work and employment. Fathers are becoming family care-takers and mothers bread-winners. Mothers have tended to adjust through the decades, but what about fathers? How are they being prepared to encounter our superdiverse society? I knew Professor Meil was working on European family policies and even though for him, coming to Arizona would be a “repeat performance”, after his 2015 Roatch Lecture, he agreed to come.

I met Professor Rothwell, our Respondent, at the recommendation of a former lecturer. I was lucky to meet with him in Portland, Oregon, and realized that his research in rural and urban scenarios would offer an additional important perspective on addressing concerns “on this side of the pond.” I am delighted to introduce them all. I know you will enjoy their contributions.

Many thanks to our donors, the Roatch family and the Haskell/Clerks for providing this opportunity. I know they will take an active part in our discussion.

With best wishes,

John F. Roatch Distinguished Professor and Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, College of Public Service and Community Solutions, Arizona State University

Program at a glance

8:15 - 8:50 AM - Registration & Refreshments
9:00 - 9:50 AM - Roatch Speaker*
9:50 - 10:10 AM- Break (Coffee & Pastries)
10:00 - 11:00 AM- Haskell Speaker*
11:00 - 11:30 AM - Break
11:30 - 12:00 PM - Respondent*
12:00 - 12:45 PM- Q & A
12:45 - 1:30 PM - Presentations
1:30 - 2:30 PM - Lunch

* The speakers will entertain very brief questions of clarification after each talk, however broader comparative questions and comments will be left till after the respondent.
THE ROATCH SPEAKER

Simon Pemberton
Professor, Department of Human Geography, Keele University

Simon Pemberton is a Professor of Human Geography at Keele University, United Kingdom. He graduated in Geography with first class honours and PhD in Human Geography from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. In 2004 he was the Director of the Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory at the University of Liverpool. He was appointed as Reader in Human Geography at Keele University and was promoted as the Professor of Human Geography in December 2016. He has managed over forty large research projects and has published over eighty peer-reviewed papers and reports.

THE HASKELL SPEAKER

Gerardo Meil
Professor Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Gerardo Meil is a professor at the Department of Sociology of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has Masters Degrees in Economics and Political Science, and a Doctorate in Sociology from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He is a visiting researcher at the Institute for Family and Population Policy of the University of Bielefeld, Germany and a fellow at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Science at Delmenhorst, Germany. He is a member of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research and also a member of the Scientific Committee of Research Network 13 of the European Sociological Association.

THE RESPONDENT

David W. Rothwell
Associate Professor, College of Public Health, Oregon State University, USA

David W. Rothwell is an associate professor in College of Public Health at Oregon State University. He was an associate professor at McGill in Canada and a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Singapore. He received his Ph.D in social welfare form the University of Hawaii and his MSW from Tulane. Currently he is a co-investigator in ‘Are Rurual Americans disadvantaged? Life course trajectories across the rural–urban divide’. He has been a principal investigator or a co-investigator in a number of grants related to the social, economic and environmental consequences of societal change. He has published a number of articles in peer reviewed journals.
ABSTRACTS OF THE LECTURES

In many parts of the world, we are currently witnessing an intensification of the diversity of populations as a consequence of new migration flows. In this respect, the concept of “superdiversity” (Vertovec, 2007) has been developed to describe the increasing socio-cultural and demographic complexity driven by international migration and internal differentiation within societies. Nevertheless, whilst immigration-induced diversity is a global phenomenon it is highly reflective of national, regional and local conditions. Consequently, the paper initially critiques the usefulness of superdiversity in exploring new social patterns, forms and identities arising from migration-driven diversification in a range of different contexts, including the United States.

In turn, the paper focuses on the importance of “superdiverse places” and how the differing characteristics of such places serve to shape residents’ access to, for example, healthcare services in distinctive ways. There is a long history of diverse populations struggling to access healthcare. Hence, there is a need to understand how people living within increasingly “superdiverse” areas address their health concerns.

~ Simon Pemberton

Entering motherhood in many developed countries continues to imply a temporary withdrawal from the working market or a reduction in working time. Fathers, on the contrary, tend to increase their involvement in paid work, which results in widening the gender gap among parents. These developments have profound consequences at the personal, social and economic levels. In this context, the European Union has passed in June 2019 a new Directive to modernize work-life policies in Member States, with the explicit objective of improving “access to work-life balance arrangements”. Measures such as family-related leaves and flexible working arrangements for men are being considered. These measures often increase the dualisation of working conditions—with a formal and a black economy coexisting, a situation that affects mainly the most vulnerable social groups, including young parents. The positive and negative effects resulting from these measures and their corollaries will be the focus of this presentation.

~ Gerardo Meil

Depending on how it's measured, America may be the most diverse country with the highest numbers of immigrants among wealthy Western democracies. Recent immigrants have added new dimensions to other American groups. Forecasts predict that by 2043 non-Hispanic whites will be the minority in the country, with different understanding and practices regarding family units. “Superdiversity” will most likely be clearly evident. I will make a case for focusing on the working conditions of families with children, as children are at the forefront of demographic change in the country. Lastly, I will (a) highlight how family policies have the potential to reduce social division and inequalities and (b) raise concerns in the context of a divided social and political climate that threatens the likelihood of policy implementation.

~ David W. Rothwell