

# SocSource

**BLOCK 3 | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2015**

## Block 3: The Spooky Issue

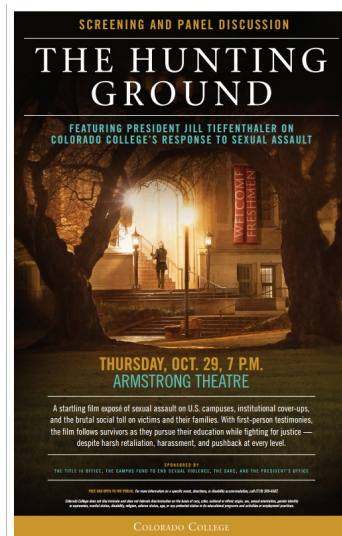
Welcome to the spooky issue! The world can be a pretty frightening place, and we sociologists are all too familiar with scary statistics and things not being as they may first appear. Read on to see what the sociology department has to offer to survive this Halloween...and beyond!

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Sociological Imagination Luncheon: The Basic Bitch

Thursday, October 29, 2015  
12:15-1:15 pm  
Sociology Seminar Room

This block, the Student Advisory Board brings you our first Sociological Imagination Luncheon of the year. The Sociological Imagination Luncheon Series is a student-only event where students can gather over lunch to discuss a current event or social problem through a sociological lens. The topic this block is “What We’re Really Afraid of When We Call Someone ‘Basic.’” Come unpack this seemingly harmless term and exercise those sociological and inter-sectional muscles!



#### The Hunting Ground: Screening and Discussion

Thursday, October 29, 2015

7:00 pm, Armstrong Theatre

(see p. 5 for an interview with Prof. Gail Murphy-Geiss on the film.)

# Department Announce-

## Livesay Award Currently Accepting Nominations

The Livesay Award was created in honor of Professor Emeritus of Sociology Jeff Livesay, who brought the Public Interest Fellowship Program (PIFP) to Colorado College in 2002. The award is presented each year to a CC graduate who is living out the mission of the PIFP in his or her life and career by contributing to systemic change, increasing the capacity of the nonprofit sector, and helping to build a new generation of nonprofit leaders. If you know a CC grad who has made a significant contribution to the nonprofit sector in Colorado over the years, **please nominate him or her for the Livesay Award by November 15, 2015!** (Please visit the PIFP page of the CC website for more information and to submit a nomination.)



Professor Jeff Livesay presents the 2015 Livesay Award for Social Change to Scott Campbell '91.

## Block 7: Thinking Sociologically with Jan Thomas

An introduction to sociological perspectives through investigation of the social sources of the self; the unequal distribution of power, privilege, and prestige; the social construction of institutions and their impact on human activities; and processes of social change.

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## Upcoming Deadlines

**October 30, 2015 (11:59 ET):** Teach for America application deadline (Round 3)

**November 15, 2015:** Livesay Award Nominations are due



## 2015 Coordinated Election—VOTE!!

If you are a registered voter in Colorado, do your civic duty and VOTE on or before Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>!

## Interested in Joining the Peace Corps?

For those of you interested in graduate school and organizations like the Peace Corps, there are graduate programs that allow you to do both. Rutgers University-Camden is looking for highly motivated and talented students who are interested in community service, international development policy and administration, and nonprofit management to apply to the Master of Public Administration with a specialization in International Public Service and Development. The applications are now open and will be open through the late Spring.

Students accepted into the program receive FREE TUITION. Students are enrolled in an intense academic environment completing most of their coursework in the first year. Rutgers-Camden has an excellent record of placing students in the US Peace Corps (for two additional years), or an alternative international assignment (for one additional year).

For more information, you can go to [dppa.camden.rutgers.edu/degrees/mpa/mpa-specializations/ipsd/](http://dppa.camden.rutgers.edu/degrees/mpa/mpa-specializations/ipsd/) or contact Professor Prentiss Dantzler at [pdantzler@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:pdantzler@coloradocollege.edu).

# What Frightens You??

We posed this question to a few of our favorite faculty, and here is what they had to say:

## Prentiss Dantzler

“What frightens me about the world today is that many people still don't have a decent place to call home. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, in January 2014, there were approximately 575,424 individuals experiencing homelessness. That is over 130,000 more people than the population of Colorado Springs. But that isn't the frightening part.

The frightening part is that we are not talking about this type of stuff. We live in our small bubbles and talk about social problems as if they do not affect us. I hope that I, like many other faculty here, are inspiring students to not only think about their own identity in the world, but to motivate them to do something to address these issues.”

## Kathy Giuffre

“There are so many things about the world today that frighten me that it is hard to pick just one. Some of the things that frighten me are:

- the way our democracy is being destroyed by voter suppression and the influence of money from billionaires
- the destruction of our environment due to greed and selfishness
- the insanity of our fetish for violence and guns
- the plight of the victims of war all over the world and the callousness with which they are treated
- bigotry directed at our fellow human beings being celebrated as "freedom"
- zombies

But what truly gives me hope in the face of so much despair are all the Colorado College students whom I have known and worked with over the years. I do believe that their talent and dedication to social justice can go a long way toward solving these problems. (Except for the zombies -- in that case, we're doomed.)”

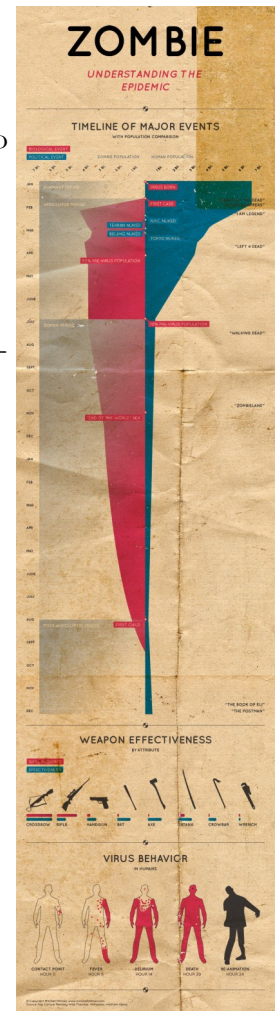
## Wade Roberts

“Scary thing: Because of the way current congressional district boundaries are drawn, Republicans will hold a majority in the House of Representatives until *at least* 2022 (when new boundaries may be in play). Don't expect a progressive policy window to open any time soon at the federal level. At best, we'll continue the current holding pattern of partisan intransigence. At worst, a conservative policy window could open, depending on the outcome of the 2016 election(s).” Here's an article from Vox on this issue: <http://tinyurl.com/paybbfw>

## Jan Thomas

“Having just completed teaching a class on global women's health, the continuing low status of women around the world is very much on my mind. In terms of health care, this translates into living without regular access to clean water, basic sanitation, sufficient food and nutrition, contraception or trained birth attendants. Women's reproductive rights are at the core of women's agency and their ability to make choices about education, work, and family life. Without these rights, women's opportunities to participate fully and equally in society are significantly limited.

The Guttmacher Institute, recently noted that in the first quarter of 2015, legislators had introduced 791 provisions related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Almost half of these bills restrict abortion rights, including medication abortions, some “targeted regulation of abortion providers,” while others permitted businesses to refuse to provide contraceptive coverage. To me, this is a very scary world!” Source: <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2015/04/02/>

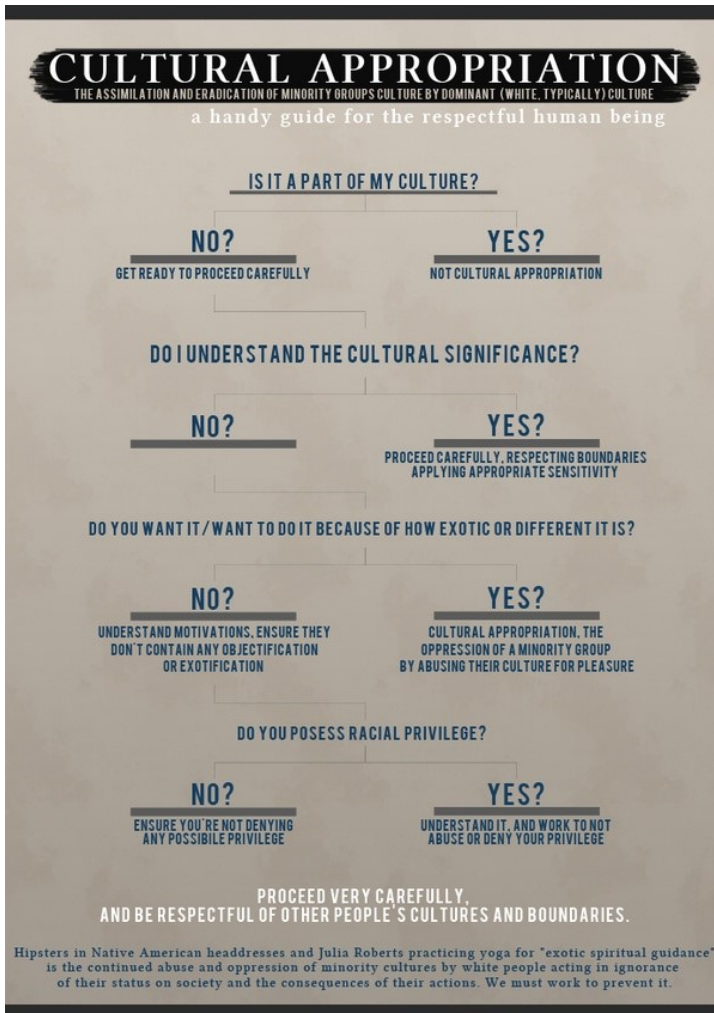


The Data: Understanding the Epidemic

# Cultural Appropriation on Halloween

Every year, Halloween seems to bring out a particularly ugly and insidious problem in the US: **cultural appropriation**. People seem to have endless reasons and excuses why a certain costume is not, indeed, offensive. Whether or not you are intending to offend any group of people should have no bearing on whether or not you wear a costume that in any way denigrates another culture by using symbols or types of dress as a costume. As sociologists, our work always extends beyond the classroom. What you choose to wear on Halloween has implications beyond yourself at CC and in the world. Take this excerpt from an [open letter](#) written by Adrienne Keene on the website Native Appropriations:

“You walk through life everyday never having the fear of someone misrepresenting your people and your culture. You don’t have to worry about the vast majority of your people living in poverty, struggling with alcoholism, domestic violence, hunger, and unemployment caused by 500+ years of colonialism and federal policies aimed at erasing your existence. You don’t walk through life everyday feeling invisible, because the only images the public sees of you are fictionalized stereotypes that don’t represent who you are at all. You don’t know what it’s like to care about something so deeply and know at your core that it’s so wrong, and have others in positions of power dismiss you like you’re some sort of over-sensitive freak.



You are in a position of power. You might not know it, but you are. Simply because of the color of your skin, you have been afforded opportunities and privilege, because our country was built on a foundation of white supremacy. That’s probably a concept that’s too much for you to handle right now, when all you wanted to do was dress up as a PocaHottie for Halloween, but it’s true.”



As a rule of thumb, if you have an inkling that your costume could be construed as offensive, you are probably right. **Do the right thing: choose your costume with care this Halloween. And remember: friends don’t let friends dress in racist, sexist, or culturally exploitive costumes—on Halloween or any other day of the year.**

# The Hunting Ground

In anticipation of the upcoming screening and panel discussion on *The Hunting Ground*, Professor Gail-Murphy-Geiss, the Title IX Coordinator at CC answers a few questions about the film.

## 1. What is *The Hunting Ground* about?

*The Hunting Ground* is a documentary, highlighting the stories of campus sexual assault victims, whose schools were NOT serious about their cases – that’s actually putting it nicely. Some [schools] actually obstructed investigations to protect the alleged perpetrators. It’s really an indictment of college administrations, as well as a powerful look at “rape culture” on all campuses. We all have a problem, but we’re not all addressing it well.

## 2. Why do you think it's important for the CC community to see this documentary?

As the Title IX Coordinator, I know that CC is addressing this issue well. People might not always like the outcome, but we have a good policy and process, and we never deny anyone an investigation. We also provide excellent confidential resources for people who do not want to report more formally. But I’m not sure everyone knows that, and I wouldn’t want people to see or hear about the movie and wonder if CC is like “those” schools. President Tiefenthaler will be there too, so if there is any doubt that we are serious about this issue, people can ask her to her face. She is a strong advocate for Title IX and is always pushing us to be better. I think students should know that.

## 3. As the Title IX Coordinator, do you think that CC faces the same problems that schools featured in the film face?

CC faces exactly the same problems in regard to sexual assault, but not around reporting and response. Here’s an excerpt I wrote for another article recently:

First some good news: over 88% of CC students could identify a confidential resource by name, title or office location, and over 73% were familiar with CC’s Sexual Misconduct Policy. Those numbers are good, especially since most people don’t worry about such details until after an incident, and the majority of students (80%) reported never having experienced such an incident. Of course, that means that 20% HAVE been sexually assaulted while at CC. That’s the bad news. How does CC compare to other schools? Because we all asked the questions a bit differently, it is hard to make perfect comparisons, but we can use the report from the Association of American Universities (AAU) study as far as possible. For example, if broken down by gender, the AAU study found that 23.1% of female students had experienced “nonconsensual penetration or sexual touching involving physical force or incapacitation.” At CC, a similar question yielded a positive response from 23.2%. The percentage of men reporting the same experience was 5.4% in both the AAU and the CC data. Individual schools were somewhat higher (30% of all students) or lower (13% of all students), but CC appears to be right at the overall average.

## 4. How can all of us at CC do a better job of addressing the issue of sexual assault on our campus?

As sociologists, we all know about powerful cultural forces that impact people in their local settings, and this is one of them. Hyper-masculinity is a problem, objectification and sexualization of women is another, both combined with the misuse (I would call it) of substances that render everyone incapable of consent. That’s what needs to change, but I honestly have no idea how to do it, beyond what little impact I might have in my classroom. It’s not a new phenomenon, but it does seem to be quite resilient, despite widespread discontent with many aspects of it.

