PCOSW Scholarship and Co-Sponsorships Awardee Summary Reports

Holly Horan

Project Dates: July 8 – August 2014

During the summer of 2014, Oregon State University doctoral student Holly Horan completed six-weeks of pilot data collection on maternal and infant health in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has been functioning under the colonial American Regime since 1898 and is a United States commonwealth. Despite these political and economic affiliations with the U.S. and a dominant biomedical health system, mothers and infants have considerably worse perinatal health outcomes such as preterm birth and low birth weight compared to the mainland U.S. With scant data available on the associations of these outcomes, Horan interviewed maternal and infant health care professionals in San Juan, Puerto Rico about the aforementioned perinatal issues and the overall health system on the island.

Horan successfully collected 20 interviews with maternal and infant health professionals. Her goal was to engage in a method known as “studying-up” where she was able to research the institutions that shape the existing system. In addition to creating a stronger foundation for future research, this method allowed Horan to include locally-identified maternal and infant health issues in her future dissertation research. Her dissertation research is projected to begin in the summer of 2015.

Marlene Cervantes

Project Dates: July 15 - August 19, 2014

The activity that I performed with the help of the PCOSW fund was to assist in a pilot study with PhD candidate, Holly Horan in Puerto Rico. The purpose of the pilot study was to explore the maternal and child health issues in Puerto Rico. Throughout the time being there, we conducted over twenty (20) interviews around the island with different maternal and child health providers. From obstetricians to midwives and pediatricians. Conducting interviews and transcribing them, definitely kept us busy throughout the time being there. It was a very rewarding experience to observe and listen to the different maternal and child health care provider’s point of view about the health care system there and how it compare’s to the one on the main land. Overall, I felt that this experience has rewarded me with a knowledge that I haven’t learned in the classroom and that will be applicable in the future as I try to pursue a career in Medicine.

Nicole Wiseman

Project Dates: July 3, 2014 - September 26, 2014

During the twelve weeks that I spent in Marseille, France, I conducted an anthropological research project highlighting the lives and experiences of women who live in the impoverished northern districts of the city. I started my research in hopes of learning about the experiences of second generation North African immigrants with racism, xenophobia, systemic violence, and
cultural identity. Given that anthropological research is highly unpredictable, the data that I have collected does have some discussion of the above issues, but also brought to light another important issue these women face; exclusion from the collective Marseille history. My thesis research aims to record their histories and highlight how these women assert and asserted their agency even in a marginalized position. Eventually, part of my research will be used to inform an exhibit at the Museum of Marseille’s History on the experiences of living in the shantytowns of the 60s and 70s in Marseille. I also hope to use the knowledge I have gained to work with a local non-profit that will work with immigrant women.

Audrey Aprillia

Project Dates: July 15, 2014 - August 19, 2014

The research project that was conducted over the summer of 2014 was a pilot study that was done on the Maternal and Child Health population in Puerto Rico. My research colleagues and I spent a total of 6-8 weeks living in San Juan, Puerto Rico where we spent the majority of our time arranging interviews with local health care professionals, and interviewing them to get a sense of what the professionals there think about the cause of low birth weight and prematurity that are seen amongst Puerto Rican mothers and children. In conjunction with the interviews, we mostly worked on analyzing and transcribing the recorded interviews into transcripts. The result of this study did not lead to only one answer. Instead, we see that it only became more complicated as we pursue on to find the cause because there is not just one cause that is correlated with the issue. It so happens that all the causes that were observed are very diverse and yet they are all interrelated with one another, and it is difficult to pinpoint one specific place to start with. Overall, the culture, socio-economic and political status play a big role and are highly involved in this matter, and it will take awareness from the community as a whole in order to move forward with the hope of making any improvements.

Danielle Marias

Event Date: November 12, 2014

Pretty Faces ski film screening at Majestic Theatre in Corvallis. Pretty Faces is a ski film, created by professional skier and women's advocate Lynsey Dyer, that encourages women and girls of all ages to get outside and celebrates women's achievement in the mountains. The film is the first of its kind to solely feature only female skiers. Although the film premiered in Portland and Bend, there was a need for a Corvallis screening as there are many outdoor enthusiasts, and empowered women and supporters who are psyched about the film's message. The 300-person venue at Majestic was packed full of OSU and community members, great vibes and energy, and lots of free gear and prizes from co-sponsors Hoodoo Ski Area and Peak Sports. The collaboration between Women in Science, PCOSW, Hoodoo, and Peak resulted in a fantastic and fun event that succeeded in getting the Corvallis community excited for the ski season and celebrating women!
Sarah Calhoun

Project Dates: June 16, 2014-December 31, 2014

Thanks to PCOSW I was able to collect sufficient data for my master’s thesis. Using the scholarship funds provided by PCOSW, I was able to travel beyond the Newport, OR area to collect interview data that addressed the roles and contributions of women in Oregon’s commercial fishing industry. This larger geographic scope allowed me to provide a more thorough analysis of women’s roles in multiple fishing communities along the Oregon coast. The results of my project have shown variations in how fishermen’s wives cope with change at the individual and community level. Recognizing diversity within the fishing industry is an important part of conducting community impact assessments, which allows social scientists and resource managers to address levels of vulnerability as a result of regulatory changes. By collecting data from multiple areas, I was able to contribute to the dialogue of women’s resilience and adaptive capacity in a heterogeneous and evolving industry.

Megan Richardson

Project Dates: January 22-24 2015

This past January I attended the Oregon Women in Higher Education conference in Bend. Unlike other conferences I’ve attended OWHE brought together a very diverse group of individuals ranging in age, disciplines, ambitions and the paths they chose to get where they are today. It was a great opportunity to meet and learn from women across the state that were at all different points in their careers from graduate students like myself to directors in companies and presidents of colleges. Throughout the conference I was able to connect a variety of different women and continually found a connection between our career or education paths. Several speakers presented during different session, and I particularly benefitted from discussions on authentic leadership and capacity building across your network. Overall it was a great opportunity to learn from different people across many fields. I connected with individuals who gave great insight to some of the challenges I may face abroad, and learned all of the different ways I could use my experience in my future work. I would recommend this conference to other PCOSW members as a great opportunity expand your community and learn from remarkable women who are making great strides with their work.

Julia McKenna


I interviewed 31 people for my master’s thesis “Needs Assessment of LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults along the I-5 Corridor in Oregon” between November 20, 2014 and February 25, 2015. I was able to travel to Albany, Eugene, Salem, and Portland to conduct interviews with service providers and LGBTQ+ identified people who had a variety of experiences involving homelessness, houselessness, and housing insecurity. Thanks to the funding to cover mileage, I was able to travel and meet with people without being preoccupied about the costs of travel. The
flexibility to meet with people where it was most convenient for them really added to the feasibility of my interviews and enabled me to not impose a great burden on my participants. I managed to be very efficient on my trips and conducted five interviews in one day during a trip to Portland and six interviews in one day during a trip to Salem. I appreciate that this funding enabled me to conduct face-to-face interviews with a wide range of people, an experience that has truly enhanced my ability as a qualitative researcher.

Natalie Hambalek and Danielle Marias, Women in Science Co-Presidents

Event Date: January 30, 2015

We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Jane Lubchenco at Women in Sciences Outside the Lab Seminar Series. This series showcases women in science that in some way have pioneered trails that have led to paths outside of academia. Over the last year we have hosted speakers who have incorporated their scientific skills into various working environments including the policy realm, journalism, science writing, industry, community engagement, and non-profit organizations. Jane was a fantastic speaker and relayed her experiences of juggling her career working as the Administrator of NOAA and her family life. Jane’s perspective and advice was extremely valuable for those looking to succeed not only in the governmental sector, but also with work/life balance in general.

With the generous co-sponsorship from PCOSW, we were able to host a light reception after the event. This allowed for ample cross-departmental networking opportunities among Women in Science members and the general campus community, and also probably played a part in increased attendance (In fact, we more than tripled our usual attendance!). We are so appreciative of the support we have gained from PCOSW over the last year.

Julia McKenna

Project Dates: February 4-8, 2015

I was able to attend the Creating Change Conference in Denver due to PCOSW funds covering my registration fees. I gave a 90 minute presentation “Leading Change”, which 30 people attended. Throughout the conference I was able to attend workshops sessions on some of my main interests: “Making Homeless Shelters Safer for Trans People”, “Eradicating Stigma: Homeless Youth Advocacy “Using Research to Create Change”, “How to Succeed as an LGBTQ Professional in LGBTQ Organizations”, among others. I gained valuable contacts at Transgender Law Center, True Colors Fund, 40 to None Project, and New Avenues for Youth, among others. This experience was extremely valuable for my professional development and I will be actively pursuing job leads, personal contacts, and new resources and information that I encountered at Creating Change. I had an excellent conference experience and am very grateful for the funding assistance provided by PCOSW.
Amber Coyne

Project Dates: February 4-9, 2015

Creating Change was an incredible networking experience and an amazing platform of exposure to advance my career development. While at the conference I had the extreme pleasure of meeting Tobi Hill-Meyer who is one of the leading artists and producers of queer feminist pornography. Being able to have a one-on-one conversation with Tobi has led my research in queer feminist pornography in new directions.

Additionally my presentation was a great success. Over 100 people showed up to my session, which as far more people than I saw at attendance at any of the other sessions. That in itself proved this is topic people want to engage with and know more about. I would encourage you all to take a look at my presentation and the outcomes of the group activities on my blog: https://queerfemmetalk.wordpress.com/2015/02/15/porn-this-way-queering-porn-creating-change-2015-presentation/


Project Dates: February 4-8, 2015

Attending creating change conference in Denver, Colorado was an enriching experience. Not only were we able to experience valuable learning, but also many skills that I am able to take back with me to provide deeper programming for the OSU community. There were 9 workshop sessions, each with over 15 options of which workshop to attend. The experience increased my awareness of queer resource organizations, and I was able to connect with groups and exchange information about the work that we are doing here are OSU. There are many folks doing queer work in areas that I wasn’t even aware of, and many folks doing work that increased my understanding about issues I am passionate about. I attended a workshop session regarding queer youth mental health, an issue that I was previously mostly unaware. Being able to see 3,000 people who are all doing queer youth reinvigorated my love for the work and gave me a feeling of community. I am very thankful for the opportunity. Project Summary (by C Goetter on behalf of the delegation):

Kryn Freehling-Burton


Kate Bornstein’s performance, class visit, and Pride Center drop in were wildly successful. A packed audience attended by about 150 people attended the performance on Wed, Feb 25 at 7 pm. Following the performance, Kate signed books and posed for pictures. On Thursday, Whitney Jones, the Women’s Center Director met Kate for lunch prior to Kate’s class discussion for WGSS 224 and QS 272. Forty students were present and had the chance to ask questions about My Gender Notebook by Bornstein that they read for class. Following class, Kate spent an
hour and a half with approximately 20 students at the Pride Center. Students are still talking
about how inspiring Kate is. Thank you so much for helping make it possible for the
performance and Kate’s meetings with students.

Courtney Everson

Project Dates: July 2014 – February 2015

From July 2014 through February 2015, I conducted fieldwork for my dissertation project with
adolescent parents and community-based doulas in the Pacific Northwest. In total, I conducted
n=53 interviews with the following cohort breakdowns: 11 doulas; 24 doula-supported
adolescent mothers; and 18 non-doula supported adolescent mothers. Through this project,
young mothers got the opportunity to tell their stories in a safe space, free of judgement. Indeed,
many of them spoke to how important it was for their story to be heard, and for the conventional
“teen mom = failed mom” narrative to be changed through research that honors the lived
experience of young moms. Through this qualitative project, I was able to identify the
predominant psychosocial stressors and social support sources that influence the lives and
trajectories of young mothers and their children. Research results demonstrate the importance of
support structures for young mothers and the profound role community-based doulas play in
improving the lives and well-being of young families. This research, and the associated
completion of my own doctoral degree, would not have been possible without the generous
funding provided by PCOSW. My sincerest gratitude to PCOSW for caring about the welfare
and flourishing of moms and babies everywhere.

Olena Taratula

Project Dates: March 13-14, 2015.

The PCOSW’s funding allowed me to attend the 3rd Annual Nanomedicine for Imaging and
Treatment Conference at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA in March 2015 where I
presented two posters highlighting my research work entitled “Development of Multifunctional
Nanomedicine Platforms for Combinatorial Treatment of Ovarian Cancer” and “Multifunctional
IONP-based Nanomedicine Platforms for Combinatorial Treatment of Cancer”. This conference
was focused on nanomedicine imaging and treatment that provided interactive workshops,
scientific sessions, and networking opportunities to learn more about recent advances in the
nanomedicine field and interact with established researchers. I have gotten good feedback and
suggestions for my work on how to improve chances to get more research funding. I cannot
stress enough how important direct interactions with inspiring top world scientists and exposure
to the cutting edge research is for my professional development.

Morgan Chow

Project Dates: March 24-28, 2015

I attended and presented at the Annual Society of Applied Anthropology (SFAA) meeting in
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As my first time attending this conference, I was very impressed with
the diversity of topics represented that are of interest to me, including: disaster risk reduction, vulnerable populations, community considerations in fisheries, gender issues, food security, and climate change. I spent a lot of time getting to know social scientists at NOAA as well as members of the Risk and Disaster Topical Interest Group. Many of these people will be helpful in providing interesting and relevant theory for my Master’s thesis. I also hope to connect with many of these groups again in the future for academic or career pursuits in these fields. As a selected session chair, I chaired the “Disaster Planning and Preparedness: People, Adaptations, and Communities” session. I learned how to manage a session, while also stimulating discussion around each speaker’s topics and linking topics together within the greater theme of the session. It was also a great opportunity to present some of my preliminary results in a formal setting with people that had great interest in my work.

Emma L. Larkins

Project Date(s): March 20-25, 2015

With the support of the PCOSW grant that I received, I had the opportunity to attend the NASPA national conference in New Orleans, LA. The following details the most profound experiences and learning that took place during the conference.

While at the conference, I had the opportunity to participate in a program called the Candid Conversations series where I was partnered with a female professional who has been in the field for ten years. During our time together, I was able to talk with Cindy about career planning as I am nearing the completion of my project and beginning to think about my professional identity as well as the PhD process and her own experience and process of deciding when to return to school, selecting a program, and managing a family, full-time position, and her research. To this point, I have largely been advised in this area by male-identifying mentors and I valued being able to talk with a woman about the unique considerations that she felt she had to make and her experience overall. This alone, was a powerful experience that I gained through my attendance at the conference.

Additionally, as I proposed in my initial request to PCOSW for funding, the conference was an opportunity for me to gain exposure to various methods and ways by which individuals present research and make it meaningful to an audience of practitioners. I am looking forward to bringing my own research on supporting pregnant graduate students to future practitioners and the student affairs profession.

Tami Fawcett

Project Dates: March 25-29, 2015

I attended the Middle Tennessee State University Global Discourses and Women’s and Gender Studies Conference over Spring Break to present some of my preliminary thesis research. This conference was very helpful in gaining feedback and having discussion around my thesis topic. I also made connections within my field with others who are doing similar work. We were able to network with one another and have continued to remain in touch and share research with each
other via email. In addition to presenting my research and gaining feedback, this conference also allowed me to become more linked, professionally, to others in my field. If I had not received the PCOSW scholarship, I would not have been able to gain these experiences.

Rebecca Olson

Project Dates: April 1-4, 2015

I participated in the seminar “Early Modern Women Making Texts” at the Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting. This seminar was devoted to rethinking women’s participation in the early years of the printing trade. In advance of the seminar, participants circulated original research. Mine, “Margaret Tudor and the Birth of Tudor Romance,” described Margaret Beaufort’s importance as an English book patron throughout the Tudor period in England, and argued that her literary influence has not been fully acknowledged.

The participants of the seminar unanimously agreed that it was a highly valuable experience. The history of the book is an increasingly popular discipline, but its engagement with feminist work has been minimal. The work of our seminar, which involved analyses of hitherto unrecognized texts or of quantitative data taken from obscure records, made it very clear that the problem is not that women were not involved in the early years of book production in Europe; rather, we have not known how to read the evidence of their involvement. Our honest discussion was therefore dominated by questions about methodology: What are the best ways to recover women’s involvement in book history? How do we communicate that involvement to scholars and to students?

Terese Jones

Project Date: April 17-18, 2015

In April I attended the Governor’s State University Gender Matters Conference, presenting the early outcomes of research on the marginalization of LGBTQIA youth and youth with disabilities from within school-based anti-bullying curriculum. My colleague and I shared our preliminary results with nearly fifty emerging scholars in the area of gender and sexuality studies, as part of a panel on law and policy, designed to provide critical review of unintended consequences of social policy in the lives of individuals and families within social institutions.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect with scholars pursuing methodologies of alterity, actively working to elevate voices of those from the margins through methods more consistent with their lived experiences, such as keynote speaker and sociologist, Dr. Patricia Leavy, who is currently editing a volume on the use of arts in social science research. Networking with theorists is an essential part of developing one’s pedagogical framework, and this conference provided those opportunities.

It was a privilege to share our work, receive feedback from other panelists and represent Oregon State University, and without the support of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, through scholarship funding, my work would not have been represented. Thank you!
Julia McKenna

Project Date: June 4-6, 2015

I was able to attend the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference due to PCOSW funds covering my flight. Throughout the conference I was able to attend workshops sessions on some of my main interest. At the Federal Policy Update panel, I was able to get valuable contact information from leaders at the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Labor, and Department of Housing and Urban Development. I also attended workshops on self-esteem building for non-binary people and queer theory and theology. I was able to interact with representatives from the Ruth Ellis Center, Casa Ruby, and TransActive Gender Center. These contacts and the information from the sessions will be invaluable to me as I am reaching out to potential employers and looking for agencies to work for in LGBTQ+ housing services. This experience was extremely valuable for my professional development and I will be actively pursuing job leads, personal contacts, and new resources and information that I encountered at the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference. I had an excellent conference experience and am very grateful for the funding assistance provided by PCOSW.

Holly Horan

Project Date: August 1-15, 2015

PCOSW funds have supported my work for two consecutive years, as I engage in community-led research with OSU and our Puerto Rican partners. In 2014, I spent 6 weeks in San Juan, Puerto Rico doing exploratory research with maternal and infant health providers. We identified three community-led maternal and infant health care projects: 1) establishing the first accredited midwifery school in Puerto Rico; 2) establishing the first in-hospital birth center in Puerto Rico; and 3) beginning a Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) Statistics project for midwives in Puerto Rico to collect data on their practices. Over the course of the last year, we have worked on all three of these projects, with this year’s PCOSW funds focusing on MANA training and data collection. This summer, in 2015, we conducted two large-scale trainings with certified professional midwives and their students as well as certified nurse midwives and their students in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We also began collecting and entering retrospective data for midwives in Puerto Rico so that they can use this data to develop a final report to support their legislative movements on the island.

Sefanya Hope

Project Date: August 1-15, 2015

This summer, I travelled to Puerto Rico as part of the Community Health Field School. Our focus was on improving maternal and infant health in Puerto Rico by decreasing preterm birth rates. To achieve this, we worked on three projects: 1) entering midwifery records to the Midwives Alliance of North America site to generate statistics for Puerto Rico, 2) initiating the island’s first accredited midwifery school, and 3) establishing a birth center to decrease cesarean
birth rates or, if needed, provide a non-violent and non-traumatizing cesarean option. During our time there, we worked with a non-profit organization called Mujeres Ayudando Madres (Women Helping Mothers), whose founder supported all three of our projects. We rearranged MAM’s library, which included more than 500 items, to make it more orderly and accessible online. We also entered data for the MANA project as well as built relationships with current and future partners. This experience, enabled by funds from PCOSW, has allowed me to gain a firsthand look into real-life research. It has given me insight to the professional world, the politics it entails, and how to navigate through it - all of which I believe is an invaluable understanding for a student to have.

Stephanie Zhao

Project Date: August 1-15, 2015

There is obvious tension within the health sector concerning birth in Puerto Rico. Midwives currently struggle with a lack of political recognition that has strongly affected birth and maternity outcomes in a negative way. Now, with an impending bill that prevents midwives from practicing independently, it is even more important to do appropriate research because the bill will amplify the shortage of maternity health care professionals. My time in Puerto Rico, funded by the PCOSW, was spent on multiple projects. The first was data entry of retrospective birthing charts into the MANA Stats Project, a central data collection site that will analyze and report overall results on success rates and various other variables. Midwives can use this tool to reflect on their practices and potentially gain political leverage. The second was searching for grants to fund and build a midwifery school. Other projects included meetings to set up a birthing center and completing various tasks for Mujeres Ayundando Madres, a nonprofit organization that provides mothers with the care and support they need for having and raising a baby. Overall, this trip was very successful and efficient as we met all the goals that we set.

Emily Carr

September 20-Oct 5, 2015

I call my current writing project, If She Draws A Door (about the size and shape of a sparrow) Only She Can Pass Through It, an emergency of feeling manual. We all have emergencies of feeling—we get pregnant, have abortions or adopt our daughters; our grandmothers, fathers and even best friends die; we get married, divorced, get some lawyers; we try to be our best selves but sometimes we aren’t; we have eating disorders, take sleeping pills or Xanax and maybe we recover or maybe prescription medication is our future; we lie and cheat and maybe we even break some laws, accidentally or otherwise; and no matter how prepared we think we are for these events the simple truth is we aren’t. The truth is there are more questions than answers and we might live better as a species if we took some time to celebrate a world wiped clean of answers (it’s where we’re at). In lieu of remedies or happy endings or moral lessons, the emergency of feeling manual offers doubt, inquiry, and wonder; it is reassuring precisely because it portrays the human life as it is being lived. My hope here is that by inhabiting my own emergencies of feeling with authentically and abundantly, I might help my reader to take on the
burden of what troubles her, to carry on her questioning to the very end. Which means putting the self in question, doesn’t it? To the very end.

I spent two weeks as Writer-In-Residence at the Dickinson House in Belgium working on the first chapter of this manuscript. Some strands of this chapter forage into women’s experiences of abortion, cultural attitudes towards abortion, reproductive politics, and the legal realities of the right to choose.

**Estefania Elorriaga**

Project Date: January 9-13, 2016

At the Plant and Animal Genome Conference this year (PAGXXIV), I presented two talks: one at the Forest Tree Workshop entitled “Asexual Gene Drive in Populus? Results from CRISPR/Cas9 Mutagenesis of Floral Genes for Genetic Containment” and another at the Components of Apomixis Workshop entitled “High Incidence of Biallelic Mutation of Floral Genes in CRISPR/Cas9 Transgenic Poplars”. I also presented a poster with the same title as the second talk. Both talks were successful, I had more than half the seats were taken (at the second talk the room was almost filled up) and attendees asked me several questions. They seemed very interested in the technology. The poster session also went well; I had about fifteen people or more stop by my poster and ask me questions. A few of the people that stopped by my poster asked for my contact information, so that they could get in touch with me in the future for lab collaborations. I even got an informal job offer for after I get my PhD. These were my first two, of hopefully many, conference talks. I met many potential future collaborators and/or work colleagues. And I also learned about the latest science in my field.