

Steve McKay

Biographical Information

I am an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the UCSC Center for Labor Studies. My research has focused on labor, gender, racial formation, and globalization. I am currently working on a new book, based on historical and multi-sited ethnographic research, focused on the rise and reproduction of ethno-national labor niches in contemporary global labor markets. The book, focused on global shipping, is entitled *Born to Sail? Race, Masculinity and the Making of Filipino Seafarers*. I am also working locally in the Santa Cruz area on a series of community-initiated, student-engaged research projects – collectively part of the [*Working for Dignity*](#) program - focusing on low-wage work, wage theft, immigration, and affordable housing.

Research Interests

Labor and labor markets, political sociology, globalization and social change, migration, racial formation, masculinity, Southeast Asia

Previous Education/Training

2001 - Ph.D. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1996 - M.A. Southeast Asian Studies with Distinction, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1989 – B.A. Political Economy of Industrial Societies with Honors, University of California-Berkeley

Awards, Honors, Grants

Awards/Honors

2015. Community Game Changer Award, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County

2012. UC Santa Cruz Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity.

2011. Visiting Senior Research Fellowship at the National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, Migration Studies Cluster.

2010. Teaching: Award for Universal Design in Instruction from the University of California – Santa Cruz's Disability Resource Center.

Grants:

2015. Co-Principal Investigator: John E. Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Culture, Andrew Mellon Foundation. project title: "Non-citizenship". CO-PIs: C. Ramirez, J. Poblete, S. Falcon and F. Amaya Shaeffer (all at UCSC). \$178,000.

2015. Co-Principal Investigator, Collaborative Solutions for Poverty Competition, UCSC Blum Center. project title: "Give Me Shelter: Experiencing the Housing Crisis in SC County." CO-PI: M. Greenberg. \$10,000.

2015. Principal Investigator: Research Award, UCSC Blum Center on Poverty, Social Enterprise, and Participatory Governance. project title: "Working for Dignity: the Santa Cruz County Low-Wage Worker Survey." \$4,400.

2014-2015. Principal Investigator: Engaging Humanities Public Humanities Project Grant, University of California Humanities Research Institute Project: "Working for Dignity: Rural-Urban Stories in a Changing California." \$20,000.

2012. Principal Investigator: Working Group on the Humanities and the Changing Conceptions of Work, for "Changing Work, Changing Workforce: Immigrant and their Impact on the Meaning of Work." \$25,000.

2012-2013. Principal Investigator: Labor and Food Program, UC Santa Cruz Center for Labor Studies, for "Labor Across the Food System. Funded by the Webster Foundation. \$15,000.

2011. Principal Investigator: Visiting Senior Research Fellowship, National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, Migration Studies Cluster. 3 month residential writing fellowship used to complete one book chapter and work on book manuscript. \$22,000.

Selected Publications

Books:

2006. [Satanic Mills or Silicon Islands?: The Politics of High-Tech Production in the Philippines](#). Cornell University/ILR Press. Co-published in the Philippines by Ateneo de Manila University Press.

Edited Books:

2012. [New Routes for Diaspora Studies](#). Indiana University Press. Co-edited with S. Banerjee and A. McGuinness.

Contributions to Books

2015. [“So They Remember Me When I’m Gone’: Remittances, Fatherhood and Gender Relations of Filipino Migrant Men.”](#) in *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia*. Palgrave MacMillan Press.
2014. “Racializing the High Seas: Filipino Migrants and Global Shipping,” in *The Nation and Its Peoples: Citizens, Denizens, Migrants*. Routledge Press.
2012. ["Afterword: Diaspora and the Language of Neoliberalism,"](#) in *New Routes for Diaspora Studies*. Indiana University Press. Co-authored with A. McGuinness.
2012. [“Masculinities Afloat: Filipino Seafarers and the Situational Performance of Manhood at Sea, in Port, and at Home,”](#) in *Men and Masculinities in Southeast Asia*. Routledge Press. Second author: D. Lucero-Prisno.
2008. [“Hard Drives and Glass Ceilings: Gender Stratification in High-Tech Production, The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns and Possibilities”](#) in *The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns and Possibilities*. Pine Forge Press.

Journal Articles:

2011. "Re-Masculinizing the Hero: Filipino Migrant Men and Gender Privilege." Asia Research Institute Working Paper Series 172 - National University of Singapore.
2007. ["Filipino Sea Men: Constructing Masculinities in an Ethnic Labour Niche."](#) *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
2006. ["The Scalar Strategies of Capital, State and Labor in Evolving Philippine Economic Zones."](#) *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*.

Courses Taught

Websites – Title / Link

Working for Dignity: <http://workingfordignity.ucsc.edu/>

Presentations

Public Lecture or Forum Participation:

2015. “Power in Motion: Approaching Filipino Labor Migration as a Diasporic Social Field,” presented at the Philippine and Filipino Studies: 40 Years Hence, An International Symposium, University of Hawaii – Manoa.

2013. "Transnational Social Fields of Masculinity – Theorizing Gender through Migration," presented at the Transnationalism, Gender Hierarchies and Masculinity in Asia Conference, at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.

2013. "Intersectionality Panel" at the Low Wage Workers and Organizing Conference, at the University of California- Los Angeles.

2012. "Re-masculinizing the Hero: Filipino Migrant Men and Merchant Shipping", for the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

2014. "Migrant seafarers and transnational workplace ethnography," presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

2008. "Our Little Brown Sailors: Colonial Constructions of Race and Labor," presented at the Race, Labor and Empire Mini-Conference at Northeastern University.

2006. "Race Politics Afloat: American Imperialism and the Taming of Filipino Maritime Labor," presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Oakland.

2006. "Men at Sea: Migration and the Performance of Masculinity," presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting for the Regular Session on Immigration and Gender in Montreal.