

**AMY AGIGIAN, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. Brandeis University, Department of Sociology. 1998.

M.A. Brandeis University, Department of Sociology. 1993.

B.A. University of California at Santa Cruz, Majors in Women's Studies and Comparative Religion. Honors in Comparative Religion. 1987.

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION:**

“Controversial Conceptions: Lesbian Alternative Insemination”

A sociological inquiry into the challenges posed by inseminating lesbians and their families to the class based, gendered, and medically shaped norms of U.S. family law.

Dissertation Committee:

- Professor Maurice Stein, Chair
- Professor Shulamit Reinharz
- Professor Stefan Timmermans
- Professor Stephen Pfohl outside reader
- Professor Teresa Brennan outside reader
- Professor Irving Kenneth Zola former Chair, deceased before completion

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

Medical Sociology. Gender and Women's Studies. Contemporary Social Theory. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies. Health and Human Rights.

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- Reduced Teaching Award. College of Arts and Science, Suffolk University. Fall 2003.
- Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year Nominee. Student Government Association, Suffolk University. 2002 2003.
- Service Learning Course Development Grant. S.O.U.L.S., Suffolk University. 2001.
- Graduate Research Prize in Women's Studies, Brandeis University. 1997 1998.
- Fellowship in Sociology, Brandeis University. 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993.

**BOOK:**

*Baby Steps: How Lesbian Insemination is Changing the World.* Sole Author. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press. Forthcoming Spring 2004.

**BOOK REVIEWS:**

“The Encounter Continues: Feminism and Social Science Methodologies.” Review of *Feminist Dilemmas in Qualitative Research: Public Knowledge and Private Lives*, ed. by Jane Ribbens and Rosalind Edwards. In *Gender and Society*, 13 6 : 818 December 1999 .

“Reproductive Rights are Human Rights.” Review of *Women of the World: Laws and Policies Affecting Their Reproductive Lives, Latin America and the Caribbean*. In *Women’s Studies International Forum*. 22 5 : 1999 .

Review of *The Creatures Time Forgot: Photography and Disability Imagery* by David Hevey. In *Disabilities Studies Quarterly*, Spring 1993: 40.

Review of *Mother and Fetus: Changing Notions of Maternal Responsibility* .by Robert H. Blank. In *Disabilities Studies Quarterly*, Fall 1993: 45.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES:**

“Infertility.” Entry in *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women*, ed. by Charis Kramarae and Dale Spender. Routledge, 2000.

“Queer Theory.” Entry in *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory*, ed. by Elizabeth Kowaleski Wallace, 327 329. Garland, 1997.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

“We Are Cyborg Family: Lesbian Artificial Insemination.” *Brandeis Women’s Studies Program Working Paper Series*, No. 8. Brandeis University, March 1994.

“Controversia,” *Film Quarterly*, 15 3 : 57 Spring 1987 .

**EDITORIAL WORK:**

*The New Our Bodies, Ourselves: Expanded and Updated for the ‘90s*, by the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective. Contributed to substantial update process for current revision of the book. Touchstone/Simon and Schuster Press, 1998.

*Your Next Career: On Becoming the Best Person You Can Be in Later Life*, Morris Schwartz. Yes, this is the same Morris Schwartz as in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Served as editor. Tragically, the author passed away before the completion of the book. 1993.

*Death at the Parasite Cafe: Social Science Fictions and the Postmodern*, Stephen Pfohl. Edited book. St. Martin’s Press, 1992.

*Sloan Management Review*. Edited documents, wrote brief book reviews, conducted reader surveys. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management. 1988 1990.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:**

“Plural Perspectives on Lesbian Artificial Insemination” Invited Panelist. Part of the lecture series, “The Politics and Technology of Motherhood.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, 2003.

“The Sociology of Reproduction.” Panel Discussant, American Sociological Association Conference. Anaheim, 2001.

“Bush and Gore on Poverty Relief to American Families.” Invited Speaker, Faculty Forum. Suffolk University. 2000.

“Assisted Reproductive Technologies: Paradoxes and Unintended Consequences.” Invited Speaker, Sociology Faculty Research Colloquium. Suffolk University. 1999.

“Infertile Discourses: The Inability of Infertility Medicine to Conceive of Lesbian Motherhood.” Panelist, Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference. Sponsored by the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division. San Francisco, 1998.

“Homophobia and Marginalization.” Invited speaker, New England Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Collegiate Leadership Conference. Brandeis University. 1997.

“Reproductive Rights.” Panel Presider, Eastern Sociological Society Conference. Boston, 1996.

“We Are Cyborg Family: Lesbian Artificial Insemination.” Panelist, International Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference. Toronto, 1993.

“Televisionary Death in the Sand: the Mass Media and the Persian Gulf War.” Accepted for Presentation, Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference. Pittsburgh, 1992.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Suffolk University, Sociology Department. 1999 present.

- Cultural Diversity and Human Need.
- Introduction to Sociology.
- Law, Health, and Human Rights.
- Seminar in Health and Human Services.
- Sociology of Aging.
- Women in Contemporary Society.
- Women and Health.

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Suffolk University, Sociology Department. Spring 1999.

- Introduction to Sociology.
- Social Class and Inequality.
- Women and Health.

SENIOR LECTURER, Suffolk University, Sociology Department. Fall 1998.

- Women in Contemporary Society.

TUTOR, Harvard University, History of Science Department, and Committee on Degrees in Women's Studies. 1997-1998.

- Feral Children: A Critical History.
- The Medical Construction of Lesbian Bodies.
- The Politics of Women's Health.

TEACHING FELLOW, Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Women's Studies. 1994-1998.

- Introduction to Women's Studies: Changing the Subject.
- Roots of Feminism.

LECTURER, Brandeis University, Sociology Department. 1993-1997.

- Reclaiming Bodies, Remapping Power: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Social Theory.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEACHING:**

"Teaching Controversial Topics." Presented at a Sociology Department Teaching Seminar. Suffolk University. 2001.

"The Globalization of Feminism, and How it Affects U.S. Women's Studies." Presented at the Women's Studies Faculty Seminar Series. Suffolk University. 2000.

"Cultural Diversity and Different Learning Styles." Co led workshop at the Graduate School's Teaching Assistant Orientation Program. Brandeis. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998.

"The Mechanics of Teaching." Co led workshop at the Graduate School's Teaching Assistant Orientation Program. Brandeis. 1997.

"Sexual Orientation in the Classroom." Panelist at the Spring Orientation of the Bok Center For Teaching and Learning. Harvard University. 1996.

Co Chair, Curriculum Committee for the Brandeis Women's Studies Core Course. 1994.

"How to Teach Women's Studies." Presented at the Harry M. Reiter Colloquium Series in Women's Studies. Brandeis University. 1993.

"Diversity in the Classroom." Co led workshop at the Graduate School's Teaching Assistant Orientation Program. Brandeis. 1993.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE:**

Coordinator, Sociology Department Faculty Research Seminars. 2000-present.

Member, Sociology Department Website Development Committee. 2000.

Representative of the Sociology Department, Suffolk Showcase. 1999, 2000.

Representative of the Sociology Department, Suffolk University Open House. 1999.

Member, Hiring Committee for the Instructor for the Brandeis Women's Studies Core Course. 1994.

Member, Hiring Committee for three Graduate Teaching Assistants for the Brandeis Women's Studies Core Course. 1993, 1994.

Graduate Student Representative, the Graduate Committee. Brandeis Sociology Department. 1992.

Member, Search Committee for faculty opening in the areas of Third World Feminism and Women and Development. Brandeis Sociology Department. 1991.

### **ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

Established the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at Suffolk University. 2003.

The Center was approved by:

- The College Committee of the Board of Trustees
- The President of the University
- The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- The Curriculum Committee of the College of Arts and Science
- The Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts and Science
- The Faculty of the College of Arts and Science

Organized, coordinated, and co sponsored the New England Women's Studies Association annual conference "International Feminism, Human Rights, and the Women's Studies Curriculum" held at Suffolk Law School, as the public "launching" event for the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at Suffolk University. Raised the majority of the conference budget: two dozen official sponsors contributed at least 250 each. The Conference also participated in Unity Week. 2003.

Gave Introductory Remarks to Lowell Lecturer Samantha Power, Esq. This Lowell Lecture was co sponsored by the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights. 2003.

Provided a 120 hour internship for a Masters student in International Relations Suffolk University Government Department .The Intern worked at the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights in fulfillment of a degree requirement. 2003.

Moderated Panel on then pending U.S. War against Iraq. C. Walsh Theater, Suffolk University. 2003.

Moderated Panel on Domestic Violence Careers. Sponsored by S.O.U.L.S., Suffolk University. 2002.

Brought Elanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority to Suffolk University. She held a meeting with interested faculty from departments of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Women's Studies. She also gave a talk to undergraduates, "Women and Policing," which was videotaped for further Suffolk teaching use. 1999.

Brought Cynthia Enloe, Ph.D. Professor of Politics, Clarke University to Suffolk University. She gave a talk to Sociology students, "Women and Militarism." 1998.

Led workshop "Valuing Differences" at the Summer Odyssey Program of the Rabb School of Summer, Special, and Continuing Studies. Brandeis University. 1996.

Presented "Bringing Women's Studies Perspectives to Your Career" at a forum co sponsored by the Harvard Committee on Degrees in Women's Studies, the Radcliffe Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies, and Radcliffe Career Services. Harvard University. 1996.

Moderated "Speak Out on Feminism" panel at a community event in honor of Women's Month. Brandeis University. 1994.

Organized, coordinated, and produced the "International Lesbian and Gay Video Festival" at Brandeis University. 1993, 1994.

Led workshop "Feminist Basics" Presented in a community event in honor of Women's Month. Brandeis University. 1993.

Organized and coordinated, "Women's Studies Speaker Series" at Brandeis University. 1993.

**ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

American Sociological Association  
Eastern Sociological Society  
Society for the Study of Social Problems  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
National Women's Studies Association