

FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOR OF  
NORMAN K. DENZIN



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STUDIES IN SYMBOLIC INTERACTION VOLUME 55

**FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOR  
OF NORMAN K. DENZIN: HE  
KNEW HIS SONG WELL**

EDITED BY

**SHING-LING S. CHEN**  
*University of Northern Iowa, USA*



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## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Bryant Keith Alexander, PhD**, is Dean of College of Communication and Fine Arts and Professor of Communication and Performance Studies. He has seven books; co-editor of *Performance Theories in Education: Power, Pedagogy, and the Politics of Identity* (Erlbaum, 2005); author of *Performing Black Masculinity: Race, Culture, and Queer Identity* (Alta Mira, 2006), author of *The Performative Sustainability of Ra Reflections on Black Culture and the Politics of Identity* (Peter Lang, 2012), coeditor of the *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Communication* (2021), co-authored books with Mary E. Weems, *Still Hanging: Using Performance Texts to Deconstruct Racism* (Brill Sense, 2021), *Collaborative Spirit-Writing In Everyday Black Lives* (Routledge, 2021) and coauthored with Weems, Hill and Callier, *Performative Intergeneration Dialogues of a Black Quartet: Qualitative Inquires on Race, Gender, Sexualities, and Culture* (Routledge, 2022). His scholarship and teaching have been recognized with a range of national and regional awards including the *Ellis-Bochner Autoethnography and Personal Narrative Research Award*; the *Ethnography Division Legacy Award*; the *Randy Majors Award for GLBTQ Scholarship*; *The H.L. “Bud” Goodall, Jr. and Nick “Gory” Trujillo “It’s a Way of Life” Award in Narrative Ethnography* all from the National Communication Association; and the *Norman K. Denzin Qualitative Research Award*.

**Mitchell Allen** is founder and president of Scholarly Roadside Service, a scholarly publishing consulting company. In his 40-year career as an academic publisher, he created the preeminent publishing program in qualitative research at Sage and continued that effort at two specialized presses he founded, AltaMira and Left Coast. Allen is the author of *Essentials of Publishing Qualitative Research* and has had over 30 articles appear in refereed journals on scholarly publishing, qualitative research, archaeology, and related subjects. He is recipient of lifetime achievement awards from the American Anthropological Association, the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism, and the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

**Arthur P. Bochner** is distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of South Florida and a distinguished scholar of the National Communication Association. His 2014 book, *Coming to Narrative: A Personal History of Paradigm Change in the Human Sciences* (Routledge), received the best book award for 2014 from The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry and the Ethnography Division of the National Communication Association. Among his other numerous awards are NCA’s Charles H. Woolbert Research Award, a

Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, and Ohio University's Elizabeth Andersch Award for career contributions to the study of communication. His coauthored book, *Evocative Autoethnography: Writing Lives and Telling Stories*, received the H.L. "Bud" Goodall, Jr and Nick Trujillo "It's a Way of Life" Award for storytelling informed by scholarship. Professor Bochner served as President of the National Communication Association in 2016.

**Shing-Ling S. Chen** is Professor of Mass Communication in the Department of Communication and Media at the University of Northern Iowa. Trained by Carl Couch as a symbolic interactionist, she studies communication processes and social relationships, as well as information technologies and social structures.

**Patricia Ticineto Clough** is a Professor Emerita of Sociology and Women Studies at City University of New York. She is the author of a number of publications, among them, *The End(s) of Ethnography Autoaffection: Unconscious Thought in the Age of Teletechnology*, and *Feminist Thought*. She is editor of *The Affective Turn; Theorizing the Social*, coeditor of *Beyond Biopolitics Essays in the Government of Life and Death*, and coeditor of *Intimacies, A New World of Relational Life*. Her most recent publication is *The User Unconscious: Affect, Media and Measure*. She is a practicing psychoanalyst in New York City where she also teaches at National Institute for the Psychotherapies and the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy where she also is member of the Training Committee and the Diversity Task Force.

**Christopher T. Conner** is Teaching Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Missouri, Columbia. His work has been featured in a variety of outlets including *Studies in Symbolic Interaction*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Young*, and *Sexualities*. He is currently working on a variety of publications related to the QAnon phenomenon, and is coauthor of *Electric Empires* with Rowman and Littlefield due out later this year.

**Carolyn Ellis** is a Distinguished University Professor Emerita at the University of South Florida. She has contributed to the narrative and autoethnographic study of human life through integrating ethnographic, literary, and evocative writing to portray and make sense of lived experience in a cultural context. Her publications include *Revision: Autoethnographic Reflections on Life and Work (Revised)*, *Final Negotiations: A Story of Love, Loss, and Chronic Illness (expanded/revised)*, and *Evocative Autoethnography: Writing Lives and Telling Stories* (with Art Bochner). She coedits the Routledge book series, *Writing Lives: Ethnographic Narratives*.

**Michael G. Flaherty** is Professor of Sociology at Eckerd College and the University of South Florida. He is a coauthor (with K. C. Carceral) of *The Cage of Days: Time and Temporal Experience in Prison* (Columbia University Press, 2021) and author of *The Textures of Time: Agency and Temporal Experience* (Temple University Press, 2011) and *A Watched Pot: How We Experience Time* (NYU Press, 1999). He is a coeditor (with Anne Line Dalsgård and Lotte

Meinert) of *Time Work: Studies of Temporal Agency* (Berghahn Books, 2020). His current research concerns the relationship between mental disorders and temporal experience.

**Michael D. Giardina** is Professor of Physical Culture and Qualitative Inquiry, and College of Education Scholar, in the Department of Sport Management at Florida State University, USA. He is the author or editor of more than 25 books, including *Sport, Spectacle, and NASCAR Nation: Consumption and the Cultural Politics of Neoliberalism* (with Joshua Newman; Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) and *Collaborative Futures in Qualitative Inquiry: Research in a Pandemic* (with Norman K. Denzin; Routledge, 2021). He is the coeditor of *Qualitative Inquiry*, coeditor of *Cultural Studies=>Critical Methodologies*, coeditor of *International Review of Qualitative Research*, coeditor of three book series on qualitative inquiry for Routledge, and Director of the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI). He is also the coeditor (with Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S. Lincoln, and Gaile S. Cannella) of the *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, 6th Edition* (forthcoming).

**Aitor Gómez González** is Associate Professor of Research Methods at the University Rovira i Virgili (URV) (Tarragona, Spain). He is the principal researcher of the Consolidated Research Group Methodology for Educational Research with Social Impact (MEDIS). He was the main researcher in Spain of the PERARES Project (FP7, 2010–2014) at the URV aimed at strengthening the connection between Social Science and Humanities Research and society. He has been the principal investigator of SALEACOM: Overcoming Inequalities in Schools and Learning Communities: Innovative Education for a New Century (2014–2017), a Marie Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange at extending successful educational actions across educational systems. He has been applying the communicative methodology in studies aimed at overcoming inequalities since 1998. He is deeply dedicated to the development of this methodology.

**Stacy Holman Jones** is a Professor in the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University. Her research focuses broadly on performance as socially, culturally, and politically resistive and transformative activity. She specializes in critical qualitative methods, particularly critical autoethnography feminist new materialist and affect theory. She is the author of more than 100 articles, book chapters, reviews, and editorials and the author/editor of 14 books.

**Emily Noelle Sanchez Ignacio** is an Associate Professor of Sociology and serves the Ethnic, Gender, and Labor Studies major and the Sociology and Social Science Research Methods minors at the University of Washington Tacoma. She has served as the Chair of the Race and Ethnic Minorities section of the American Sociological Association, as an Executive Board member of the Asian American Studies Association, and as an Advisory Board committee member for the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Her overall focus has been to

work for the eradication of domination and elitism in all human relationships. Her book, *Building Diaspora: Filipino Cultural Formation on the Internet* (2005, Rutgers University Press), examines how Filipinos around the world negotiate and articulate understandings of Filipino culture, identity, and community in relation to various oppressions, such as colonization, racism, sexism, nationalism, Eurocentrism, and Orientalism. Similarly, many of her articles and book chapters critically assess the continued significance, manifestation, and functions of racism, classism, sexism, and other oppressions in the United States, the Philippines, and other countries, such as El Salvador. With respect to methods and methodology, she has published several articles and book chapters that focus on the potential for researchers to produce emancipatory research by cultivating a critical sociological imagination and using it to carefully consider every moment of “the research” act and research design. Currently, she is researching the simultaneous (re)construction of Filipinos, Americans, the Philippines, and the United States via a close analysis of transnational media, cultural tourism and the Filipino-Bol-anon diaspora’s responses to the effects of neoliberal economic policies on the small island of Bohol in the Philippines.

**John M. Johnson** is Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Justice & Social Inquiry, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. He is a teacher, community activist, and Buddhist.

**Michael A. Katovich** is a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Texas Christian University. He has written on diverse subjects, linked to the concepts and theoretical tenets that emerged within the new Iowa School of Symbolic Interaction.

**Claudio Moreira** is Professor of Performance Studies, Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His books, *Between Talk* and *Between Autoethnographies*, coauthored with Marcelo Diversi, won the 2010 and 2018 Best Book Award from the Ethnography Division of the National Communications Association. A specialist in performance autoethnography, he has more than two dozen articles published. In 2016, he won the Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the most prestigious and only student-oriented teaching award at the University of Massachusetts.

**Joy Pierce** is Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the College of Humanities at The University of Utah. She is also Associate Professor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric Studies, and an affiliate in the Center for Latin American Studies. Her research foci are digital divides and digital literacy. She employs cultural studies and contemporary social theory through a critical pedagogy lens to study underrepresented populations coming to information communication technologies (ICTs). She has studied the theories of qualitative research methods extensively, and is a methodologist specializing in ethnographies (auto, performative, participatory action research). She is completing a book titled *Autoethnography: Beyond the Self* (Routledge).

**Lubomir Popov** is a Professor of Research Excellence in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Dr Popov works in the areas of sociocultural aspects of built environment, social design, and practical applications of qualitative research methods. Dr Popov has been awarded a Fellow status by the Design Research Society (UK) and is a recipient of the McGraw-Hill Distinguished Scholar Award by the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference.

**Laurel Richardson** is a Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Sociology at The Ohio State University. Her specialties are arts-based research, poststructural theory, writing as a method of discovery, and gender. Her most recent books are *Seven Minutes from Home*, *Lone Twin*, and *A Story of a Marriage through Dementia and Beyond: Love in a Whirlwind*.

**Robert E. Rinehart**, now retired, earned his PhD in Kinesiology from UIUC in 1993. He has worked at the University of Redlands; Idaho State University; CSU, San Bernardino; Washington State University; and the University of Waikato, in New Zealand. He researched alternative sport forms, ethnography, and poetic usage in qualitative research.

**James Salvo** is the Associate Editor of *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Cultural Studies* ⇔ *Critical Methodologies*, and the *International Review of Qualitative Research*. He coedits a book series on Myers Education Press with Norman K. Denzin, which has included volumes on Indigenous inquiry, arts-based research, theory, and performance. He recently authored *Reading Autoethnography: Reflections on Justice & Love* (Routledge, 2020).

**Sophie Tamas** is an Associate Professor cross-appointed to the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies and the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. She studies the emotional geographies of academic spaces and practices, writes autoethnography, and teaches qualitative research methods.

**Harry Torrance** is Professor of Education and formerly Head of the Education and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. His research interests include: the interrelation of assessment, teaching, and learning; testing and educational standards; the role of assessment in educational reform and policy development; qualitative research methodology; and the relationship between research and policy, research governance, and research management. He has undertaken many research projects investigating these topics funded by a wide range of sponsors. He is editor of the four-volume *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Education*, a former editor of the *British Educational Research Journal*, and a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences.

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## VOLUME EDITOR PREFACE

Norman K. Denzin, one of the most important scholars in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, commands an unusually high level of intelligence which accounts for the amazing breadth of his works, second to none. Denzin's topics of research are many, including self, voice, ethics, sociological imagination, interpretive inquiry, etc. Denzin is well versed in multiple, if not all, fields in qualitative inquiry – existentialism, phenomenology, pragmatism, symbolic interactionism, semiotics, poetics, poststructuralism, postmodernism, performance studies, autoethnography, critical and creative forms of writing, justice studies, etc. His mastery of these fields, unattainable by anyone else, provides him a keen appreciation of the unique contributions that each of these fields contributes in qualitative inquiry. Denzin published prolifically in multiple fields of qualitative research in his 55 years of academic career, and fostered the fruitful growth of various fields in qualitative inquiry consequently. Denzin's impacts on multiple fields in qualitative inquiry are immense, as he provides not only the sheer visibility for various fields in inquiry with his works but also substantive scholarship for their advancement. In an academic world, where researchers were taught to dismiss other fields of works in order to legitimize their own fields of study, Denzin's inclusive view of fields in qualitative inquiry is inconceivable, and Denzin's accomplishments in various fields in qualitative inquiry are unimaginable.

In addition, based on his appreciation of various fields in qualitative inquiry, Denzin mentors generations of researchers in qualitative inquiry not only by advising their works but also by creating spaces for their works in conference presentations, and by making rooms for their research in scholarly publications. Denzin was the editor or coeditor of more than 20 book series and journal publications. In these book series and journals, Denzin ensured the developments of fields of qualitative inquiry and fostered the growth of generations of qualitative researchers. He made sure that good works are published and good researchers are established. Generations of qualitative researchers are where they are today because of Denzin's support and guidance.

Although based in the University of Illinois, in the United States, Denzin's impacts are not limited to the scholars in America. Denzin's impact on fields in qualitative inquiry extends to qualitative researchers worldwide. Again, through his own works, as well as conference and publication outlets, Denzin builds an international community of qualitative researchers. Denzin envisions an international community where qualitative researchers collaborate and support one another. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, an annual conference founded since 2005, has been a sanctuary for qualitative researchers worldwide.

Thanks to Denzin's tireless efforts in ensuring the continuous growth of such an international community, fields in qualitative inquiry are thriving worldwide.

Denzin bestows great hope and missions on qualitative researchers to exercise their sociological imagination and to give voice to the less fortunate, in order to advance social justice and equality in humanity. With Denzin's immense impacts on various fields in qualitative inquiry, his outstanding works in mentoring generations of qualitative scholars, and his accomplishment in building an international community of qualitative researchers, Denzin has been attributed as "the Father of Qualitative Inquiries," a well-deserved distinction. Articles in this volume illustrate Denzin's fatherhood in qualitative inquiry.

Shing-Ling S. Chen  
Editor