Curriculum Vitae

Rae Lesser Blumberg

University of Virginia
Department of Sociology
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Education

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University

M.A., Sociology, Northwestern University

B.S. (with Distinction), Journalism, Northwestern University

Chemistry Major, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

Present Position

1998-present

William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia

Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego

Former Positions

Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego

Departments of Rural Sociology and Sociology, University of Wisconsin

Theoretical/Research Emphasis

I've carried out development-related research in 45 countries worldwide, in virtually every sector of development (e.g., research on microfinance in 16 countries; on conflict/post-conflict in 13 countries, and on gender and development in virtually all 45). I link research on a wide array of development topics to my two main gender theories. The key (although not sole) variable of both is women's economic power compared with counterpart men, posited as

the most consequential factor in explaining the level of gender equality in a group. My general theory of gender stratification is aimed at universality, i.e., across human societies and evolutionary history, at micro to macro levels. My gender & development theory focuses on the consequences of women's relative economic empowerment vs. disempowerment at levels ranging from the woman to the world economy. My recent work ranges from gender bias in education to positing and finding women's economic power to be a virtual "magic potion" for development, whereas their disempowerment is a virtual "poison potion," linked to low national income growth, low human capital formation and high levels of armed conflict. My latest article (Blumberg 2015) links development outcomes in three traditionally agrarian regions in Asia/Middle East-North Africa to variables from my theories; the regions range from the world's most to least gender-unequal. Their current development prospects are positively related to their level of gender equality. My research and teaching began as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Venezuela (I taught advanced research methods in sociology in Spanish and directed field research for the Faculty of Economics & Social Sciences, Andres Bello University, Caracas; this included leading an expedition to the headwaters of the Orinoco River to study the Yanomamo and Maquiritare tribes). Post-PhD, I returned for two years as resident advisor in sociological and survey research on a Ford Foundation/University of Wisconsin project in Venezuela's Ministry of Education. I also spent six months as Acting Director of Research (the # 3 position) at UN-INSTRAW, Dominican Republic.

Current Positions and Honors

Chair (nationally elected), Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association.

Executive Council, Faculty Senate, University of Virginia; Co-chair of Planning Committee, Faculty Senate, University of Virginia

President's Ad Hoc Group on Campus Climate and Culture, University of Virginia (one of two faculty representatives and subject matter specialist on group of 15 tasked with identifying and proposing changes in structural and cultural factors at the university that increase the likelihood of sexual assaults, as well as proposing changes that enhance prevention and improve response).

Distinguished Visiting Scholar, University of Sydney, May 2-9, 2014; Invited lead expert, working group to plan the world's first Gender and Development Institute, to be housed at Northeastern University, Boston, February 5, 2015; Invited as keynote speaker by the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN for March 13, 2015 symposium on "Gender Equality in Education" at the UN (as part of the annual meetings of the National Status of Women Commissions).

Country Experience

4-1/2 years' residence/research in Venezuela; 1-1/4 years in Bolivia. Shorter stays for research and/or development work in: Other Latin America/Caribbean – Ecuador (~30 times), Colombia, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Jamaica, Curaçao, Trinidad, Costa Rica; Asia/Pacific – India, Thailand, Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, China, Sri Lanka, Burma, Australia, Fiji, South Korea, Japan, Afghanistan; Middle East/Europe - Egypt, Israel, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Hungary, former DDR, Kosovo, Ukraine; Sub-Saharan Africa – Nigeria, Swaziland, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi. Desk studies of other African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean nations; U.S. research, including with Census Bureau (2000 and 2010 censuses).

Languages

English (native speaker); Spanish (bilingual); Portuguese (able to function professionally); Russian (very basic communication/reading skills)

Current Funded Research

Inter-American Development Bank, since 2013: Gender bias in education in Chile and the Dominican Republic. We've been analyzing videotapes of 4th graders in Chile (language and math classes) and of 6th graders in the Dominican Republic (math and science classes), exploring the genesis of girls' decreasing performance in math and science, which often manifests by sixth grade. The videotapes were made for other purposes. Now, specific teacher performance/ bias variables have been identified that clearly lead to under-attention to girls or undermining their confidence in their abilities. Articles and a book are planned.

UNESCO, since 2014. My study of gender bias in textbooks worldwide (with case studies of Chile, Georgia, Pakistan and Thailand) is being published as an Official Background Paper of, & incorporated into, the 2015 UNESCO Education for All *Global Monitoring Report*. Just invited to submit research for 2016 *GMR*.

World Bank, initiated in 2012-2013. I conceptualized a study of worldwide literature aimed at identifying aspects of gender inequality linked to the "South Asian enigma" of why South Asia, far from being the world's poorest region, has the highest malnutrition: 42% of children under 5 are underweight, vs. 23% in Central/West Africa, which <u>is</u> the poorest region. Female economic dependency appeared most closely linked to poor nutrition of children and mothers. Possible follow-up research. See Blumberg, Dewhurst and Sen in Publications, below.

Selected Publications

Books

Blumberg, Rae Lesser and Samuel Cohn (eds.). <u>Development in Crisis</u>. London & New York: Routledge (fully copy-edited manuscript submitted March 11, 2015).

Blumberg, Rae Lesser. *The Queen Midas Chronicles*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers (under contract for 2016).

Edited with Laurel Schwede and Anna Y. Chan, *Complex Ethnic Households in America*, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Blumberg, Rae Lesser, Cathy A. Rakowski, Irene Tinker and Michael Monteon (eds.). *Engendering Wealth and Well-Being: Empowerment for Global Change*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.

Blumberg, Rae Lesser (ed.). *Gender, Family, and Economy: The Triple Overlap*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991.

Blumberg, Rae Lesser. *Making the Case for the Gender Variable: Women and the Wealth and Well-being of Nations*. Washington, DC: Agency for International Development/Office of Women in Development, 1989.

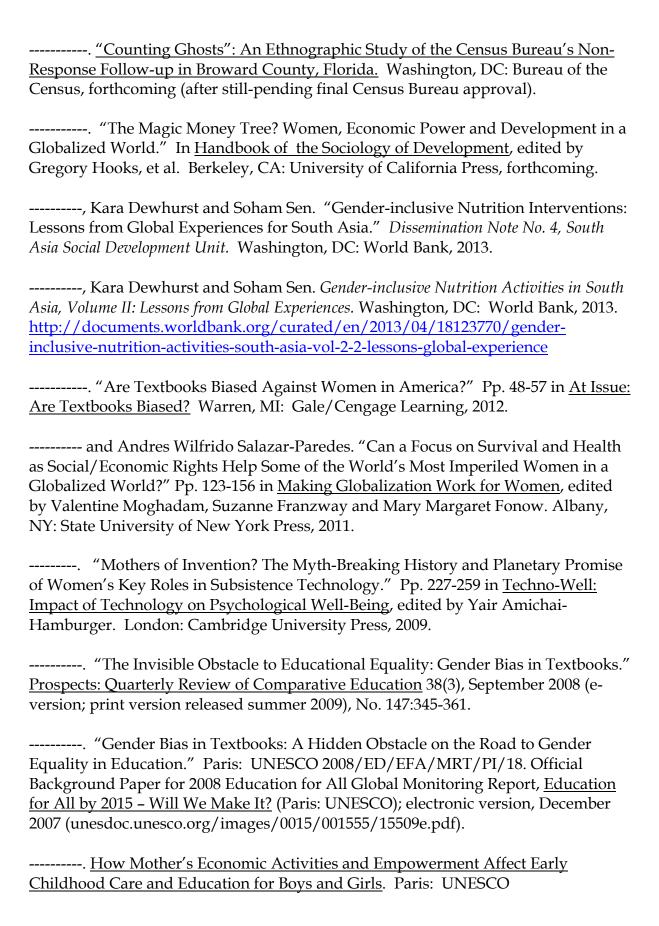
Blumberg, Rae Lesser. <u>Stratification: Socioeconomic and Sexual Inequality</u>. Dubuque, IA: Wm. C. Brown, 1978.

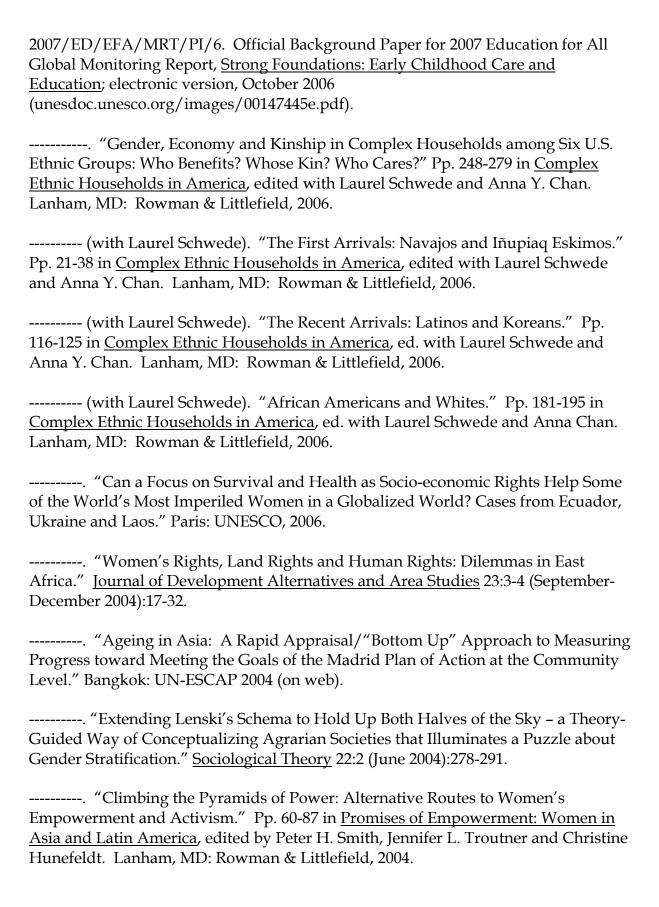
Robert F. Winch, with Rae Lesser Blumberg, Maria-Pilar Garcia, Margaret T. Gordon and Gay C. Kitson. *Familial Organization: Quest for Determinants*. New York: The Free Press, 1977.

Selected Articles and Monographs

Blumberg, Rae Lesser. "'Dry' Versus 'Wet' Development and Women in Three
World Regions." Sociology of Development, 1(1):91-122.
Gender Bias in Textbooks: Still a Near-Invisible Obstacle to Educational
Equality? Paris: UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Report Official
Background Paper for EFA GMR 2015; release date April 9, 2015.
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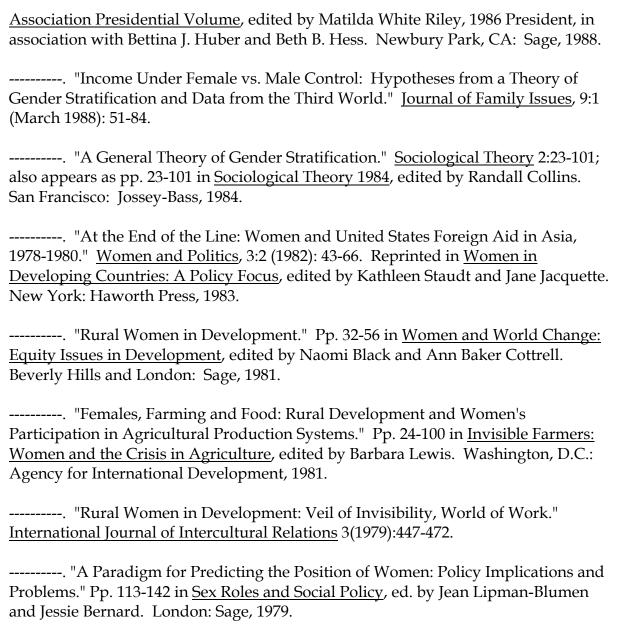
------. "A Walk on the Wild Side of Gender, War and Development in Afghanistan." In <u>Development in Crisis</u>, edited by Rae Lesser Blumberg and Sam Cohn. London and New York: Routledge, in press.











(Earlier publications, including in AJS and ASR, available on request.)

NOTE: The above are selections from a publications list of ~100 items. In addition, there are many unpublished reports for development agencies (USAID, World Bank, IDB, UN/FAO, IFAD, UNDP, etc.), on topics ranging from microfinance to agriculture/environment, to gender and development. The above does not include publications in languages other than English. My career trajectory has been unusual, combining academic theories with development research/work worldwide. The fieldwork yields case studies for my writing while enriching my theories. I maintained a quite detailed cv at the University of California, San Diego and can expand the present one on request.