

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Rae Lesser Blumberg**

University of Virginia  
Department of Sociology  
102 Randall Hall  
P.O. Box 400766  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4766  
(434) 924-6527  
[rblumberg@virginia.edu](mailto:rblumberg@virginia.edu)

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Chile (language and math classes) and of 6<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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.). *Development in Crisis*. 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. *Stratification: Socioeconomic and Sexual Inequality*. 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.

------. "A Walk on the Wild Side of Gender, War and Development in Afghanistan." In *Development in Crisis*, edited by Rae Lesser Blumberg and Sam Cohn. London and New York: Routledge, in press.

------. “Counting Ghosts”: An Ethnographic Study of the Census Bureau’s Non-Response Follow-up in Broward County, Florida. Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census, forthcoming (after still-pending final Census Bureau approval).

------. “The Magic Money Tree? Women, Economic Power and Development in a Globalized World.” In Handbook of the Sociology of Development, edited by Gregory Hooks, et al. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, forthcoming.

-----, Kara Dewhurst and Soham Sen. “Gender-inclusive Nutrition Interventions: Lessons from Global Experiences for South Asia.” *Dissemination Note No. 4, South Asia Social Development Unit.* Washington, DC: World Bank, 2013.

-----, Kara Dewhurst and Soham Sen. *Gender-inclusive Nutrition Activities in South Asia, Volume II: Lessons from Global Experiences.* Washington, DC: World Bank, 2013. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/04/18123770/gender-inclusive-nutrition-activities-south-asia-vol-2-2-lessons-global-experience>

------. “Are Textbooks Biased Against Women in America?” Pp. 48-57 in At Issue: Are Textbooks Biased? Warren, MI: Gale/Cengage Learning, 2012.

----- and Andres Wilfrido Salazar-Paredes. “Can a Focus on Survival and Health as Social/Economic Rights Help Some of the World’s Most Imperiled Women in a Globalized World?” Pp. 123-156 in Making Globalization Work for Women, edited by Valentine Moghadam, Suzanne Franzway and Mary Margaret Fonow. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2011.

------. “Mothers of Invention? The Myth-Breaking History and Planetary Promise of Women’s Key Roles in Subsistence Technology.” Pp. 227-259 in Techno-Well: Impact of Technology on Psychological Well-Being, edited by Yair Amichai-Hamburger. London: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

------. “The Invisible Obstacle to Educational Equality: Gender Bias in Textbooks.” Prospects: Quarterly Review of Comparative Education 38(3), September 2008 (e-version; print version released summer 2009), No. 147:345-361.

------. “Gender Bias in Textbooks: A Hidden Obstacle on the Road to Gender Equality in Education.” Paris: UNESCO 2008/ED/EFA/MRT/PI/18. Official Background Paper for 2008 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Education for All by 2015 – Will We Make It? (Paris: UNESCO); electronic version, December 2007 ([unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001555/15509e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001555/15509e.pdf)).

------. How Mother’s Economic Activities and Empowerment Affect Early Childhood Care and Education for Boys and Girls. Paris: UNESCO

2007/ED/EFA/MRT/PI/6. Official Background Paper for 2007 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education; electronic version, October 2006 ([unesdoc.unesco.org/images/00147445e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/00147445e.pdf)).

----- . "Gender, Economy and Kinship in Complex Households among Six U.S. Ethnic Groups: Who Benefits? Whose Kin? Who Cares?" Pp. 248-279 in Complex Ethnic Households in America, edited with Laurel Schwede and Anna Y. Chan. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

----- (with Laurel Schwede). "The First Arrivals: Navajos and Iñupiaq Eskimos." Pp. 21-38 in Complex Ethnic Households in America, edited with Laurel Schwede and Anna Y. Chan. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

----- (with Laurel Schwede). "The Recent Arrivals: Latinos and Koreans." Pp. 116-125 in Complex Ethnic Households in America, ed. with Laurel Schwede and Anna Y. Chan. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

----- (with Laurel Schwede). "African Americans and Whites." Pp. 181-195 in Complex Ethnic Households in America, ed. with Laurel Schwede and Anna Chan. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

----- . "Can a Focus on Survival and Health as Socio-economic Rights Help Some of the World's Most Imperiled Women in a Globalized World? Cases from Ecuador, Ukraine and Laos." Paris: UNESCO, 2006.

----- . "Women's Rights, Land Rights and Human Rights: Dilemmas in East Africa." Journal of Development Alternatives and Area Studies 23:3-4 (September-December 2004):17-32.

----- . "Ageing in Asia: A Rapid Appraisal/"Bottom Up" Approach to Measuring Progress toward Meeting the Goals of the Madrid Plan of Action at the Community Level." Bangkok: UN-ESCAP 2004 (on web).

----- . "Extending Lenski's Schema to Hold Up Both Halves of the Sky - a Theory-Guided Way of Conceptualizing Agrarian Societies that Illuminates a Puzzle about Gender Stratification." Sociological Theory 22:2 (June 2004):278-291.

----- . "Climbing the Pyramids of Power: Alternative Routes to Women's Empowerment and Activism." Pp. 60-87 in Promises of Empowerment: Women in Asia and Latin America, edited by Peter H. Smith, Jennifer L. Troutner and Christine Hunefeldt. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.

-----, Miriam Gachago and Lorna Lueker. Engendering Development in East Africa: Regional Gender Impact Assessment for USAID/REDSO/ESA Synthesis Report. Nairobi and Washington, D.C. USAID and Development Associates, 2003, and USAID Center for Development Information and Evaluation. Additionally, separate country reports cover REDSO, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

----- and Olha Shved. "Curbing Sex Slavery Abroad by Helping Women Earn a Living in Ukraine: Assessment of the Economic Empowerment Aspects of the Anti-Trafficking Project, USAID/Kiev." Washington, D.C. and Kiev: WIDTECH/DAI/ICRW and USAID/Kiev, 2002.

-----, "'We Are Family': Gender, Microenterprise, Family Work and Well-being in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic - with Comparative Data from Guatemala, Swaziland and Guinea-Bissau." History of the Family: An International Quarterly, 6:271-299, 2001.

-----, "Risky Business: What Happens to Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Post-Conflict Societies? Insights from NGOs in El Salvador." International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society. 15:161-173, 2001.

-----, "Microfinance, Money, and Gender Equality." IRIS, No. 40, Spring 2000.

-----, "Gender and the 'Magic Money Tree': The Microfinance Movement." IRIS, No. 40, Spring 2000.

-----, "The Emerging Seasons of Our Lives." INSTRAW News 29:18-28, 1998.

-----, "Gender Equality as a Human Right: Empowerment, Women and Human Rights - Past, Present and Future." INSTRAW News 28:7-21, 1998.

-----, "Engendering Wealth and Well-being in an Era of Economic Transformation." In Engendering Wealth and Well-being, edited by Rae Lesser Blumberg et al. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.

-----, "Gender, Microenterprise, Performance and Power: Case Studies from The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala and Swaziland." Pp. 194-226 in Women in the Development Process in Latin America: From Structural Subordination to Empowerment, edited by Christine Bose and Edna Acosta-Belen. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1995.

-----, "The Intersection of Family, Gender and Economy in the Developing World." Santo Domingo: INSTRAW. Occasional Paper No. 9, United Nations Intl. Year of the Family Secretariat, Vienna, 1994.

----- . "Women's Work, Income and Family Survival Strategy: Guatemala's ALCOSA Agribusiness Project in 1980 and 1985." Pp. 117-141 in Women, the Family and Policy: A Global Perspective, edited by Esther Ngan-Ling Chow and Catherine White Berheide. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1994.

----- (with Janet Chafetz, Randall Collins, Scott Coltrane and Jonathan Turner). "Toward an Integrated Theory of Gender Stratification." Sociological Perspectives 36:185-216, 1993.

----- . "The Political Economy of the Mother-Child Family: New Perspectives on a Theory." Pp. 13-52 in Where Did All the Men Go: Women-headed Households in Cross-Cultural Perspective, edited by Joan Mencher and Anne Okongwu. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993.

----- . "African Women in Agriculture: Farmers, Students, Extension Agents, Chiefs." Morrilton, AK: Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development/Development Studies Paper Series, 1992.

----- (and Eme Okoro). "Pioneer's Progress: A Case Study of Innovations to Help Women Farmers in the Imo State, Nigeria Agricultural Development Project." Washington, DC: The World Bank, Population and Human Resources Series/ African Women Farmers' Productivity Project, ed. by Katrine Saito, 1992.

----- . "Women and the Wealth and Well-being of Nations: Macro-Micro Interrelationships." Pp. 121-140 in Macro-Micro Linkages in Sociology, American Sociological Association Presidential Volume, edited by Joan Huber, 1989 President. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991.

----- (and Dale Colyer). "Social Institutions, Gender and Rural Living Conditions." Pp. 247-266 in Agriculture and Economic Survival: The Role of Agriculture in Ecuador's Development, edited by Morris D. Whitaker and Dale Colyer. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990.

----- . "Toward a Feminist Theory of Development." Pp. 161-199 in Feminism and Sociological Theory, edited by Ruth A. Wallace. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1989.

----- (and Marion Tolbert Coleman). "A Theory-Guided Look at the Gender Balance of Power in the American Couple." Journal of Family Issues, 10:2 (June 1989): 225-249.

----- . "Gender Stratification, Economic Development, and the African Food Crisis." Pp. 115-137 in Social Structures and Human Lives: American Sociological



Association Presidential Volume, edited by Matilda White Riley, 1986 President, in association with Bettina J. Huber and Beth B. Hess. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988.

----- "Income Under Female vs. Male Control: Hypotheses from a Theory of Gender Stratification and Data from the Third World." Journal of Family Issues, 9:1 (March 1988): 51-84.

----- "A General Theory of Gender Stratification." Sociological Theory 2:23-101; also appears as pp. 23-101 in Sociological Theory 1984, edited by Randall Collins. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1984.

----- "At the End of the Line: Women and United States Foreign Aid in Asia, 1978-1980." Women and Politics, 3:2 (1982): 43-66. Reprinted in Women in Developing Countries: A Policy Focus, edited by Kathleen Staudt and Jane Jacquette. New York: Haworth Press, 1983.

----- "Rural Women in Development." Pp. 32-56 in Women and World Change: Equity Issues in Development, edited by Naomi Black and Ann Baker Cottrell. Beverly Hills and London: Sage, 1981.

----- "Females, Farming and Food: Rural Development and Women's Participation in Agricultural Production Systems." Pp. 24-100 in Invisible Farmers: Women and the Crisis in Agriculture, edited by Barbara Lewis. Washington, D.C.: Agency for International Development, 1981.

----- "Rural Women in Development: Veil of Invisibility, World of Work." International Journal of Intercultural Relations 3(1979):447-472.

----- "A Paradigm for Predicting the Position of Women: Policy Implications and Problems." Pp. 113-142 in Sex Roles and Social Policy, ed. by Jean Lipman-Blumen and Jessie Bernard. London: Sage, 1979.

(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.