SCHOLARSHIP

Ongoing Work

My ongoing scholarly work in recent years has been channeled in two directions. One was a book that was published in June 2015 as *The Ghosts of Organizations Past: Communities of Organizations as Settings for Change* by Temple University Press. The book follows in a long line of studies the urban community in New Haven, Connecticut. In it I show how the challenges that arise in attempts at community improvement through interorganizational collaboration can be understood through the lens of organizational thinking. The image in the title alludes to a new model of urban communities that I introduce in the book: community as organizational junkyard.

The second direction is continued work in an area I call the "sociology of information." This resulted in a 2013 paper co-authored with Gillian K. Hadfield of USC Law School called "Democracy, Courts, and the Information Order" which appeared in the *European Journal of Sociology*. This second publication on the sociology of information (see also Ryan 2006 and coverage in the *New York Times Science Times*) and a work in progress (presented last year in the USC Department of Sociology) called "Learning to Be a Node" are prefatory to a book on the topic, elements of which have appeared in 195 posts on my blog, The Sociology of Information (~39,000 page views). The core new idea of a sociology of information is that there exists in human societies a "social information order" – the distribution of who knows what and who knows who knows what – and multiple levels of normative dynamics – we know who should know or be told what – that generate the forces that govern the keeping of secrets, the spilling of beans, the blowing of whistles, and the broadcast of news.

New Work

I have also been active over the last several years learning about innovation processes in general and innovation and change in higher education and liberal arts colleges in particular. This work is non-traditional scholarship insofar as my goal is not to produce a book or scholarly articles based on data I have collected. Instead, my orientation is toward becoming more of an expert in this area so that I can be a more effective leader of innovation in the institutions where I work.

This move hearkens back to a longstanding interest in alternative education, and brings together research I have done with Daniel Chambliss (author, recently, of *How College Works*), visits to Goucher College and Loyola Marymount University as an outside evaluator, things that I learned serving in faculty leadership at Mills, and my experience helping to launch a new program on innovation education at USC in 2014-15.

I gather all of this work under the name "Majoring in the 21st Century." The tangible elements of this project include a wiki called "The 0.0 Initiative" that describes concrete organizational and technological innovations for higher education institutions like Mills, several blogs:

- **Assessing Assessing**: organizationally informed commentary on the assessment industry in higher education (36 posts with 1200 page views)
- **Majoring in the 21st Century**: investigations into what college should look like in the 21st century (44 posts with 1300 page views)
- **ICYMI: In Case You Missed**, a curation of articles on higher education issues for colleagues (197 posts with 3300 page views),

a series of talks on the future of liberal arts colleges:

- "(Disruptive) Innovation as a Liberal Art", Washington D.C. Mills Club (2015)

- "If Small Liberal Arts Colleges Did Not Exist, Would Someone Invent Them?", Address at Palo Alto Mills Alumnae Club Meeting (2014)
- "Can EdTech Save Liberal Arts Colleges or Can Liberal Arts Colleges Be Saved From EdTech," Mills College Alumnae San Diego Chapter (2014).
- "Majoring in the Twenty-first Century," Mills College Aurelia Henry Reinhardt Society and The Cyrus and Susan Mills Society (2013), published in the *Mills Quarterly* in 2015.
- "Pedagogical Productivity and the Survival of SLACs in the Age of MOOCs," Mills College Faculty Colloquium, December. (2012)
- "How to Run a College Like a Business Without Running a College Like a Business" (2010)

and proposals for new courses and programs at Mills.

- An Undergraduate Program in Quantitative Social Science
- An Undergraduate Program in Technology, Business, and Design

Alongside of this work that could be called the sociology of higher education organizations, I have also been re-establishing my relationship with technology and engineering

Exhibits

The following exhibits are attached to this document under "Scholarship"

Peer Reviewed Publications

- *The Ghosts of Organization Past: Communities of Organizations as Settings for Change*. Temple University Press, 2015.
- "Democracy, Courts, and the Information Order" with G. K. Hadfield. *European Journal of Sociology* / Volume 54 / Issue 01 / April 2013, pp 67-95.

Other Publications

- "But What if the Shared Vision Is Myopic?," with Sara Goldrick-Rab. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 12, 2015.
- "Majoring in the 21st Century," *Mills Quarterly* Winter 2015.
- "This Doesn't Change Everything: Review of Networked by Barry Wellman and Lee Rainie." *Contemporary Sociology*, March 2014 vol. 43 no. 2 180-183 (doi: 10.1177/0094306114522414b).

Blogs

- Sociology of Information
- Assessing Assessing
- Majoring in the 21st Century
- In Case You Missed It