

The UCSC Sociology Colloquium Series presents:

From Jerry Springer to Jersey Shore: The Cultural Politics of Class in/on US Reality Programming

Linda Grindstaff

Monday, November 28, 2011

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Room 301, College 8



This talk explores what might be considered the ‘performance logic’ of reality programming as it relates to the cultural politics of class. Having conducted ethnographic research on two different genres of reality television in the US, Grindstaff is interested in the tensions between class as an embodied phenomenon in everyday life, and as a discursive phenomenon parlayed by social institutions such as the media.

Linda Grindstaff is an Associate Professor at UC Davis who teaches in the areas of popular culture, cultural sociology, gender and society, and field methods. Her research focuses broadly on American popular culture and its role in constructing gender, race, and class relations. Her first book, *The Money Shot*, is an ethnographic account of daytime television talkshows. Based on interviews and participant observation behind-the-scenes, it explores how the production process works to transform the private experiences of “ordinary” people into extraordinary public performances, and what these performances tell us about class inequality in the US.

For information about accessibility, contact Barbara Laurence at balauren@ucsc.edu.

For information about the Sociology Colloquium Series: <http://socyeventsucsc.wordpress.com>