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governs citizens and noncitizens by determining the grounds of inclusion (enforcing that the same heterosexual, monogamous expectations about family life apply to all) and defining the hierarchy of citizenship by exclusion (only particular people may marry) at the same time. Illuminating the political contradictions of marriage forcefully reveals this paradox of citizenship.

This research brings themes of gender studies to the field of political science. *Nuptial Nation* also uses tools drawn from feminist and queer theory. Understanding the politics of marriage requires a framework that synthesizes different theoretical approaches. Because marriage in the United States is fundamentally a political institution that develops over time, this book draws upon historical institutionalism, as it has been developed in the discipline of political science. The governing authority and reach of marriage as a political institution is made possible precisely because of its cultural and discursive power. The political questions that get contested through marriage have historically centered on identities based in race, gender, class, sexuality, and nationality.

The book concludes with two points. The first concerns scholarship. I claim that understanding marriage comprehensively as a political institution underscores the cultural foundations of political institutions. Moreover, I show how marriage is not a stable or static political institution in the U.S. nation but plays a contradictory role in defining privileges, rights, and obligations of U.S. citizens. The second conclusion is more political in nature. Viewing marriage as a political institution allows a potential reframing of political questions around identity and marriage. For instance, a focus on marriage politics might raise questions about why welfare recipients and same-sex couples do not come together and fight for the right to have alternative families founded in a linked notion of economic and social inequality. In this way, marriage politics could be a context for revealing and cultivating unique and potentially fertile coalitional possibilities. Thus in the end I argue that accepting marriage as a political institution can reveal untapped opportunities for politics. ■



Left: Shannon Bell, front center, with the Harts Photovoice Group at their exhibit in West Virginia, April 2009. Below: During the regional exhibit at Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, Kay Kinder from the Big Coal River Photovoice Group is interviewed by local news about her photostory, which demonstrated the need for a bottle deposit in West Virginia.

Photovoice in the Appalachian Coalfields

CSWS grant winner wins UO Doctoral Research Fellowship

As a sociology graduate student, Shannon Elizabeth Bell displayed an activist's heart. In her first grant application to CSWS, Bell noted that women are at the fore of the anti-coal movement in central Appalachia, stepping out of their traditional gender roles to take an active leadership position in fighting the coal industry. Her scholarship had a mission—to help these women in low income coal-mining areas of West Virginia find more effective ways to use their voices through grassroots action.

Bell's doctoral work caught the attention of the Center for the Study of Women in Society grant committee, earning Bell CSWS graduate student research grants totaling more than \$4600. She was also one of two students awarded a 2009-2010 UO Doctoral Research Fellowship. Her doctoral dissertation drew her back to a land of scarred beauty. Bell had lived in southern West Virginia from 2000-2005 and returned again in 2008 to recruit women in five communities, giving them digital cameras and asking them to take pictures that "tell the story" of where they live.

The photographs that these women captured included the majesty of seasonal changes and local plants and animals as well as the ugliness of strip-mining and trash dumps. For eight months, Bell met with the women in her five groups every three weeks to discuss the photographs, identify common community concerns, and communicate those concerns.

Bell encouraged the women she worked with to take action and a few of them accompanied a *Washington Post* reporter to mountaintop removal mining sites. Some lobbied legislators about coal-related water contamination. Others, with Bell's assistance, successfully lobbied to have long-neglected roads repaved. Still others are using their photostories about litter to work toward supporting a beverage container law.

Many of these photovoice projects can be viewed on Bell's website <wvphotovoice.org>.

In June 2010, Bell defended her dissertation, "Fighting King Coal: The Barriers to Grassroots Environmental Justice Movement Participation in Central Appalachia." She graduated with a Ph.D. in sociology and a graduate certificate in women's and gender studies. This fall, she starts a new job as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. ■

