Summary of Sabbatical Leave for James Joseph Dean, Fall 2014

During the fall of 2014, I worked on two new projects. The first project was to collect data and apply for a grant to fund a qualitative study of straight individuals who live in the Castro, a well-known gay neighborhood in San Francisco. After completing a preliminary set of observations and not receiving the grant I applied for from the American Sociological Association (ASA), I decided that a study of heterosexual individuals in the Castro is not as compelling of a new research agenda as I had initially thought.

In part, this is due to the fact that a study of straights who live in the Castro confirms the findings of my first book, Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture (NYU Press, 2014), where I showed that straight men and women develop a set of non-homophobic ways of displaying and disclosing their straight status to others in everyday life.

Although the grant reviewers from the ASA were positive in their reviews of my proposed study, encouraging me to resubmit a revised grant application in the next cycle, I instead decided to pursue a new line of research on the contemporary identity dynamics of trans women and trans men.

Research on the social relations and interactions between trans women and gay men, lesbians, and the larger queer community in San Francisco is a gap in the literature. Yet, with the increasing media attention given to celebrity trans women like Caitlin Jenner and Veronica Cox, it is important to understand the development of trans identity politics and its relation to LGBTQ communities.

For this second project, I am currently drafting a journal article that focuses on trans women, their everyday lives, and their social relations with the larger LGBTQ community in San Francisco.

Below is a list of my scholarly work during the sabbatical leave.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS**


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1 The term “trans women” refers to people born with male bodies who consider themselves to be women and live their everyday lives socially as women. Similarly, the term “trans men” refers to individuals born with female bodies who consider themselves men and live socially as men (Stryker 2008, 20).
ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS


2015  “Being Straight in a Post-Closeted Culture,” in Contexts. (forthcoming)

BOOK REVIEWS


MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Books


Journal Articles

“Trans Women and Queer Communities: Trans Identity Politics in Queer San Francisco”

“Straight History Since Stonewall” with Amin Ghaziani, University of British Columbia.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS


2014  “Straight but Not Narrow? Post-Closeted Culture and Contemporary Straight Identities.” Invited lecture to George Mason University’s Fall for the Book Festival, Fairfax, VA. September 17.
IN THE NEWS

Guest on SiriusXM (Satellite Radio) *The Michelangelo Signorile Show* 17 Oct. 2014
  - Discussing the findings from my book, *Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture*

Guest on WNYC’s (NYC’s Public Radio) *The Brian Lehrer Show* 5 August 2014
  - Discussing the findings from my book, *Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture*

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Sex and Gender Section, American Sociological Association
  - Program Committee Member for ASA 2015 Meeting, 2014-2015

Publications Committee, Pacific Sociological Association
  - Elected Position, 2013-2016

SUMMARY

It was an exciting and productive semester. Although I did not pursue a study of straight individuals who live in the Castro, I completed a variety of other scholarly and professional work. More importantly, I carved out a new research agenda on trans women and trans men that will serve as the basis of a new journal article and a future book on trans identity politics in queer San Francisco. I am grateful for the sabbatical leave and the time it gave me to refocus my research agenda.