

VOL.  
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SOCIAL THOUGHT & RESEARCH | A Continuation of the Mid-American Review of Sociology

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# SOCIAL THOUGHT & RESEARCH

A Continuation of the Mid-American Review of Sociology



# Social Thought & Research

Vol. 31, 2010

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## Cover Art:

*Little Orphan Annie in a Pittsburgh Institution* (1909), Lewis Wickes Hine

Lewis Hine (1874-1940) was an American sociologist and photographer who attempted to use photography as a means to convey messages of social reform. Ultimately the images he captured would become instrumental in convincing legislators to reform child laws in the United States. He studied at the University of Chicago, Columbia University and New York University before teaching at the Ethical Culture School in New York City. Many of his classes focused on photography and focused on the immigrants coming into Ellis Island before he left the school and became a full time photographer for the Russell Sage Foundation in Pittsburgh. Later he would also work for the National Child Labor Committee, American Red Cross, Tennessee Valley Authority and Works Progress Administration National Research Project before falling from prominence in the late 1930s and falling into poverty himself and then dying on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1940.

*Little Orphan Annie* was taken during his time in Pittsburgh and was titled in reference to the famous Little Orphan Annie comic strip that described an orphan girl who was forced to work to earn her keep. Hine wrote the following to the Child Labor Committee when he took the photo: "Olga Schubert. The little 5-year-old after a day's work helping her mother in the Biloxi Canning factory, began about 5:00 A.M., was tired out and refused to be photographed. The mother said, 'Oh, she's ugly.' Both she and other persons said picking shrimp was very hard on the fingers."

Our thanks to Merry A. Foresta (*American Photographs: The First Century*, 1996) and PhotoCollect (<http://photocollect.com>) for their assistance in collecting biographical information on Lewis Wickes Hine.

-Russell Schloemer

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Vol. 31, 2010

### On the Cover

Russell Schloemer (University of Kansas)

### Acknowledgments

**INVITED 2009 CARROLL D. CLARK LECTURER**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

### Interview with Annette Lareau

Prepared by Annette Lareau, M. Katherine Mooney,  
and Jillian Wang..... 3

**INVITED 2009 SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT SPONSORED**  
**LECTURE SERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

### Interview with Colin Jerolmack

Prepared by Rachel Craft ..... 15

### FEATURED ARTICLES

### Michael J. Lynch, Temple University

Sex in Second Life: Scripts, Presence, and Bounded  
Authenticity in a Virtual Environment ..... 37

### William Mingus, University of Illinois, Chicago

### Bradley Zopf, University of Illinois, Chicago

White Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry ..... 57

### Bridget K. Welch, Western Illinois University

### Anna E. Kosloski, Iowa State University

"Mario Kart" Nintendo Wii as an Active Learning  
Technique for Teaching Inequalities ..... 79

## BOOK REVIEW

**Henricks, Kasey, Loyola University**

*Fade to Black and White: Interracial Images in Popular*

*Culture* (2009) by Erica Chito Childs.....89

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--Rachel Craft