

Yale University

# Workshop in Urban Ethnography

Spring 2013

## ***School Shootings: Why Bad Things Happen in Perfect Places***



**Katherine S. Newman**

***James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of the Arts and Sciences and Professor of Sociology  
Johns Hopkins University***

Katherine S. Newman is the author of twelve books in the fields of urban poverty, public policy, economic mobility, and school violence. In 2004, she co-authored *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*, based on a study commissioned by the National Research Council.

In collaboration with Rourke O'Brien, she published *Taxing the Poor: Doing Damage to the Truly Disadvantaged* (2011), an exploration of the impact of regressive taxation on poverty-related outcomes. Her most recent work is *The Accordion Family: Boomerang Kids, Anxious Parents, and the Private Toll of Global Competition* (2012). Professor Newman's current research focuses on the labor market trajectories of graduates from low-performing high schools in New York City and dwells on the positive returns to high-quality technical and vocational education.

### **School Shootings**

In recent years, the U.S. has seen a wave of terrible tragedies involving mass shootings in schools. Much of the attention has been focused on individual psychological characteristics of the shooters. Sociological perspectives from ethnographic research point in a very different direction. Organizational secrets, dynamics, adolescent pecking order, and the underside of social capital provide a powerful explanation to the origin of these events. Professor Newman will discuss the contributions of team-based field research for understanding these complex tragedies.

***Lunch Served \* \* \* All Welcome***

**Monday, February 25, 11:30a-1:20p**

210 Prospect Street, Room 203, New Haven

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