

Announcements Spring 2012

CSRN collaboration with Charisma The CRSN is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Charisma research network, recently launched with the support of partners CRESC and the Journal of Cultural Economy. Charisma is an online resource for researchers interested in how consumers, finance, institutions and devices interact in markets. It is divided into four areas: Markets, Consumption, Finance, and Histories. Upon joining, all network members are given an account to enable them to contribute material to the site directly.

The site is guided by the view that to properly understand the mix of devices and desires that drive markets, consumer market studies should be open to a variety of techniques, methods, theories and perspectives. Charisma therefore has an interdisciplinary, applied focus and hosts a range of content, including news items, events and announcements, commentaries and working papers as well as photo essays and data visualisations.

The aim is to encourage the flow of information, sources and ideas across academic specialisms as well as meaningful engagement with researchers and non academic practitioners. The name Charisma, meanwhile, is intended to speak to an interest in the consumer-oriented techniques and practices of capture and enticement at work in a range of different market settings.

For further information, or to join the network, visit <http://www.charisma-network.net>

Call for Papers “Producing Motherhoods In/Through Consumption” Special Issue of the *Journal of Consumer Culture*
http://csrn.camden.rutgers.edu/pdf/Call_for_Papers.JoCC.Motherhood_Special%20Issue.Deadline_Extended.image.pdf

University of Southern Denmark (SDU) Students of social science who are seeking a business angle now have a new opportunity: University of Southern Denmark (SDU) is starting a BSc in Market and Management Anthropology. All classes are taught in English. The first students will start in September this year. For more information, a downloadable leaflet and contact information please see <http://www.sdu.dk/en/Uddannelse/Bachelor/Market+and+Management+Antropology> or just Google “sdu anthropology”

Congratulations Chandra Mukerji, co-recipient of this year's Distinguished Book Award from the American Sociological Association for her book, *Impossible Engineering* (Princeton) The book is not about consumer culture, per se, but develops a theory of logistical power that helps explain the importance of objects in social life. It also looks at material memory and cultural learning, another issue of concern to many scholars who study consumption.

Call for Papers GIRLS' CULTURE/GIRLS' STUDIES The Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (<http://www.mpcaaca.org>) welcomes papers and/or panels on **Girls' Studies** topics for presentation at the annual conference, October 12 - 14, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio. Please send a 200-word abstract of your proposed paper. If you would like to propose a panel, your proposal should consist of 3 to 4 papers and include a chair/commentator. All submissions should include: paper title, names of presenters, affiliations, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Also include your AV Please email your proposal directly to the

Girls' Culture/Girls' Studies Area Chair, Miriam Forman-Brunell Forman-BrunellM@umkc.edu by **May 31, 2012**. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email.

Worlds of Consumption A new series published by Palgrave Macmillan in association with the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. Series Editors: Hartmut Berghoff and Uwe Spiekermann *Worlds of Consumption* is a peer-reviewed venue for the history of consumption and consumerism in the modern era, especially the twentieth century, with a particular focus on comparative and transnational studies. It aims to make research available in English from an increasingly internationalized and interdisciplinary field. The history of consumption offers a vital link among diverse fields of history and other social sciences, because modern societies are consumer societies whose political, cultural, social, and economic structures and practices are bound up with the history of consumption. *Worlds of Consumption* highlights and explores these linkages, which deserve wide attention, since they shape who we are as individuals and societies.

Books of Note

Donica Belisle. *Retail Nation: Department Stores and the Making of Modern Canada* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011). This vivid account of Canadian department stores in their heyday showcases them as powerful agents of nationalism and modernization, as well as reveals that the nation they helped to define -- white, consumerist, middle-class -- was more limited, and contested, than nostalgic portraits of early department stores generally suggest.

Claude S Fischer. *Made in America*. (University of Chicago, 2010). Press. This social history of the United States (with more pages of end notes and references than text) by one of the most distinguished contemporary sociologists includes a chapter on 300 years of American consumerism that should be a must read for everyone in this section.

Frank Trentmann (ed). *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Consumption*. (OUP, 2012). A timely overview of how our understanding of consumption in history has changed in the last generation, taking the reader from the ancient period to the twenty-first century and including chapters on Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America, with contributions from leading historians who examine the spaces of consumption, consumer politics, luxury and waste, nationalism and empire, the body, well-being, youth cultures and fashion.

Amelia Weinreb. *Cuba in the Shadow of Change*. (University Press of Florida, 2009). This book provides an ethnographic account of how ordinary Cuban citizen-consumers negotiate and make sense of a longing for private material comfort with the public good in a transforming socialist society.