

## **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. MARJORIE MARCOUX FAIIA, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY**

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*“Our culture has been impacted in many ways by the new technologies. Even the way we choose a mate has been impacted.” - Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia, Professor of Sociology*

## Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia

Director of Rivier's Sociology Program examines drug abuse, the cyber age, deviance and women's issues

Rivier Professor of Sociology Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia has recently written one book and begun research on another textbook—both of which will surely provide valuable insights for students and those in her field. Her work has focused on deviance, substance use and abuse, and the complexities and realities of new technologies. The new text will discuss the growing “digital divide” as well as describe E-youth, E-crime and E-politics.

In 2010, Marcoux Faiia co-authored *Substance Use and Abuse: Exploring Alcohol and Drug Issues*. The book examines the effects of drugs and alcohol on the individual and in society and provides special insight into the problems facing women, adolescents, college students, the elderly, racial minorities and the GLBT community. “This book provides a broad sociological discussion into substance use and abuse, specifically exploring how drugs and alcohol are used and misused by various groups in society today,” Marcoux Faiia says. “Reaching beyond the truths of pathology, illness and addiction, this book analyzes the effects of dangerous substance use on the population as a whole.” It is a very useful reference book for counselors, educators and those working with populations of substance abusers and their families. “For every alcoholic and drug addict there is a family and friends who also suffer the pains of substance abuse,” she says.

While Marcoux Faiia has been researching drug use in modern culture, she has broadened her fields of interest to include the emerging topics of cyber worlds. “The microchip introduced the last great social revolution,” Marcoux Faiia says. “Now, we live in a digital age. As a sociologist, this is of immense interest. Our culture has been impacted in many ways by the new technologies. Even the way we choose a mate has been impacted.”

Marcoux Faiia has already begun investigating material for her book, having presented papers delving into related topics at various international and national conferences. She has presented original research at the University of Gerona in Spain; Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland; the University of Edinburgh in Scotland; Oxford University in England; the University of Provence in France; Antwerp University in Belgium; and, in June 2011, at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Her paper was entitled: “E-Identity, E-Activities, and E-Political Participation: How College Students are Embracing the Promise of the Internet.” She also delivered a paper on Internet crime in June 2012 at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium in Sweden where she met the Queen of Sweden. Recently she gave papers at national conferences in Denver, Santa Fe, Philadelphia, and New Orleans, and in October 2011, Marcoux Faiia presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology in Chicago. She has used each of these conferences as data gathering opportunities and has learned a great deal about cyber worlds which she hopes will inform the new book.

Discussing the new book project Marcoux Faiia says, “A book like this will help clarify the realities of cyber communications and consider some fears about emerging technologies.” She hopes to discuss commonly-held fears about topics such as: loss of privacy, identity theft, cyber bullying, and effects on interpersonal communications. “It’s all part of the construction of social reality,” she says. In the beginning stages of compilation, the preliminary working title of the book is “Hackers, Scammers and Perverts: Cyber Criminals and Cyber Deviance.” Faiia’s next paper is a result of her concentration in Cultural Anthropology will be presented in Nashville this October 2012 and will be entitled: “The New Buffalo: Impacts of Gaming on Native Tribal People.” ■

## **At a glance:**

### **Life outside Rivier**

Marcoux Faiia is a wife and mother and enjoys many hobbies including gourmet cooking, gardening, traveling and anthropological exploring.

### **Academic credentials**

- Ph.D., Northeastern University
- M.S.W., Boston College
- B. A., Northeastern University