

Spring 2007 Brownbag Presentations

When Good Companies Go Bad: Deviance and Crime in American Corporations

Bad decisions made by corporations can have long-term effects, including threats to individuals' job security, to the survival of companies, and to society at large. Part one of this course examines the social environment that allows for companies to behave in deviant or criminal ways. Topics will include why bad decisions are made as well as the role that technology plays in making bad decisions and their long-term consequences. In part two of this course, corporate crime of recent years will be discussed using Enron, WorldCom, and other high-profile cases as examples of good companies being undermined by the behavior of corporate leaders.

Presenter: *Laura L. Hansen*

Laura L. Hansen is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at UMass Boston specializing in white-collar crime, the sociology of work, and economic sociology. She is a native Californian, who received her B.S. and M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of California Riverside after a career as a financial para-planner and income-tax specialist with American Express and H and R Block Tax Services. Her current projects include a comparison of insider trading during the 1980s with the Enron case and technological innovation in ophthalmology practices, as well as biotech corporate research in collaboration with Theodora Welch.

Date: Wednesdays, April 18 and April 25 (2 sessions)

Time: 11:30–1:00

Location: to be announced