Lois Weis focuses on the relationship between and among schools, communities, and the broader social structure, including the “outcomes” of schooling as situated within the context of massive changes in the global economy. Her most recent work explores the re-making of the American white working class in the latter quarter of the twentieth century. Arguing that we cannot write off the white working class simply because white men no longer have access to well paying laboring jobs in the primary labor market, jobs which spawned a distinctive place for labor in the capital-labor accord, or assume that this class can only be understood as a tapestry which works easily across ethnicity, race, and gender, she explores empirically and longitudinally the re-making of this class fraction both discursively and behaviorally inside radical globally based economic restructuring. Routledge will release this volume, entitled Class Reunion, in 2004.

Also appearing in 2004 is her recently completed volume (with Michelle Fine), Working Method: Research and Social (In)Justice (Routledge) in which she and Fine articulate their distinct form of ethnographic investigation. Making explicit their triplet of theoretical and analytic moves—deep work within groups; serious relational analyses between and among groups; and broad structural connections to institutions, lives, and sociopolitical conditions—this volume elaborates the ways in which we produce a relational, analytic montage of “groups” and identities, articulating carefully the techniques we employ to “connect” lives to and with social, economic, and political arrangements. Stretching empirically and theoretically across bounded categories of social class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in a way that no other investigators have done thus far, this volume moves across and in-between groups, enabling us to produce a broad based tapestry of American life while simultaneously offering a road-map for future researchers.

More generally, Dr. Weis is the author, co-author, and/or editor of numerous publications, including sixteen scholarly books, with four additional books presently under contract. She has received well over a million dollars from the Spencer and Carnegie Foundations in support of her work and is the recipient of the American Educational Studies Critics’ Choice Award for Best Volume of the Year on three occasions. In addition, she is the recipient of the Outstanding Book Award in 2001 for Construction Sites: Excavating Race, Class and Gender Among Urban Youth (Teachers College Press) from the prestigious Gustavus Meyers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America. In 2002 she received the Sustained Scholarly Achievement Award from UB.

Dr. Weis teaches courses in Sociology of Education, including courses aimed at preparing the next generation of researchers, a task to which she is exceptionally committed. In this regard, she offers courses in research methods and proposal writing, in addition to Education and Socialization, and the like. She has seen numerous students through the Ph.D. process and is very proud to report that her students both obtain good jobs and publish extensively off their dissertations, including a noteworthy number of book length volumes with prestigious presses. Dr. Weis also works extensively across the university community and is very active in the Gender Institute for Research and Teaching.