



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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The Department of **Sociology**

Cordially invites everyone to our

FALL 2008 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Rise of Berserk Warriors: Pure Charisma and Mixed Martial Arts

Professor Mucahit Bilici

Department of Sociology

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

3:00pm

Sociology Department, Suite 520.14T

These days television is awash in mixed martial arts shows. Promoted by organizations like the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship), MMA is a particularly violent sport that attracts large audiences. What is it that makes people watch these unarmed yet ferocious encounters? How can we explain the rise of these modern day berserkers in the midst of civilized, rational urban centers? In answering these questions, I take a fresh look at Weberian concept of charisma: not the familiar type associated with leaders and prophets, but the charisma of the berserk warrior.