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Gemeinschaft

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mark Fossett named Cornerstone Faculty Fellow by the College of Liberal Arts in 2013

The College of Liberal Arts awards up to four Cornerstone fellowships annually to full or advanced associate professors who have developed outstanding professional records and who show promise of continuing achievements. Recipients of these awards will normally have professional records of accomplishment that include achievements in each of the following areas:

- A series of scholarly or creative works in a discipline’s most highly regarded venues and recognition or awards from external, highly regarded agencies or groups (e.g., NIH, NEH, NSF, NEA, Guggenheim, Humboldt, Woodrow Wilson, or other highly regarded groups or agencies)
- Outstanding classroom or seminar teaching and contributions to undergraduate or graduate programs in the department or interdisciplinary program
- Service on major departmental, college, or university committees; in disciplinary roles such as editorial boards, review panels; or as a professional association officer.



Dr. Dudley Poston delivered the Fallon-Marshall Lecture

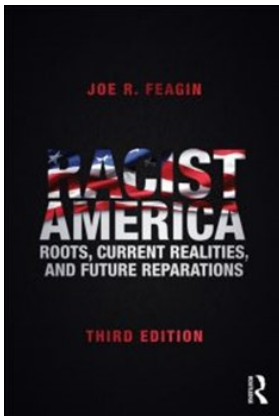
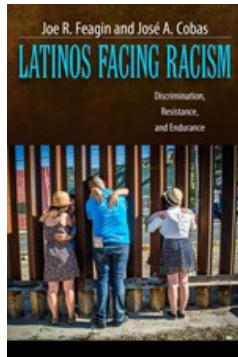
Dudley Poston delivered the Fallon-Marshall lecture at the Annenberg Conference Center at Texas A&M University on October 29, 2013 on “China’s Changing Demography is Changing the World.” The Fallon-Marshall Lecture was established by Mary Marshall in 1994 as a forum to discuss issues in the humanities and social sciences. Marshall named the lecture for her close friend and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Daniel Fallon. The event was eventually re-named the Fallon-Marshall Lecture Series. The lecture focused on demographic challenges that China faces. One of

these demographic challenges is China’s unbalanced sex ratio at birth. “In China, these days there are 120 boys born for every 100 girls. The norm is 105 boys per 100 girls,” Dr. Poston said. “This is related to son preference and, ultimately, female-specific abortions. And this means that there will be 45 million Chinese boys who won’t be able to find Chinese girls to marry.” China’s changing demography also includes some other issues, such as China no longer leading the world in manufacturing, China’s rapidly-growing elderly population lacking proper care from the shrinking number of young adults, and Chinese migration

trends to the United States. “I’m suggesting that in the future, China could well be providing more immigrants to the U.S. than Mexico,” Dr. Poston said. “This may require a whole different mentality of how we deal with immigration, as well as a host of political issues.”
(edited from College of Liberal Arts News, originally written by Heather Rodriguez)

BOOKS

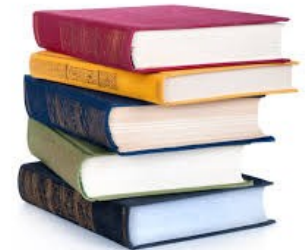
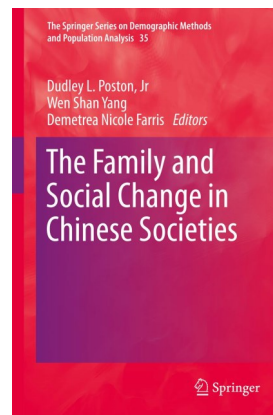
Joe R. Feagin and José A. Cobas. 2013. *Latinos Facing Racism: Discrimination, Resistance, And Endurance*. Boulder, Colorado: Paradigm Publishers.



Joe R. Feagin. 2014. *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, and Future Reparations*, 3rd Edition. New York: Routledge.

Poston, Dudley, Wen Shan Yang and **Nicole Farris** (eds.). 2014. *The Family and Social Change in Chinese Societies*. The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Popula-

tion Analysis, Vol. 35. Springer Publications (both e-book and hard copy formats are available).





Samuel Cohn is spending the semester of Spring 2014 in London as a Professorial Associate with the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies. During the semester, he will be speaking in Leeds, Barcelona, Neuchatel and Maastricht as well as at SOAS.



A Superior Service Award from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service was awarded to the Texas, Growth, Eat, Go Project in January, 2014. **Alex McIntosh** is a member of the research team on this 5 year project funded by USDA-AFRI.

The Superior Service Awards recognize Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service faculty and staff members who provide outstanding performance in Extension education or other outstanding service to the organization and to Texans.

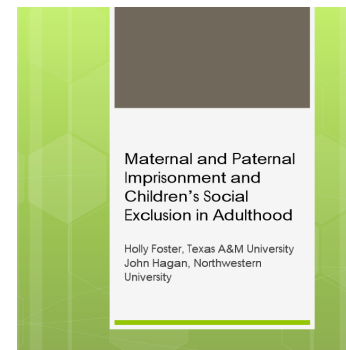


WHITE HOUSE NEWS

John Hagan and **Holly Foster** coordinated a conference entitled: “Parental Incarceration in the United States: Bringing Together Research and Policy to Reduce Collateral Costs to Children” which was jointly sponsored by the American Bar Foundation and the [National Science Foundation](#) and was held in the White House Executive Office Building on August 20, 2013. The confer-

ence brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to review the latest research findings and begin to develop recommendations for policymaking bodies. Approximately 80 attendees were present, including several Texas A&M students (**Tony Love, Carlton Mathis** and **C. J. Murphy**) who played roles of session chair and conference scribes. An audio-documentary of the research presented is being produced from this event and more details are available at the Ameri-

can Bar Foundation website: www.abfn.org



Direct Link:

http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/White_House_Parental_Incarceration_Workshop0.html

Innovative, Active Field Research

Dr. Nancy Plankey-Videla and Dr. Kathryn Henderson talk about their recent innovative field research projects: Mexican Mobile Consular Survey (this page) and post-wildfire survivor research in Bastrop (next page).

On October 26 in 2013, **Dr. Plankey-Videla** and Dr. Zulema Valdez conducted the second wave of the Mexican Mobile Consular Survey in Bryan, with the participation of Sociology graduate students **Betty Aldana, Jen Guillén, Guadalupe Marquez-Velarde, Angie Menchaca, Oscar Morales, Melissa Ochoa,** and **Alma Treviño**. Drs. Plankey-Videla and Valdez later conducted two focus groups with local Mexican immigrants on the topic of mixed status families (families with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent and at least one U.S. citizen child).

The Mobile Consular Survey methodology, developed by Dr. Robert Suro at the Pew Hispanic Center in 2005, uses a purposive sample of immigrants that gather when foreign consulates periodi-

cally visit outlying areas to provide services to its citizens. The Mexican Consulate in Houston has been making yearly visits to the Bryan/College Station for the last nine years given the increasing numbers of Mexican nationals in the area. Despite the large pro-



portion of Mexican immigrants in our community, there is little systematic research on this population.

We use mixed methods, combining the innovative methodology of Mobile Consulate Surveys with

focus groups, to better understand the demographic characteristics, household economic strategies, labor market experiences, and social networks of the Mexican immigrant community in the Brazos Valley. From the first wave of the survey, we identified mixed status families as an important local phenomenon requiring further study. Thus, the second wave included the first of a series of focus groups to understand the effects of immigration policy on mixed-status families and the challenges and opportunities these families encounter as they try to secure social and economic rights for all family members.

Dr. Henderson, funded by a three year Texas A&M Integration of Multidisciplinary Research and Creative Activities into the Learning Experience research and teaching grant is again taking students from Soci 229, Qualitative Methods and Sociology of Disasters and Soci 624, Graduate Qualitative Methods, to do research in post-wildfire Bastrop while volunteering to assist wildfire survivors.

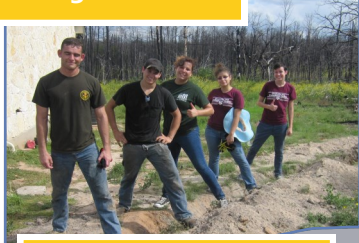
Fall '12 SOCI 624 & SOCI 229 students build rain cisterns on burned land for fire survivors in Bastrop



Plastering of cisterns

Fall 2012 students from three classes, Soci 229, Qualitative Methods and Sociology of Disasters; Soci 624, Graduate Qualitative Methods, and Soci 657, Graduate Visual Methods, conducted participant observation and interviews while volunteering with the Bastrop Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). Spring 2013, Soci 329, Sociology of the Environment, students conducted research while volunteering with the Bastrop Long Term Recovery Center, Aggie Replant, and Tree Folk. During the two semesters students in small groups conducted over sixty interviews and volunteered doing light construction work, building rain cisterns, seeding to prevent erosion, clearing debris, rebuilding fences, and replanting Loblolly Pine trees. Students took field notes and photographs, learned how to analyze them, and wrote detailed, substantive final research reports.

They shared preliminary findings with grant partners,



SOCI 624 & 229

Drs. Loopstra's and Moore's (ESSM) students in a term end gathering. Dr. Henderson presented a more developed presentation at the Society for the Social Study of Science annual meetings in San Diego, this October, entitled: "What Disaster Studies Can Learn from Actor Network Analysis and Visual Methods," crediting student contributions. A graduate student from Soci 624 has been analyzing the data using Atlasti qualitative software over the summer. The long-term research continues; students from Soci 229 and 624 made fieldtrips to Bastrop, Sept 27 and Oct 18, during which all students participated in interviewing wildfire survivors as well as doing volunteer work with DRC. Spring 2014 students from Soci 329 Sociology of the Environment and Soci 657, Visual Methods will continue the longitudinal research.



Fall '13 229 students dig trench for electrical conduit for fire survivors in Bastrop, still using an extension cord to get electricity to their home.



Spring '13 SOCI 329 students help clear rubble at burned house site in Bastrop & replant Loblolly Pine trees in Bastrop



Students from these courses report that the experience of doing face-to-face interviews with wildfire survivors and hands-on work with the burned land has changed their appreciation for the fragility of our eco-systems and for the importance of networks of humans, animals and things for everyone's survival. Some undergraduates who took the 2012 fall methods course signed up for the spring Sociology of the Environment so they could continue the Bastrop work. Based on the skills they developed, some of those students obtained paying jobs as interviewers on a project in Computer Science.



Fall '13 SOCI 624 & 229 students standing behind a giant heap of weeds they have pulled to help fire survivors keep flammable brush away from their new home.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

Texas A&M Sociology PhDs **Tony Love** and **Jenny Davis** celebrate the acceptance of their article, "The Effect of Status on Role-Taking Accuracy", for publication in the **American Sociological Review**. The article reports two experimental studies that tested the effects of status on the relationship between gender and role-taking accuracy. In Study 1, they examined self-evaluative measures of role-taking accuracy and found that self-evaluative measures do not correlate with actu-



al role-taking accuracy. In addition, they found that women were more accurate role-takers than men, regardless of interaction history.

In Study 2, they disentangled gender differences from status differences, hypothesizing that role-taking accuracy is structurally situated. To test this hypothesis, they examined variations in role-taking accuracy under conditions in which interaction partners were assigned differential status. Results indicate that status differentials ac-

BOOK CHAPTERS

Goldsmith, Pat Rubio.

2013. "Research on Oppressed Communities." Pp. 222-232 in *Uncharted Terrain: New Directions in Border Research Methodology, Ethics, and Practice*, edited by Anna O'Leary, Colin Deeds, and Scott Whiteford. Tuscon, AR: University of Arizona Press.

Aguilar, Susan M., Marcus A. Ynalvez, John C. Kilburn, Noriko Hara, Ruby A. Ynalvez, Kuo-Hua Chen, and Yoshinori Kamo. 2013. "Research Productivity of East Asian Scientists: Does Cosmopolitanism in Professional Networking, Research Collaboration, and Scientific Conference Attendance Matter?" *Asia Pacific Social Science Review* 13(2): 41-62.

Foster, Holly and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn. 2013. "Neighborhood, Family and Individual Influences on School Physical Victimization." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 42: 1596-1610.

Ono, Hiroshi and Kristen Schultz Lee. 2013. "Welfare States and the Redistribution of Happiness." *Social Forces* 92(2): 789-81.

Britton, Marcus and **Pat Rubio Goldsmith**. 2013. "Keeping People in their Place: The Perpetuation of Residential Segregation from Youth to Young Adulthood among Anglo, Black, and Latino Americans." *Urban Studies* 50 (14):2886-2903.

Pals, Heili and **Warren Waren**. 2014. "Winners and Losers in Health Insurance: Access and Type of Coverage between Women in Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Partnerships." *Women and Health*, online first.

Guittar, Nicholas and **Heili Pals**. 2014. "Intersecting Gender with Race and Religiosity: Do Unique Social Categories Explain Attitudes Toward Homosexuality?" *Current Sociology* 62(1): 41-62.

Shuman, Anna and **Warren Waren**. 2013. "Age at Menarche and Choice of College Major: Implications for STEM Majors." *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* 33(1-2): 28-34



Dr. Waren also recorded a podcast for the Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society regarding his article on age of menarche. You can listen to the podcast on the journal's website: <http://bst.sagepub.com/site/misc/Index/Podcasts.xhtml> (or download it from Sage iTunes page).

Conference Presentations

Amber R. Fox and **Mark Fossett**. 2013. "Latino, Black, and Asian Residential Segregation in Non-Metropolitan Counties, 2000-2010: A New Approach". Paper presented at the Southern Demographic Meeting in Montgomery, AL on October 25.

Amber R. Fox and **Mark Fossett**. 2013. "Residential Segregation and Group Differences on Individual Characteristics: Limitations of Aggregate-Level Analysis and Alternative Options." Paper presented at the Southern Demographic Meeting in Montgomery, AL on October 25.

Nadia Y. Flores-Yeffal (Texas Tech University), **Pat Rubio Goldsmith**, **Juan Salinas**, **Cristina E. Cruz**, **Bruce Reese** (Texas A&M University). 2013. "Legality and Educational Attainment: Evidence from the Mexican Migration Project" Presented at Illegality, Youth and Belonging: International symposium at Harvard University, October 24-25th.

Jenny Lê. 2013. "Status Devaluation in Catholic Vocations Post-Vatican II." Paper presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion's Annual Meeting in Boston on Nov 9.

Susan Marie Aguilar. 2013. "Tensions in Interactions: the Shaping of Tacit Skills in the Knowledge Production Process." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), San Diego, CA. October 9-12, 2013.

Dudley Poston and Eugenia Conde (Rutgers University). 2014. "Approaches for Addressing Issues of Missing Data in the Statistical Modeling of Adolescent Fertility." Paper presented at the Applied Demography Conference on January 9-10, 2014 in San Antonio, Texas.

Invited Lecture

Dudley Poston gave an invited lecture in Beijing on October 9th to the faculty and the graduate and undergraduate students of the Department of Demography, Renmin University, Beijing, China on the topic of "Societal Implications of China's Unbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth."

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The *Development Sociology Journal* that **Samuel Cohn** founded and led the organizing campaign for has been picked up by the University of California Press. The new editors are Andrew Jorgensen from the University of Utah, and Jeffrey Kentor of Michigan State University. They are currently working on the first issue.

Dudley Poston served as a reviewer on a panel at the National Science Foundation on January 7-8, 2014; the panel reviewed research proposals submitted to the NSF dealing with the social sciences in East Asia and the Pacific Rim countries.

Pat Rubio-Goldsmith was a participant at the Workshop to Examine Current and Potential Uses of National Center for Education Statistics Longitudinal Surveys by the Education Research Community in Washington, DC November 5-6, 2013. Sponsored by the National Academy of Education.

SOCIOLOGY IN NEWS:

Dudley Poston was interviewed by the Fox TV channel in San Antonio on Monday evening Nov 11th. The station ran a short story about Chinese immigration to the US through Texas. Poston was one of the persons filmed in the story.

Dudley Poston was interviewed by China Radio International in Beijing on Jan 3, 2014, about changes in China's Fertility Control Policy. The 12 minute interview was part of a much longer radio interview show broadcast throughout China in the 2nd week of January, 2014.

Babies, babies, babies 2013!

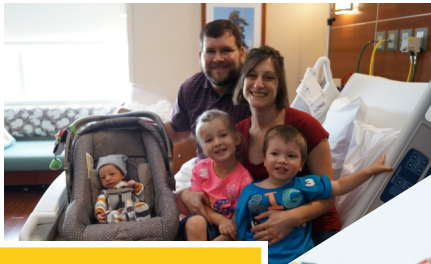
Frank and Cindy Ortega's baby, Gabriela, was born in July



Huong Lê welcomed her baby girl, Willow Le Fiona Starnes on Dec 11, 2013.



Layton Field welcomed his third child Maximilian on October 26, 2013.



Tony and Melissa Love welcomed their baby boy Aaron Love on April 5th, 2013.



Bruce E. Reese Jr. welcomed his daughter Kennedy Rylee Reese on July 24th, 2013. Kennedy weighted 6lb 8oz.



Apologies if any babies were omitted. Please send further info on additional babies to hpals@tamu.edu.

We'd love to feature them in *Gemeinschaft*!

GRADUATE STUDENT

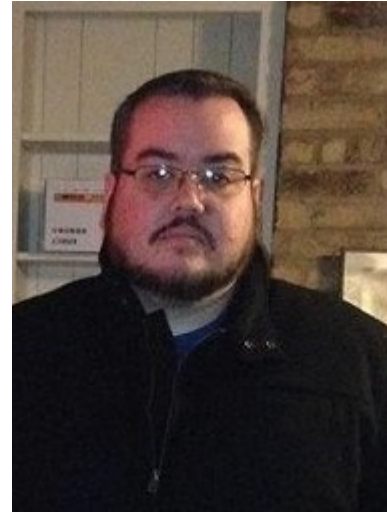


AWARDS

Oscar Morales



**College of Liberal Arts 2013 Vision
2020 Graduate Fellow.**



The Liberal Arts Vision 2020 Fellowship holders are expected to provide academic leadership among graduate students within their departments and be well-positioned for employment in doctoral departments at Research-1 uni-

versities upon graduation. These students are expected to be academically successful and to distinguish themselves through publications, conference presentations, or other indicators of research success and future promise.

TRANSITIONS

Jocelyn Lewis started working as a Research Specialist at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in Austin, TX.



Rachel Feinstein has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice position at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



Charity Clay (an ABD doctoral student) is teaching a social problems course this Spring semester at Laney College in Oakland, California (this is where Charity is from). She is hoping to teach both social problems and qualitative methods at Laney this coming Fall.



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