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○ MARCH ○ 2017



# Gemeinschaft News

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Dr. Jane Sell received the 2017 Cooley-Mead Award for Distinguished Scholarship



### Dr. Jane Sell

received the 2017 Cooley-Mead Award. The Cooley-Mead Award for Distinguished Scholarship is the American Sociological Association's (ASA) Social Psychology section's highest honor (this means, the highest honor in social psychology in the United States). The award was established in 1978 to recognize outstanding individuals for their lifetime contributions to sociological social psychology.

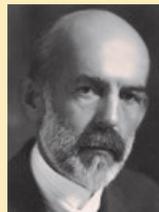
Dr. Jane Sell was selected from among six outstanding nominees working in a wide variety of theoretical and substantive approaches. In the words of two previous winners of this award:

“[Jane Sell’s] major scholarly contributions include significant research and publications on the topics of cooperation, public goods and collective action, small group processes broadly defined, and a number of important methodological contributions that have advanced experimental work in sociology.”

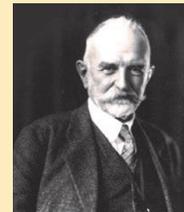
“[S]he has demonstrated her deep intellectual seriousness, discipline, and sustained intellectual inquiry. Sell is a real scholar in the best sense of the word. ...Jane Sell deserves to be honored with the Cooley-Mead Award both for her career of distinctive substantive contributions to social psychology and for the model she has offered us of serious, sustained, logically deep, and systematic scholarship.”

Former Cooley-Mead awardees include, among others, Dr. Carmi Schooler (University of Maryland), Dr. Murray Webster (University of North Carolina-Charlotte), Dr. Lawrence Bobo (Harvard University), Dr. Cecilia Ridgeway (Stanford University), Dr. Karen Cook (Stanford University), and Dr. Peter J. Burke (University of California, Riverside).

Cooley-Mead Award will be given out at the ASA in August 12-15 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



Charles Horton Cooley

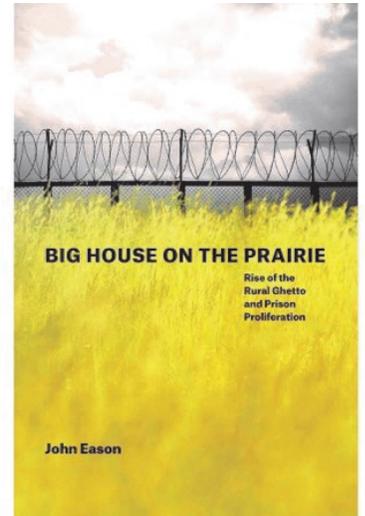


George Herbert Mead

# BOOKS

**Dr. John Eason's** book *Big House on the Prairie: Rise of the Rural Ghetto and Prison Proliferation*, published by the University of Chicago Press, was published in February 2017.

For the past fifty years, America has been extraordinarily busy building prisons. Since 1970 we have tripled the total number of facilities, adding more than 1,200 new prisons to the landscape. This building boom has taken place across the country but is largely concentrated in rural southern towns.



*“Big House on the Prairie is a masterful, sensitive, and theoretically complex study of the politics of prison building in a southern town dealing with the ‘quadruple stigma of rurality, race, region, and poverty.’ Eason makes important contributions to four fields at once—rural and urban sociology, race, and criminal justice studies—and weaves history, ethnography, statistics, and personal narrative into a beautifully written account of how a place comes to welcome a prison as a positive development.”*

— Mary Pattillo, author of *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*

In 2007, John M. Eason moved his family to Forrest City, Arkansas, in search of answers to key questions about this trend: Why is America building so many prisons? Why now? And why in rural areas? Eason quickly learned that rural demand for prisons is complicated. Towns like Forrest City choose to build prisons not simply in hopes of landing jobs or economic wellbeing, but also

to protect and improve their reputations. For some rural leaders, fostering a prison in their town is a means of achieving order in a rapidly changing world. Taking us into the decision-making meetings and tracking the impact of prisons on economic development, poverty, and

race, Eason demonstrates how groups of elite whites and black leaders share power. Given the legacy of shame associated with prisons, the need to overcome stigma often plays the most important role in seeing a prison as a viable solution for a town's problems. Situating prisons within dynamic shifts that rural economies are undergoing and showing how racially diverse communities lobby for

prison construction, *Big House on the Prairie* is a remarkable glimpse into the ways a prison economy takes shape and operates.

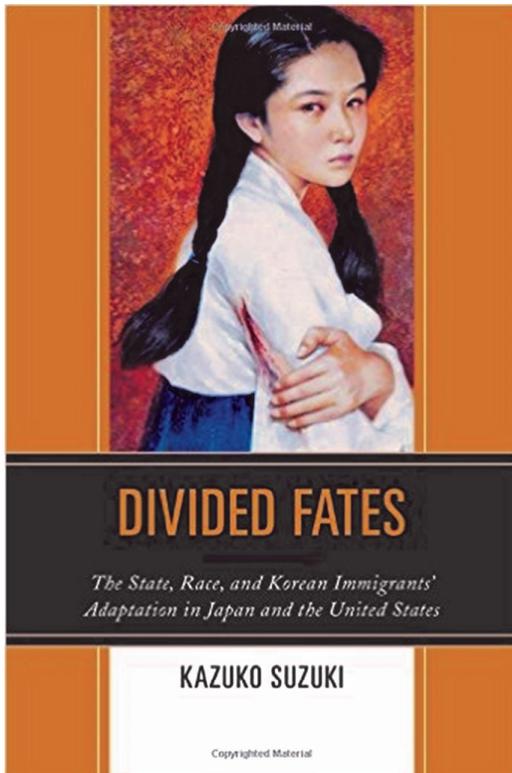
The book argues that rural towns want to build prisons not simply for jobs or economic wellbeing, but also to protect/improve their reputations by managing ghetto stigma.

*“This fascinating and critically important book disentangles the many forces that led to the late-twentieth century prison-building boom through a case study of Forrest City, Arkansas—a poor, rural prison town. The steel and concrete penal structure that was welcomed in this struggling community is the mere manifestation of a whole host of social problems, which Big House on the Prairie details with tragic authority. Eason’s ethnographic observations redirect the political question of whether prisons are economic boons or busts by unveiling the conditions that gave rise to mass incarceration and related social ills in the first place.”*

— Mona Lynch, author of *Hard Bargains: The Coercive Power of Drug Laws in Federal Court*



# BOOKS, CONTINUED



**Dr. Kazuko Suzuki** book *Divided Fates: The State, Race, and Korean Immigrants' Adaptation in Japan and the United States*, published by Rowan and Littlefield, was published in May 2016.

This book compares the Korean diasporic groups in Japan and the United States. It highlights the contrasting adaptation of Koreans in Japan and the United States, and illuminates how the destinies of immigrants who originally belonged to the same ethnic/national collectivity diverge depending upon destinations and how they are received in a certain state and society within particular historical contexts. The author finds that the mode of incorporation (a specific combination of contextual factors), rather than ethnic ‘culture’ and ‘race,’ plays a decisive role in determining the fates of these Korean

*“Amassing a mélange of quantitative and qualitative data, Kazuko Suzuki has composed a cogent analysis of ethnic Koreans in Japan and in the United States. Projecting a perfect pitch between case studies and general concepts, Divided Fates is a model comparative study. It should command the attention of scholars in comparative race and ethnicity in particular and comparative social sciences in general.”*

— John Lie, University of California, Berkeley

immigrant groups. In other words, what matters most for immigrants’ integration is not their particular cultural background or racial similarity to the dominant group, but the way they are received by the host state and other institutions. Thus, this book is not just about Korean immigrants; it is also about how contexts of reception including different conceptualizations of ‘race’ in relation to nationhood affect the adaptation of immigrants from the same ethnic/national origin.

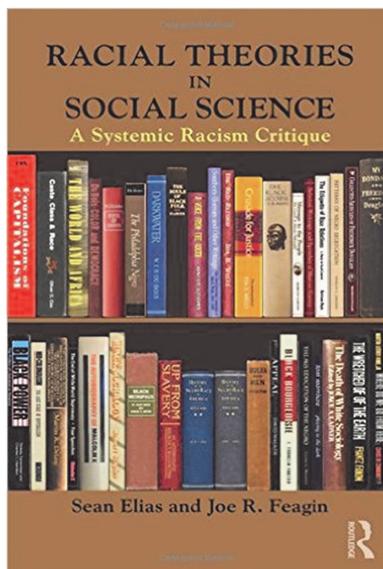
*“An ambitious, expertly-crafted work that offers a rare comparative analysis of three diasporic populations—Zainichi, Tainichi, and American Koreans—revealing the power of the racial state and related Japanese and US structural forces to marginalize immigrants, forces which remain woefully underappreciated by Western- and single state-centered frameworks. Divided Fates is a testament to how methodological rigor and theoretical sophistication informed by multiple sites, levels, and literatures reveals the richness of history, the global order, transnationality, and political process to explain the distinct fates of a population that otherwise shares so much: their Korean origin and ethnic identity.”*

— Nadia Y. Kim, Loyola Marymount University



# BOOKS, CONTINUED

Dr. Joe R. Feagin's has recently published a book *Racial Theories in Social Science: A Systemic Racism Critique*, co-authored with Sean Elias and published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.



*Racial Theories in Social Science: A Systemic Racism Critique* provides a critique of the white racial framing and lack of systemic-racism analysis prevalent in past and present mainstream race theory. As this book demonstrates, mainstream racial analysis, and social analysis more generally, remain stunted and uncritical because of this unhealthy white framing of knowledge and evasion or downplaying of institutional, structural, and systemic racism. In response to ineffective social science analyses of racial matters, this

book presents a counter-approach---systemic racism theory. The foundation of this theoretical perspective lies in the critical insights and perspectives of African Americans and other people of color who have long challenged biased white-framed perspectives and practices and the racially oppressive and exclusionary institutions and social systems created by whites over several centuries.

Sean Elias is a former Texas A&M sociology graduate student, currently teaching at Colorado Mountain College while completing fieldwork on the Aspen elite.

*“Racial Theories in Social Science is a groundbreaking book. Not only does it offer an exhaustive analysis of how the social sciences have aided and abetted systemic racism, but it provides, as well, a stirring paradigm shift that places race at the heart of the social scientific enterprise. This book brilliantly engages every major theory of race in both its historical context, and its analytical framework, to address the shortcomings and potential of each theory to explain the racial crises at hand. Joe Feagin is a legend in the field, and his deserved reputation for bold and provocative thought is on generous display in his superb collaboration with Sean Elias. This book is both a comprehensive roadmap to the broad and varied field of social scientific thought, and a scholarly inquiry into the constitution and construction of racial theory in the service of understanding and explaining how institutions and individuals behave. This is a scholarly tour de force that is a must read for all who are interested in social thought and race, and a book that will be eminently useful for years to come.”*

— Michael Eric Dyson, Professor of Sociology, Georgetown University

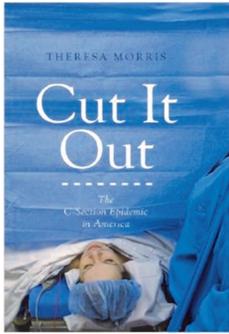
*“Elias and Feagin's Racial Theories in Social Science provides a critical, and much needed examination of how social science has systematically been racialized and thus compromised even in its attempt to shed light on racial structures in the U.S. Their examination, covering the entire spectrum of what goes for racial theories, demonstrates a discipline that is itself problematized by the very structures that it attempts to analyze. So rather than being an unbiased, critically reflective enterprise the racial project becomes embedded in the very science that purports to examine it. This is a must read as it will undoubtedly redefine and re-situate racial theories in the social sciences.”*

— Rodney Coates, Director of Black World Studies, Miami University

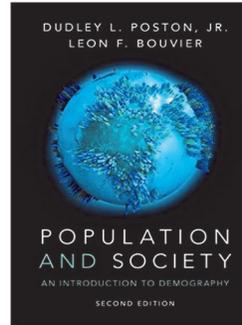
Dr. Feagin also has another book coming in April 2017: *Elite White Men Ruling: Who, What, When, Where, and How* co-authored with Kimberley Ducey (published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group). More about this book in the next issue of *Gemeinschaft*.

# BOOKS, CONTINUED

**Dr. Theresa Morris** and **Dr. Dudley Poston** published revised editions of their books.



**Theresa Morris.** 2016. *Cut It Out: The C-Section Epidemic America*, Revised Paperback. New York: New York University Press.



**Dudley L. Poston, Jr.,** and Leon F. Bouvier. 2017. *Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography. 2nd edition.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Martin, William G., **John M. Eason**, and Luis R. Gonzalez. 2016. "Prison Towns Come, and Prison Towns Go: Lessons from New York State's Prison Boom and Bust", chapter in *Decarceration and Justice Disinvestment: Criminal Justice in the 21st Century* edited by William G. Martin and Joshua Price. Lexington Press.

**Ceylan Engin.** Forthcoming in 2017. "Sex Work in Turkey: Experiences of Transwomen," chapter in *Transgender Sex Work & Society* edited by Larry A. Nuttbrock. Harrington Park Press.

**Patricia H. Thorton,** William Ocasio, and Michael Lounsbury. "The Institutional Logics Perspective," Forthcoming in Royston Greenwood, et al. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition *Handbook of Organizational Institutionalism*.

**Frank Ortega** and **Joe Feagin.** 2017. "Framing: The Undying White Racial Frame," Pp. 19-30 in *The Routledge Companion to Media and Race*, edited by C. P. Campbell. New York: Routledge.

**Nayoung Heo** and **Dudley L. Poston, Jr.** Forthcoming, 2017. "Natural Decrease in the Context of Lowest-low Fertility: South Korea, 2005-2014." In *Low Fertility and Demographic and Societal Change* edited by Dudley L. Poston. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

### **Dr. Theresa Morris** was an Invited Virtual Guest Speaker in Fall 2016:

Sociology Honors Seminar on Reproductive Justice, University of Cincinnati.

Women's and Gender Studies and Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior Course "Maternal and Child Health," University of South Carolina.

Sociology and Women's Studies Course "Sociology of Gender and Reproduction," City University of New York—Lehman College.

**Thorton, Patricia H.** with Michael Lounsbury and William Ocasio are co-organizing for a sub-theme conference on *The Multiplicity of Institutional Logics, European Group on Organization Studies*, Copenhagen Denmark, July 6-8, 2017. They have received 114 paper submissions.

**Foster, Holly.** 2016. Commissioned White Paper for National Institute of Justice on "The Conditions of Confinement in Restrictive Housing." pp. 85--116 in *Restrictive Housing in the U.S.: Issues, Challenges and Future Directions*. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C. # NCJ 250315.

# JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Dudley L. Poston, Jr.**, Kenneth Johnson and Layton Field. 2016 "Deaths Exceed Births in Most of Europe, but Not in the U.S., and Not in Texas." *N-IUSSP, the News Magazine of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population*, February 15.
- Dudley L. Poston, Jr.**, Qian Xiong, Wadha Alnuaimi, and **Huanjun Zhang**. 2016. "Zhongguo Musilin Minzu Renkou Yanjiu" ("The Demography of China's Muslim Nationalities"). *ZhongGuo Shaoshu Minzu Renkou (China's Minority Populations)* 39 (#2): 6-11 (in Chinese).
- Dudley L. Poston, Jr.** and Yuting Chang. 2016. "Patterns of Gay Male and Lesbian Partnering in the Metropolitan Areas of the United States in 2010." *Frontiers in Sociology: Evolutionary Sociology and Biosociology* 1: 12 (August).
- Dudley L. Poston, Jr.** and **Juyin Helen Wong**. 2016. "The Chinese Diaspora: The Current Distribution of the Overseas Chinese Population." *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 2: 348-373.
- Dudley L. Poston, Jr.** and **Cristina Elizabeth Cruz**. 2016. "Voluntary, Involuntary and Temporary Childlessness in the United States." *Quetelet Journal / Revue Quetelet* 4: 73-99.
- Foster, Holly** and John Hagan. 2017. "Maternal Imprisonment, Economic Marginality, and Unmet Health Needs in Early Adulthood." *Preventive Medicine* 99: 43-48.
- Jesus G. Smith** and Aurolyn Luykx. 2017. "Race play in BDSM porn: The eroticization of oppression." *Porn Studies*
- Sakamoto, Arthur**, Chi-Tsun Chiu, Jing Li, and **Sharron X. Wang**. 2016. "The Life Satisfaction of Asian Americans: Evidence from the U.S. General Social Survey, 1972 to 2010." *Sociology Mind* 6:40-52.
- Sakamoto, Arthur** and **Sharron X. Wang**. 2017. "Occupational and Organizational Effects on Wages among College-Educated Workers in 2003 and 2010." *Social Currents* 4(2): 175-195.
- Guven, Aytekin and **Arthur Sakamoto**. 2016. "Do Rising Class Differentials in Earnings Increase Productivity? Evidence for U.S. Manufacturing Industries." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 45:41-50.
- Wang, Sharron X.** and **Arthur Sakamoto**. 2016. "Did the Great Recession Downsize Immigrants and Native-born Americans Differently? Unemployment Differentials by Nativity, Race, and Gender in the U.S. from 2007 to 2013." *Social Sciences* 5(3):49.
- Eason, John M.** 2016. "Reclaiming the Prison Boom: Considering Prison Proliferation in the Era of Mass Imprisonment." *Sociology Compass* 10(4): 261-271.
- Eason, John M.** 2016. "Privilege and Peril in Prison Town Studies: Position and Power in Fieldwork Encounters", *Sociological Focus*: 1-18.
- Eason, John M.** 2017. "Prisons as Panacea or Pariah?: The Countervailing Consequences of the Prison Boom on the Political Economy of Rural Towns", *Social Sciences* 6(1): 7.
- Miner P. "Trey" Marchbanks, Anthony A. Peguero, **Kay S. Varela**, Jamilia J. Blake, **John M. Eason**. 2016. "School Strictness and Disproportionate Minority Contact Investigating Racial and Ethnic Disparities With the 'School-to-Prison Pipeline'" in *The Journal of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, online first.
- Goldsmith, Pat Rubio**, William Veléz, Maureen Pylman. 2017. "Are there Neighborhood Effects on Young Adult Neighborhood Attainment? Evidence from Mixed-Logit Models." *Social Science Research*, online first.
- Goldsmith, Pat Rubio**, Marcus Britton, **Bruce Reese**, and William Veléz. 2017. "Will Moving to a Better Neighborhood Help? Teenage Residential Mobility, Change of Context, and Young-Adult Educational Attainment." *Urban Affairs Review* 53(2):305-337.
- Theresa Morris**, Olivia Meredith, Mia Schulman, and Christine Morton. 2016. "Why Do Low-Risk Women Have C-Sections?: A Case Study of a Tertiary Care Hospital." *Women's Health Issues* 26(3):329-335.
- Julien Jourdan, Rodolphe Durand, and **Patricia H. Thorton**. Forthcoming. "The Price of Admission: Organizational Deference as Strategic Behavior," *American Journal of Sociology*.

## Public Sociology

### Sociology Faculty Members Sharing Their Research in News Media Outlets



**Dr. Reuben May** was a featured speaker on the IDEA Podcast from IDEA (<http://www.ideaedu.org>) “Difficult Topics” which explores ways in which to engage students in conversations over difficult topics in the classroom. The backdrop for the interview was the recent visit of Richard Spencer to the Texas A& M campus. Here is the link. <https://soundcloud.com/theideacenter/difficult-topics>



Photo: Luke Sharrett /Bloomberg

**Dr. Dudley Poston** (together with Dr. Peter A Morrison) published an article titled “Three myths of U.S. immigration” in *My San Antonio* (March 4, 2017). They debunk three myths (the following is shortened from the article):

- ◆ All the unauthorized immigrants entering our country entered by escaping detection or by using fraudulent documents.  
(In reality, around 40% of the unauthorized immigrants entered the country lawfully and only become unauthorized by overstaying).
- ◆ Almost all unauthorized immigrants are Mexicans.  
(In reality, slightly more than half of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants are Mexican-born, but their numbers have declined steadily since 2007. Nearly half now come from Central America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Recently, more unauthorized Mexican immigrants have departed the U.S. than entered).
- ◆ An impenetrable Trump wall along the Mexican border with beefed-up border surveillance will halt unauthorized immigration.  
(In reality, it cannot keep out visa overstayers and it would stop the circular migration motivating circular migrants to settle and stay in the U.S., and not return to their homes in other countries).

Read more here: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Three-myths-of-U-S-immigration-10975928.php>

**Prof. Stjepan Meštrovic** was featured in *The Battalion*. In the article titled “From Courtrooms to Classrooms” (published February 7, 2017) Dr. Meštrovic recounts how his experience as an expert witness in several war crimes trials, including the trial of Abu Ghraib, informs his teaching and his research. In the conclusion of the article, philosophy professor John McDermott is quoted to say about Dr. Meštrovic: “He’s at the forefront of sociology. He always looks out for his students, and the ones he sent to work with me are some at the best.” You can read further here: <http://www.thebatt.com/news/from-courtrooms-to-classrooms/>

#### BOOK REVIEWS

**Sakamoto, Arthur.** “Review of *The Asian American Achievement Paradox* by Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou.” In press at *American Journal of Sociology* (May 2017).

**Sakamoto, Arthur.** 2016. “Review of *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* by Anthony B. Atkinson.” *Contemporary Sociology* 45:715-717.

#### ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

**Eason, John M.** 2016. *The Prison Industrial Complex*. The Sage Encyclopedia of Economics and Society.

**Poston, Dudley L. Jr.** and **Nayoung Heo.** (Forthcoming, 2017). “Demography and the Theories of Demographic Transition.” In Bryan S. Turner (Editor-in-Chief), *The Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, New York, NY: Wiley-Blackwell.

*The Eagle* published an article about the research on immigration detention facilities by **Dr. Pat Rubio Goldsmith**, **Dr. John Eason**, and graduate students **Beatriz Aldana Marquez** and **T. Amorette Young** (February 26, 2017).

They “reviewed reports that spanned 2007 to 2012 from the Office of Detention Oversight, or ODO, on more than 100 detention facilities that have contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



Eason noted a key takeaway of the presentation was that the immigration detention system is a "racial project," meaning it is a "system that diminishes the life chances of a group," given that more than 90 percent of people obtained, deported or detained by the Department of Homeland Security in 2010 were of Latin American origin, according to a 2012 Annual Report by the DHS.

Alongside their findings, the researchers showed security camera still images taken in 2015 from the Border Patrol's short-term detention facilities in the Tuscon, Arizona, sector, depicting children lying in crowded spaces with Mylar sheets wrapped around their bodies for warmth, floors covered in human excrement and men pacing a brightly lit holding cell at 2:21 a.m. A visual aid to the research, Eason said the results of their study revealed the average detainee is "subjected to violence" when held in a detention facility.”

You can find the article here: <http://www.theeagle.com/news/local/texas-a-m-researchers-critical-of->



**Dr. John Eason** published an article “Why prison building will continue booming in rural America” in *Conversations* (March 12, 2017). The article talks about his new book *Big House on the Prairie* and the reasons we have seen the increase in prison building in the United States. The article includes fantastic graphics on the data on prison boom. You can find the article here: <http://theconversation.com/why-prison-building-will-continue-booming-in-rural-america-71920>

Correctional facilities in the US: 1970



Source: [Prison proliferation project](#) [Get the data](#)

Correctional facilities in the US: 2000



Source: [Prison Proliferation Project](#) [Get the data](#)

## GRANTS



**Melissa Ochoa and Dr. Feagin:**

received a Diversity Seed Grant of \$4,600 for Melissa's dissertation study. Melissa's and Dr. Feagin's qualitative re-search addresses questions:

three broad

1) How is sexism experienced and witnessed regularly among both men and women, and how does it vary by racial group? 2) What are the subtle and blatant forms of sexism that are exchanged in daily interactions? 3) In what social contexts do these subtle and blatant forms of sexism occur and who embraces, perpetuates, and contributes to these types of sexism? are conducting a journal study in which a diverse group of undergraduate students write any everyday interactions they perceive to be examples of sexism. They expect to find both blatant and more nuanced forms of sexism embraced and perpetuated by both men and women in various social contexts.

**Theresa Morris.** Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) Curriculum Development Grant to bring Dr. Danielle Bessett to campus to teach SOCI/WGST 489/689 students sociological literature on abortion, Spring 2017.

Ramasubramanian, Srividya, Alexandra Sousa, and **Vanessa Gonlin.** 2016. "Assessing the Effectiveness of Difficult Dialogue Sessions on Campus Race Relations Using Participant-Observation and Qualitative Textual Analysis." Texas A&M University, Office for Diversity, Diversity Matters Seed Grant. \$3,000.

**John M. Eason.** 2016-2017. Texas A&M University, Division of Research, PESCA Award for the Immigrant Detention Center Project. \$18,000.

**Suzuki, Kazuko (PI).** Glasscock Faculty Research Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2016.

**Jeffrey Opaleye.** Fellowship recipient from the TAMU Center on Disability and Development's Leadership Training for Diversity.

**Jeffrey Opaleye.** Lone Star College Adjunct Travel Award. \$250.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Theresa Morris.** 2016. "Delivering Obamacare: Obstetrical Nursing and Patient Care Under the Affordable Care Act." Presented at the *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association.*

**Theresa Morris,** Olivia Meredith, Mia Schulman, and Christine Morton. 2016. "Race, Insurance Status, and NTSV Cesarean Indications: A Case Study of a New England Tertiary Care Hospital." Presented at the *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association.*

**Nayoung Heo.** 2016. "'We are not simply 'multicultural'": Intersecting Ethnic and Religious Identities of Japanese-Korean Young Adults in South Korea". *Sociological Conference for the Korean Sociological Association,* Seoul, South Korea.

**Nayoung Heo.** 2016. "Natural Increase/Decrease in the Subareas of South Korea: Is South Korea Following the Pattern of Japan?" *International Sociological Association,* Vienna, Austria.

**Jeffrey Opaleye.** 2016. "Academic Productivity among African American Doctoral Students." *The Association of Black Sociology Conference* in Memphis, TN.

Plickert, Gabriele and **Heili Pals.** "Effects of Static and Dynamic Disadvantage on Trajectories of Negative Self-Feelings." *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting,* New Orleans, LA.

Peguero, Anthony, Miner "Trey" P. Marchbanks III, **Kay S. Varela,** Jamilia Blake, and **John M. Eason.** "School Strictness and Disproportionate Minority Contact: Investigating Racial and Ethnic Disparities with the School-to-Prison Pipeline." *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting,* New Orleans, LA.

**Foster, Holly.** "Sibling Placement in the Living Arrangements of Minor Children of Incarcerated Mothers." *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting,* New Orleans, LA.

**Reese, Bruce.** "Gender, Status, and Tax Evasion." *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting,* New Orleans, LA.

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## CELEBRATING STAFF

### Mary Pendleton

*Our Business Coordinator, recipient of 2015 College of Liberal Arts Superior Service Award, payroll, accounts, and reimbursements' queen, HR liaison, and so much more!*



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### CONVERSATIONS WITH STAFF



**GN:** Tell us about yourself, Mary?

**Mary:** I'll be 55 on July 13th. And, yes, this means that I was born on Friday, the 13th. I am from Linden, Indiana. I lived there for my first 18 years and ever since, I have been in College Station/Bryan. I have been married for 35 years to my husband, Kelly. No kids. We used to have dogs—Great Danes (sadly, they are gone by now). I have 3 brothers and one sister, all of whom live in Indiana.

My Dad will turn 80 this weekend, Mom will turn 80 in April. I am really blessed.

**GN:** What do you like to do during breaks?

**Mary:** Depends on the time of the year. Hunting for deer in fall and winter. Bass fishing preferably when it is warmer. We mostly fish in East Texas. Golfing. During spring and summer we often have our regular date night on Wednesdays on golf course golfing.

**GN:** How long have you worked at Texas A&M? Soc Dept?

**Mary:** (she gets her calculator out) ... 14 years. The whole time in the sociology department. What has meant a lot for me here are the people. I've been fortunate to not have a lot of disastrous incidents. Couple of years ago my Mom had a heart attack and a faculty allowed me to cry on his shoulder. Some faculty come to just chit chat. I love that. And the other staff and the department heads are always great.

**GN:** What are your future plans?

**Mary:** I will retire by the end of the summer. We will be moving to East Texas and will take one chapter at a time. What it will be, we do not know yet. Recently, we've had to fix the roof of our house and the boat needed repairs, so it might be that we will have to live on love. :-). We'll have food at least since we fish and hunt [laughing].

**GN:** Tell us something that most of us probably do not know about you.

**Mary:** Here are three things: 1) I had been accepted to Purdue University. My parents said they would give me a car if I went there or a bicycle if I went to TAMU. I chose TAMU and got a bicycle.

2) I had to get married because I needed my Texas residency!

3) At one time we had 4 Great Danes! I miss them a lot. We have none right now because I have a bet with my Mom that we will be dogless for 5 years. For this transition it is nice to not have this extra responsibility.

**GN:** Thank you!



## Department of Sociology Colloquium Series Spring 2017 Schedule

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March 22 @ noon	<b>Terrence McDonough</b> National University of Ireland at Galway	<i>Trump and the Social Structure of Accumulation Theory or Is Trumpism the New US Stage of Capitalism?</i>
March 29 @ noon	<b>Tony Brown</b> Rice University	<i>Development and Validation of a Racial Trauma Measure.</i>
April 5 @ noon	<b>Nicole Jones</b> Texas A&M University	TBA
April 12 @ noon	No colloquium. Go to Southwestern Social Science Annual Meeting in Austin	
April 19 @ noon	<b>Hae Yuan Choo</b> University of Toronto	<i>Decentering Citizenship: Gender, Labor and Migrant Rights in South Korea.</i>
April 26 @ 10:30	<b>Nancy Plankey Videla</b> Texas A & M University	<i>Existo Pero No Existo." Liminality and Deportability Among Latinx Mixed Status Families in Bryan/College Station.</i>
May 3	<b>Laura Freeman</b> Rice University	<i>Life Course Contexts and Racial Birth Outcome Disparities.</i>

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**See you there!**  
**Bring your lunch, your ears, and your brain!**

**Brought to you by the Colloquium Committee**  
**(and coordinated by Dr. Sam Cohn)**

# FORMER UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS



**Lynne Powers '12**



**Earns Top Score On Texas Bar Exam**

Lynne Powers who graduated with a sociology bachelor degree Texas A&M University in 2012 earned the highest score on Texas Bar exam (among the 3,000 people taking the exam). She is only the third woman in the past 10 years to do so. Powers received her Law degree at Loyola University

New Orleans and is now an associate for the Morgan, Lewis & Bockius firm in Houston. Her story is featured at Texas A&M Today (Jan 5, 2017).



**Christopher Mathey** married Rachel Gunter (ABD- History, TAMU) on Saturday, February 18, 2017!

Christopher proposed to Rachel on December 04, 2016, so they had some time to plan the most beautiful wedding.



Christopher also passed his preliminary examinations without qualification! He looks forward to married bliss and to defending his proposal and moving forward from there.

**Danny Malone** started working as an assistant professor of sociology at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina.



**Gabe Amaro** accepted a research associate position with the Latino Research Initiative and a lecturer position in the Department of Mexican American and Latino Studies at the University of Texas – Austin.



**Jesus Smith** accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at Lawrence University.



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY  
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

# GRADUATIONS!

## Dr. Gabriel Amaro

Dissertation topic: “Municipal Fragmentation and Racial Residential Segregation: Moving Beyond Aggregate Analyses by Exploring Impacts of Municipal Boundaries within Metropolitan Areas”

Defended: Oct 2016

Advisor: Dr. Mark Fossett

Committee Members:

Dr. Dudley Poston

Dr. Alex McIntosh

Dr. Shannon VanZandt

## Dr. Christine McCown

Dissertation topic: “Health Care Consumption: A Comparison of Traditional and Alternative Cancer Treatment Centers”

Defended: Fall 2016

Advisor: Dr. Jane Sell

Committee Members:

Dr. Reuben May

Dr. Verna Keith

Dr. Alex McIntosh

## Dr. Candi Idlebird

Dissertation topic: “Racist Framing in the Criminal Justice System: Powerful White Officials.”

Defended: Oct 2016

Advisor: Dr. Joe Feagin

Committee Members:

Dr. Holly Foster

Dr. Ed Murguia

Dr. Alex McIntosh

## Dr. Cristina Cruz

Dissertation topic: “Marriage Patterns of Undocumented Male and Female Mexican Immigrants in the U.S. 2008-2012”

Defended: Feb 2017

Advisor: Dr. Dudley Poston, Jr

Committee Members:

Dr. Pat Goldsmith

Dr. Jane Sell

Dr. Maria Moyna

## Dr. Danny Malone

Dissertation topic: “Effects of Education and Metropolitan Context on Black Inter-marriage in the U.S.”

Defended: Nov 2016

Advisor: Dr. Dudley Poston, Jr

Committee Members:

Dr. Mary E. Campbell

Dr. Mark Fossett

Dr. Tommy J Curry

## Dr. Nayoung Heo

Dissertation topic: “A Comparison of Educational Outcomes between Multicultural Students and Non-Multicultural Students in South Korea: School-Level Analyses of 6th Grade Students”

Defended: March 2017

Advisor: Dr. Dudley Poston, Jr

Committee Members:

Dr. Mary E. Campbell

Dr. Maria Perez-Patron

Dr. Oi-Man Kwok

Newsletter editor:  
Dr. Heili Pals  
hpals@tamu.edu