



- ▶ WELCOME.....2
- ▶ BOOKS & ARTICLES ... 4-6
- ▶ RACE & ETHNICITY10
- ▶ CELEBRATING STAFF.....10
- ▶ STUDENT NEWS.....11-12

◦ December ◦ 2018



Gemeinschaft News

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dr. Katheryn Dietrich received the Association of Former Students (AFS) Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching



Dr. Katheryn Dietrich received the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching. This university-level Distinguished Achievement Award was first presented in 1955. These awards are given to professionals who

have exhibited the highest standards of excellence at Texas A&M.

Dr. Katheryn Dietrich is the director of Sociology Internship Program. She also teaches a variety of courses such as *Classical Sociological Theory*, *Social Problems*, and *Professional Development* courses.

Dr. Reuben May received the Minnie Piper Stevens' Award

Dr. Reuben May, our own rapping professor, was awarded the prestigious Minnie Piper Stevens' Award—an award given across the entire state of Texas to 10 professors per academic year for outstanding academic, scientific, and scholarly achievement and for dedication to the teaching profession. The Piper Professor Award was established by the San Antonio-based Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation in 1958. This is, in addition, to literally, every possible teaching award Dr. May has received at TAMU.



Dr. May was featured in a recently released short documentary video for his exploits as the rapping professor. The video was produced and directed by two students, one a UNT student and the other an Aggie. Here is the scan code to see the video.



WELCOME!



Dr. Stephanie L. Canizales joined us this fall. Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Canizales is the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants who inspire much of her work. Dr. Canizales earned her PhD from the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California in 2018.

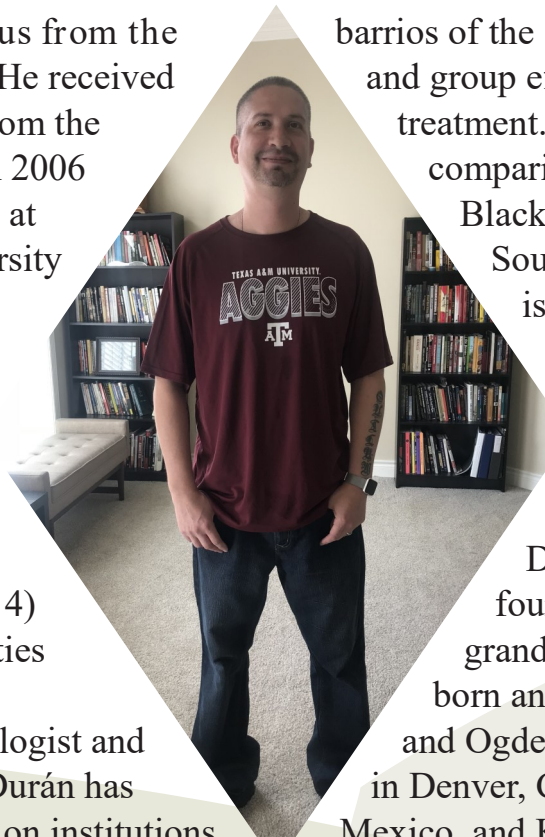
Dr. Canizales specializes in international migration, inequality, poverty, and mobility; race/ethnicity, children and youth, and Latina/o Sociology. Her dissertation book project, entitled *Finding Home*, is a study of unaccompanied minor migration and integration into U.S. society. She systematically examines why undocumented, unaccompanied Central American and Mexican youth migrate to Los Angeles, California, and how they incorporate into school, work, family, and

community life as they come of age without parents. *Finding Home* was funded by the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, Haynes Foundation, American Sociological Association, UC Davis Center for Poverty Research, and Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality.

Dr. Canizales' research has been published in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, as well as by *Youth Circulations*, the *Conversation UK and US*, the *Globe Post*, and UC Davis Center for Poverty Research among others. She was named one of Pacific Standard Magazine's Thirty Top Thinkers Under 30.

Dr. Robert Durán joins us from the University of Tennessee. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Colorado in 2006 and has previously taught at New Mexico State University for eight years.

His research focuses upon four areas: 1) gangs; 2) officer involved shootings; 3) disproportionate minority contact for juveniles; and 4) racial and ethnic inequalities shaped by neighborhood segregation. As a criminologist and urban ethnographer, Dr. Durán has concentrated his research on institutions of social control in Mexican American



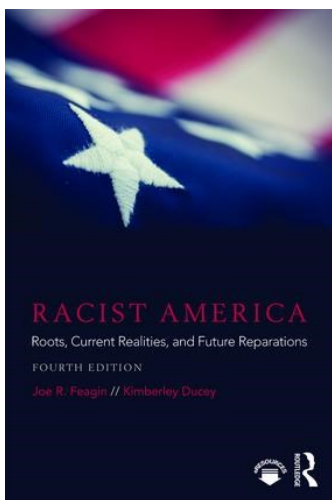
barrios of the Southwest and individual and group efforts to resist unequal treatment. He has since begun comparing these experiences with Blacks and Whites in the Southeast. His overall devotion is bringing empowerment to marginalized communities by using research to change policies and institutional practices.

Dr. Durán and his wife have four children and two grandchildren. Dr. Durán was born and raised in Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah and have since lived in Denver, Colorado, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Knoxville, Tennessee.

REU AT SSSA

For over twenty years our department has obtained NSF funding to bring undergraduate students from around the country to our campus for a summer research experience. This summer, Mary Campbell and Alex Hernandez were the Co-Directors of the Research Experience For Undergraduates (REU) and were assisted by Vanessa Gonlin and Stephanie Ortiz. They matched nine students from nine different universities, plus two Aggies, with faculty mentors from our department (Ernesto Amaral, Mary Campbell, Mark Fossett, Pat Goldsmith, Joseph Jewell, Alex McIntosh, Nancy Plankey-Videla, and Jane Sell). Students took a research methods course and worked with the REU team and their faculty mentors to develop eleven unique research projects utilizing various research methodologies, including content analysis, experimental methods, interviews, and quantitative analysis. They learned how to conduct literature reviews and perform statistical analysis in Stata. Each student wrote an

original research paper under the guidance of their faculty mentor and presented their final work in 15-minute presentations at the end of the program. During these eight weeks, students also took a GRE preparation course and completed the GRE. Students continue to work on their projects at their home institutions, with the support of the REU team and faculty mentors. They presented their research at the Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference this October in Orlando, Florida.



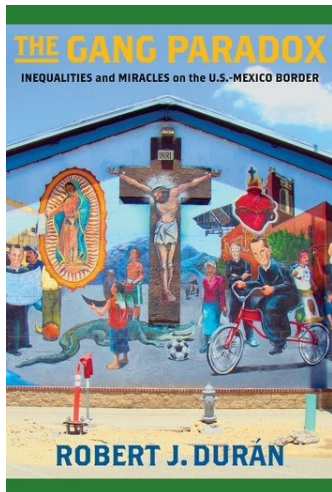
Together with Kimberley Ducey **Joe Feagin** published the fourth edition of *Racist America* with Routledge Publishers.

This a significantly revised and updated edition, with an eye toward racism issues arising regularly in our contemporary era. This edition incorporates many recent research studies and reports on U.S. racial issues that update and enhance the last edition's chapters. It expands the discussion and data on social

science concepts such as intersectionality and gendered racism, as well as the concepts of the white racial frame, systemic racism, and the elite-white-male dominance system from research studies by Joe Feagin and his colleagues.

The authors have further polished the book and added more examples, anecdotes, and narratives about contemporary racism to make it yet more readable for undergraduates.

BOOKS



Dr. Robert J. Durán published a new book with Columbia University Press: *The Gang Paradox: Inequalities and Miracles on the U.S.-Mexico Border*. The areas along the U.S.-Mexico border are commonly portrayed as a hot spot for gang activity, drug trafficking,

and violence. Yet when Robert J. Durán conducted almost a decade's worth of ethnographic research in border towns between El Paso, Texas, and southern New Mexico—a region notorious for gang activity, according to federal officials—he found significantly less gang membership and activity than common fearmongering claims would have us believe. Instead, he witnessed how the gang label was used to

criminalize youth of Mexican descent—to justify the overrepresentation of Latinos in the justice system, the implementation of punitive practices in the school system, and the request for additional resources by law enforcement.

In *The Gang Paradox*, Durán analyzes the impact of deportation, incarceration, and racialized perceptions of criminality on Latino families and youth along the border. He draws on ethnography, archival research, official data sources, and interviews with practitioners and community members to present a compelling portrait of Latino residents' struggles amid deep structural disadvantages. Durán offers keen insights into youth experience with schools, juvenile probation, and law enforcement. *The Gang Paradox* is a powerful community study that sheds light on criminalization and racialization, with policy relevance toward issues of gangs, juvenile delinquency, and the lack of resources in border regions.

Dr. Teresa Morris published a new book with NYU Press: *Health Care in Crisis: Hospitals, Nurses, and the Consequences of Policy Change*. More and more not-for-profit hospitals are becoming financially unstable and being acquired by large hospital systems. This results in the lack of necessary life-saving equipment and losing the experienced nurses to better jobs at other hospitals. In *Health Care in Crisis*, Theresa Morris takes an in-depth look at how this unintended consequence of the Affordable Care Act plays out in a non-profit hospital's obstetrical ward.

Based on ethnographic observations of and in-depth interviews with obstetrical nurses and hospital administrators at a not-for-profit hospital in New England, *Health Care in Crisis* examines how nurses' care of patients changed over the three-year period in which the Affordable Care Act was implemented, state Medicaid funds to hospitals were slashed, and hospitals were being acquired by a for-profit hospital system. Morris explains how the tumultuous political-economic changes have

challenged obstetrical nurses, who are at the front lines of providing care for women during labor and birth.

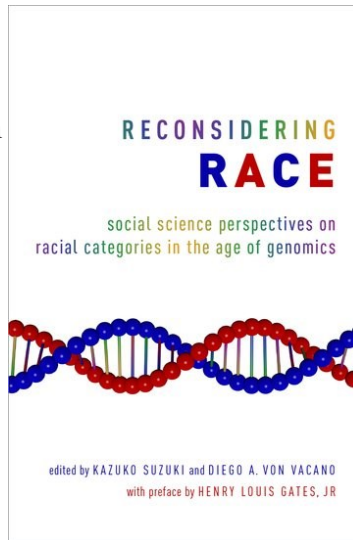
In the context of a new environment where hospital reimbursements are tied to performance, nursing has come under much scrutiny as documentation of births—already laboriously high—has reached even greater levels. Providing patient-centered care is an organizational challenge that nurses struggle to master in this context. Some nurses become bogged down by new processes and bureaucratic procedures, while others focus on buffering patients from the effects of these changes with little success. Morris maintains that what is most important in delivering quality care to patients is the amount of interaction time spent with patients, yet finding that time is a real challenge in this new environment.



Kazuko Suzuki and Diego A. von Vacano published an edited book “Reconsidering Race: Social Science Perspectives on Racial Categories in the Age of Genomics” (with a preface by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Oxford University Press).

This book points out that there is a disjuncture between the way race is conceptualized in the social sciences and in recent natural science literature. In the view of some proponents of natural-scientific perspectives, race has a biological- and not just a purely social - dimension. The book argues that, to more fully understand what we mean by race, social scientists need to engage these new perspectives coming from genomics, medicine, and health policy.

To be sure, the long, dark shadow of eugenics and the Nazi use of scientific racism cast a pall over the effort to understand the complicated relationship between social science and



medical science understandings of race. While this book rejects pseudoscientific and hierarchical ways of looking at race and affirms that it is rooted in social grounds, it makes the claim that it is time to move beyond merely repeating the "race is a social construct" mantra.

The chapters in this book consider three fundamental tensions in thinking about race: one between theories that see race as fixed and those that see it as malleable; a second between Western (especially US-based) and non-Western perspectives that de-center the US experience; and a third between sociopolitical and biomedical concepts of race. The book will help shed light on multiple contemporary concerns, such as the place of race in identity formation, ethno-political conflict, immigration policy, social justice, biomedical ethics, and the carceral state.



AWARDS & HONORS



Dr. Stephanie Canizales was the winner of the 2018 American Sociological Association Section on Latina/o Sociology Cristina Maria Riegos Student Paper Award for her article, ‘Support and setback: The Role of Religion

in the Incorporation of Unaccompanied Indigenous Youth in Los Angeles” published in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Dr. Patricia Thornton was elected to chair elect of Organization and Management Theory Division of Academy of Management. This is a 4,200 member division, 3rd largest, of the Academy, which is highly international and about 20,000 members in total.



Patricia Thornton served as a juror along with David Bloom at Harvard, John Reilly at MIT, and Katja Rost at University of Zurich for Best Paper Award, Vienna University of Economics and Business, for Business, Communication, Law, Humanities, Sociology, Economic Geography and Interdisciplinary work, Vienna Austria.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Jane Sell. 2018. "Definitions and the Development of Theory in Social Psychology." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 81:8-22.

Bianca Manago, **Jane Sell**, and Carla Goar. 2018. "Groups, Inequality, and Synergy." *Social Forces*, advance articles.

Maia, Alexandre G. and **Arthur Sakamoto.** "Do Wages Reflect Labor Productivity? A Comparison of Brazil and the U.S." [In Portuguese.] In press in *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy*.

Sakamoto, Arthur and Yoonjeon Kim. 2018. "Fake News in the American Sociological Review Claims that Asian Americans Do Not Really Value Education." *International Journal of Social Research* 2 (15):1-8.

Kim, ChangHwan, Christopher R. Tamborini and **Arthur Sakamoto.** 2018. "The Sources of Life Chances: Does Demography, Education, Class Category, Occupation or Short-Term Earnings Predict 20-Year Long-Term Earnings?" *Sociological Science* 5:206-233.

Sakamoto, Arthur, Christopher R. Tamborini and ChangHwan Kim.

2018. "Education and the Long-Term Earnings of African American and White Men in the United States." *Population Research and Policy Review* 37:91-116.

Theresa Morris, Amanda Gomez, Miriam Naiman-Sessions, and Christine Morton. "Paradox Lost on the U.S.-Mexico

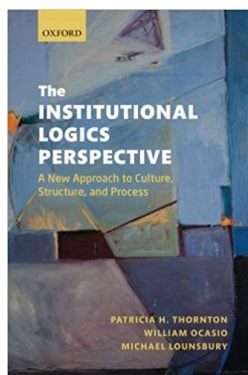
Border: U.S. Latinas and Cesarean Rates." *BMC: Pregnancy and Childbirth* 18(82).

Thornton, Patricia H. and Kim Klyver. 2018. "Who is More Likely to Walk the Talk? The Symbolic Management of Entrepreneurial Intentions by Gender and Work Status," Special Issue on Culture, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, *Journal of Innovation, Organization, and Management*.

Durand, Rodolphe and **Patricia H. Thornton.** 2018 "Categorizing Institutional Logics, Institutionalizing Categories: A Review of Two Literatures," *Academy of Management Annals* 12(2): 1-27.

Zulema Valdez, **Nancy Plankey-Videla**, Aurelia Lorenza Murga, **Angelica C. Menchaca**, and **Cindy Barahona.** 2018. "Precarious Entrepreneurship: Day Laborers in the U.S. Southwest." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 1–19. Online first.

Suzuki, Kazuko. 2018. "Jinshu minzoku teki aidentifi no kōchiku ni tsuite," (On the construction of racial/ethnic identities). *Rōdō Chōsa* (August) No. 244: 1-2 (in Japanese).



GOING INTERNATIONAL

Patricia Thornton's 2012 book with William Ocasio and Michael Lounsbury, *The Institutional Logics Perspective: A New Approach to Culture, Structure, and Process*, Oxford University Press has sold the Chinese translation rights to Zhejiang University Press.

RACE AND ETHNICITY WORKING GROUP



The Department of Sociology Race and Ethnicity Working Group commenced in September!

The goals of the working group are to present works in progress (e.g., dissertation proposals or chapters, book prospectuses, article-length manuscripts) to faculty and graduate students and receive constructive feedback, to provide opportunities for collaboration and networking, and to provide mentoring and training sessions based on need. We also invite those outside of Sociology who have attended past RESI interdisciplinary events – all are welcome!

The working group features a lively and interactive series of both student and faculty presentations. Presenters can distribute their work (an abstract or full document) one week prior to the meeting to allow participants sufficient time to prepare comments. At the workshop the presenter gives a brief summary or presentation of the work and other relevant information (e.g., intended audiences, possible publication outlets), which is followed by a discussion of the paper among participants.

Mentoring and training sessions feature presentations and discussions based on need and interest. If you are a graduate student in need of information on a particular topic, please tell us your needs! If you are interested in presenting at one of these sessions, please let us know a proposed topic!

We still have open slots for the 2018-2019 Academic Year - for pot presenters and hosts! If you are interested in presenting or hosting a workshop, please contact Gabe Miller at gabriel.miller@tamu.edu.

In collaboration with the larger community of students, faculty, and staff doing work in race and ethnicity, we are happy to open the working group to those outside of the Department of Sociology and College of Liberal Arts. Please share widely with your networks.

Please send listserv announcements and requests to join to Gabe Miller at gabriel.miller@tamu.edu.

Date	Presenter(s)	Host Location
September 20 (R)	Vanessa Gonlin (SOC)	Dr. Mary Campbell
October 19 (F)	Dalitso Ruwe (PHIL)	Dr. Reuben May
November 16 (F)	Brittany Penson (PSYC)	Dr. Pat & Carol Goldsmith
March 21 (R)	Rebecca Shaffer (SOC)	
April 25 (R)	Grace Rivera (PSYC)	ON CAMPUS

KEYNOTE TALK

Patricia Thornton gave a keynote Talk for Research Day Conference, Center for Society and Organizations, Haute Ecole Commerce, Paris, France.

Nancy Plankey-Videla received a Glasscock Faculty Research Fellowship 2018-2019 for the project *The Role of the Media in Facilitating a Contested Community of Resistance During Anti-Immigrant Times*.



GRANTS

Dr. Nancy Plankey-Videla (as a Co-PI) received a **TAMU Global Engagement Grant**, 2018-2021, for the *Mexican Reintegration Project* (PI: Huyen Pham (Professor of Law), other Co-PIs: Luz E. Herrera (Law School), Sonia Hernandez (History), Angela D. Morrison (Law School)).

The phenomenon of deportees returning to Mexico is significant for humanitarian, legal, economic, and social reasons. In 2017, the number of interior removals from the United States increased by 30% from 2016. Media reports of individuals detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in front of schools, homes, and job sites have become commonplace in Texas.

This project's objective is to help TAMU students better understand the complexity of the deportation phenomenon through experiential learning, research inquiries, and service projects. The aim is for students to see firsthand the difficulties that deportees face, by visiting reintegration centers in Mexico, interviewing deportees, and doing internships with the centers that are assisting deportees. Project's activities will address the following research questions:

- What challenges do Mexican deportees face?
- As they try to re-integrate, how do deportees fare economically, socially, and psychologically?
- What is the impact of deportation on family members left in the U.S.?

The project plans to share the research by convening services providers and attorneys who work with Mexican deportees (and those at risk of being deported) at Hacienda Santa Clara at the end of the three year study. Engaging students in this work that has binational impact is critical to training global leaders. Also, in keeping with core Aggie values, the students will work on service projects, include compiling legal information to help deportees wrap up their financial and other affairs in the U.S. and sharing this information through community presentations, both in the U.S. and Mexico.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Robert J. Durán. 2018. "Ethnographic Reflexivity: Geographic Comparisons of Gangs and Policing in the Barrios of the Southwest." Ch. 15 in *The Handbook of Race, Ethnicity, Crime, and Justice* edited by Ramiro Martinez, Jr., Meghan E. Hollis, and Jacob I. Stowell. Oxford, U.K.: Wiley Blackwell.

Timothy P. Berke and **Jane Sell**. 2018. "Educational Challenges in South Sudan." Ch. 7 in *Refugee Education: Strategies, Policies and Directions*, edited by Patrick Blessinger and Enakshi Kapur. Emerald Publishing Ltd.

Foster, Holly and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn. 2018. "Individual, Family, Neighborhood, and Regional Poverty/Socioeconomic Status and Exposure to Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents: Considering the Global North and South." Pp. 654-686 in *The Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression*, edited by A. Vazsonyi, D. Flannery, & M. DeLisi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sakamoto, Arthur and Daniel A. Powers. "Demography of Social Stratification." In press in *Handbook of Population, 2nd Edition* edited by **D. L. Poston, Jr.** and M. Micklin. New York: Kluwer Academic/ Plenum Publisher.

Sakamoto, Arthur, ChangHwan Kim and Christopher R. Tamborini. "Changes in Occupations, Jobs, and Skill Polarization." In press in *The Cambridge Handbook on the Changing Nature of Work* edited by Brian Hoffman and Lauren Wegman. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

Suzuki, Kazuko and Diego von Vacano. 2018. "A Critical Analysis of Racial Categories in the Age of Genomics: An Introduction," & "Thinking about Race in the Age of Genomics: Assessments and Prospects," Pp. 1-17 & 238-254 in *Reconsidering Race: Social Science Perspectives on Racial Categories in the Age of Genomics*, Kazuko Suzuki and Diego von Vacano, eds., Oxford University Press.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Christopher Mathey presented at a group workshop on interdisciplinary teaching methods at Southwestern Social Science Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. Christopher's contribution focused on how to reach out to—and engage—learning disabled students in alternative yet meaningful ways in the classroom that benefits all students. He intends to make his contribution into a full-blown workshop all on its own for future conferences, modifying the material with new knowledge and developments.

Hagan, John, **Holly Foster**, and C.J. Murphy. 2018. "Doubling Down: Educational Effects on the Children of Incarcerated Fathers." Paper presented at the Life History Research Society Conference, in Paris, France, May 30.

Theresa Morris, Vani Dawson Mathur, and **Kelly McNamara**. "Stratification in Perceptions and Beliefs about Women's Labor Pain and Pain Management." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society.

Robert Mackin and **Nancy Plankey-Videla**. "Striking Over Soap and Towels? Conditional Solidarity, Collective Indignation and Emotions in a Mobilization." Presentation at ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Nancy Plankey-Videla and **Robert Mackin**. "Emotions and (Ir)rationality in Choosing To Go on Strike: Women Garment Workers in Mexico." Presentation at LASA (Latin American Studies Association), Barcelona, Spain. (funded by a TAMU Liberal Arts International Travel Grant).

Nancy Plankey-Videla, Beatriz Aldana Marquez, Apryl Williams, and **Selene Diaz**. "Latinx Immigrant Strategies: The Use of Old and New Media in the Era of Trump." ASA Media Section Pre-conference.

Nancy Plankey-Videla. "Deportability Regime: At the Intersection of the Deportation Regime, Mass Incarceration and Self-Deportation of Immigrant Families." ASA Annual Meetings, Philadelphia.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Theresa Morris:

- "Birth on My Terms." Birth Rights Bar Association Meeting.
- "Cut It Out: The C-Section Epidemic in America." Meetings of the Council on Contemporary Families.
- "Cultural Competence and Nursing." ANONA (Aggie Newborn & Obstetric Nurses Association), School of Nursing, TAMU.
- "The Effect of Culture on Pregnancy and Birth: A Sociological Analysis." Board of the Prenatal Clinic, Bryan, Texas.
- Invited Virtual Guest Speaker in Sociology Course:
 - * "Introduction to Sociology: Focus on Birth." University of Texas, El Paso.
 - * "Fertility and Reproduction." University of Texas, Austin.
 - * "Living and Dying in America: The Sociology of Birth and Death." Brandeis University.

Kazuko Suzuki:

- *Wesleyan University*.
- "Book Talk – Divided Fates: The State, Race, and Korean Immigrants' Adaptation in Japan and the United States"
 - ⇒Mansfield Freeman Center for the College of East Asian Studies (CEAS), CEAS Lecture Series, 02/06/2018.
 - ⇒Guest Speaker to "Introduction to Japanese Politics," College of East Asian Studies, 11/14/2017.
- "Nihon no mainoritī sabetsu: Burakumin" (Discrimination against Minorities in Japan: The Burakumin), Japanese Language Lunch (in Japanese), 02/06/2018.
- "'Nihonjin' no teigi to mainoritī mondai" (Defining 'the Japanese' and minority issues), Guest Speaker, College of East Asian Studies, (in Japanese), 11/14/2017.
- *Yale University*.
- "Book Talk – Divided Fates: The State, Race, and Korean Immigrants' Adaptation in Japan and the United States,"
 - ⇒Sociology Colloquium Series, 11/01/2017.
 - ⇒ Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program, 10/17/ 2017.

Celebrating Staff Marisa Winking

Marisa is the Administrative Coordinator at Sociology Department. She has worked with the department for almost 1 ½ years.

Marisa was born in El Paso and adopted as an infant into a military family that took her to England, Turkey, Germany, San Antonio, and ultimately Atlanta. She met her husband in high school at age 15. Eleven years later, they finally married and started a family while living in Albuquerque, NM. Their oldest son, Patrick is 14; followed by Evan, who is 12; and Ava, who is 2. Evan and Ava share the exact same birthday. Marisa: “My children are my first known biological link.” Marisa has earned a bachelors in psychology and eventually a culinary degree by attending night classes.



Marisa: “While office administrative work is not my passion, this department is by far the best place on campus to be. The research you do and the mentoring you do for the graduate students is inspiring and gives me hope for the future. The literature that passes through my desk from you all can often times distract me from actual work. I have a personal goal to read something written by each faculty member.”



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Marisa’s favorites include:

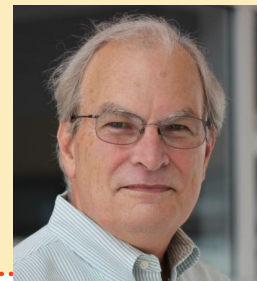
- Georgia O’Keefe.
- Both deserts and desserts.
- Radiohead.
- Baby snug-gles.



- Cheap Wine.
- Good Whiskey.
- Orchids.
- GA Bulldog football
- Raising Arizona.
- Chopin.

RETIREMENTS... RETIREMENTS... RETIREMENTS...

We celebrated four retirements in the last year: **Dr. James Burk**, **Dr. Katherine Henderson**, **Dr. Edward Murguia**, and **Dr. Dudley Poston**. We miss them and are happy to see them any time they are around in the department (some luckily still quite actively!). They have been heard declaring that they now have a permanent sabbatical and what a better way to continue!



GRADUATE STUDENT HONORS



Through the generosity of the **Howard Kaplan** family, our department can award The Howard Kaplan Assistantship every year.

This award is given in honor of **Dr. Howard B. Kaplan** who was a Regents Professor, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the Mary Thomas Marshall Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He devoted his career to the study of social psychology, deviant behavior, social disorganization, and mental health.



The 2017-2018 Award is given to **Mary K. McDougal**. Mary is writing an article applying the general strain theory on victimization using KLAMS data. She is testing how and whether experiencing sexual assault leads to deviance, substance abuse, and whether that linkage is mediated by negative self-feelings. She presented this paper at the Southwestern Social Science Association's Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.



Gabe Miller was honored by Sociologists' AIDS Network (SAN) Scholarly Activity Award. The award aims to nurture scholarly activity in the sociology of HIV/AIDS by supporting the work of emerging scholars in

the field. Here is the note from the award:

Gabe Miller is currently a PhD student at Texas A&M who is currently working on a project entitled "The Politics and Policy of HIV/AIDS Incidence, Prevalence, and Mortality."

Monica Williams was selected as a Fellow with the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) at the University of Michigan for Summer 2018. Her main obligation was to attend several workshops geared towards an interdisciplinary audience.



Christopher Mathey is one of two alums from Landmark College (Putney, VT) chosen to review the white paper for the College's proposed Center for Neurodiversity. He is tasked with reviewing the official document that will be used to give the Center its legal and social legitimacy. Christopher was chosen as a reviewer because of the area expertise he has developed in our own program. Christopher feels: "Since Landmark gave me my life back, serving as a reviewer is the least that I could do."



Kate Willyard received the Rural Sociological Society's Natural Resources Research Interest Group Graduate Paper Award for her paper "Who Is Burning Money and Throwing It In the Air?: A Quantitative Analysis of



Disproportionality of Texas Oil and Gas Venting and Flaring Practices in 2012."

Angelique Maes, Monica Williams and **Chris Mathey** (Ph.D. Students) and **Jess Yanker** (M.S. student) passed their proposal defenses in Fall 2018.

DISSERTATIONS DEFENDED

Xavier Serna "Adolescent Labeling, System Avoidance, and Educational Outcomes"

Alma Trevino-Garza "The Social Psychological Consequences of Poverty on the Academic Success of Latino Students."

Emily Knox "Not Walking the Talk: Identity Interruptions, Behavior, and Stress."

Chung-Pei Pien "Environmental Policy and the Incineration Industry: A Case Study of Beijing, China, 1989-2012"



Four new PhDs graduated in December 2018: **Dr. Alma Trevino-Garza, Dr. Xavier Serna, Dr. Chung-Pei Pien, and Dr. Emily Knox.** Congratulations!



Xavier Serna is working as an adjunct at Sam Houston State University Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.



Emily Knox is working as a research specialist at Texas Juvenile Justice Department.



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