

DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from Fraser Hall! Despite the slowing of the pandemic, Academic Year 2021-2022 proved to be another challenging year. Since the fall semester of 2021, we have been back to mostly in-class teaching modes. As we enter a period of a “new normal” however, teaching and higher educational delivery may never be the same. We now offer more course options in online or hybrid modes. Our instructors continue to accommodate students’ pandemic-related issues and must remain vigilant about classroom health and safety as well as their own.

Despite these ongoing challenges, we have a number of things to celebrate and I want to highlight some of these. The first exciting news is that we welcome two new faculty members to our department this fall. In winter 2021, we successfully concluded our assistant professor search, and Professor Elizabeth Felix from University of Iowa joins our department. Professor Felix conducts research in the area of sociology of health/medicine and criminology. We also want to welcome our new Teaching Assistant Professor, Kelly Sharron, who joins us from California State University, Long Beach. Professor Sharron will split her appointment between Sociology and the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She specializes in the areas of gender/sexuality, criminology, and feminist theory. We are delighted to welcome them both. I want to thank the faculty, especially the hiring committee members, for their hard work on these successful recruitments. In addition, I am thrilled to announce that our Assistant Teaching Professor Lisa-Marie Wright has been promoted to Associate Teaching Professor, and that our Multi-term Lecturer Gerald K. McCannon has been promoted to Assistant Teaching Professor. Congratulations to Lisa-Marie and Kevin!

Next, it is my pleasure to welcome five new graduate students into our program. Despite the pandemic, our graduate program continues to thrive. Our graduate students have been publishing, defending proposals and dissertations, winning awards, and getting jobs. We are truly proud of Sociology’s hard working and talented graduate students and their commitment to their studies and teaching. I also want to congratulate the graduating senior class of 2022, who has persevered through the difficult pandemic years to come out at the other end. I am pleased to say that in spring 2022, we were able to hold the graduation ceremony in person.

Finally, I want to extend a very warm welcome our new Office Manager Bethany Engel, who joined us in the fall of 2021. Bethany jumped right in at a very busy and difficult time during the pandemic and has done a tremendous job of keeping the department running. I am also thrilled to mention that Sociology’s main common room is getting a make-over (new carpeting and chairs!) and I am grateful to Bethany for assisting me in managing this renovation process. In addition, I want to welcome our new administrative assistant Jan Emerson, who works with Bethany on a part-time basis. I also want to thank Corinne Butler, our Graduate Program Coordinator, and our three student office assistants.

Throughout the past academic year, Sociology faculty members have continued to publish extensively, win prestigious grants and fellowships, and achieve professional recognition (see individual faculty updates for details). As usual, I want to express special gratitude to the department leadership for their hard work on behalf of the department: Brian Donovan (Associate Chair), ChangHwan Kim (Director of Graduate Studies), and Tracey LaPierre (Director of Undergraduate Studies), and Professor Nagel (Director of Personnel Committee).

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Message from the Chair continued

I want to thank everyone for making KU Sociology a very special and collegial place that it is. On that note, I want to express our regret in seeing Professor Ebenezer Obadare depart from KU; although this means one less collegial and highly valued colleague for us, we wish Prof. Obadare the best in the next chapter of his professional life.

As I close these remarks, it is with the deepest sorrow that I must convey a heartbreaking piece of news. In July 2022, we unexpectedly lost one of our best and brightest graduate students, Gregory Goldman. After a brief illness, Greg suddenly passed away. While we mourn this tragic loss, we will do our best to remember Greg and honor his memory.

Best wishes,

Kelly H. Chong

FACULTY UPDATES

Bob Antonio: Bob Antonio's "Democracy & Capitalism in the Interregnum: Trump's Self-Coup" will soon appear in *Critical Sociology*. His "Climate Change and Social Theory in the Interregnum" is supposed to appear later this year in a volume on climate change and inequality, and another, "Social Theory Climate Change" will appear next year in an Oxford University Press collection. Currently, Bob is working on a piece on American Critical Theory for a Routledge collection, which will appear next year. He also reviewed Campbell and Hall's *What Capitalism Needs for Contemporary Sociology*, appearing in 2023. Bob gave a keynote talk on Capitalism, Climate, and the Earth System at the online International Social Theory Consortium annual meetings and a presentation—"The Big Lie & Failed Coup"—at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings. The MSS gathering was especially enjoyable – Bob loved celebrating the end of the COVID meetings lockdowns in-person with many former KU students, current KU grad students, and old friends from other institutions. He also enjoyed immensely getting together with our former grad student Harland Prechel, now at Texas A&M, for the annual wintertime birding trip in the Rio Grande Valley and seeing the first time in the U.S., Social Flycatcher with Mark Robbins Ornithology Collection Manager at the KU Biodiversity Institute and world class birder, who was also in search of the bird.

Kelly Chong: The 2021-22 academic year has been a challenging but a productive year. Kelly Chong published two articles. The first article, "'The Model Man': Shifting Perceptions of Asian American Masculinity and the Re-Negotiation of Racial Hierarchy of Desire (with Nadia Y. Kim)," was published in *Men and Masculinities* in 2021. Kelly also published an article entitled "Interrogating the 'White-Leaning' Thesis on White/Asian Multiracials (with Miri Song)" in *Social Sciences* in 2022. Kelly was awarded two KU grants – Racial Equity Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Fund and the Hall Center Scholars On Site Award – to begin a documentary film project on Anti-Asian racism and mental health called *Invisibility and Rage: Asian Americans, Racial Trauma, and Mental Health*. During the 2021-2022 academic year, she has conducted more than 15 on-site interviews of AAPI artists, mental health professionals, and scholars across the nation. Kelly is making excellent progress on the film and is extremely excited to see the film to its fruition. In Spring 2022, Kelly enjoyed teaching her Professionalization Seminar to another excellent group of graduate students. In 2021, Kelly served on the DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) Cabinet of the CLAS Dean's Office.

Brian Donovan: Brian Donovan served as Program Chair for the Midwest Sociological Society and organized the first in-person MSS conference since the pandemic. Brian now serves as MSS President. He also continues to serve as Associate Chair of the department. The Council on Contemporary Families blog recently posted a short piece by Brian titled "The Power of the 'Gold Digger' Stereotype" (<https://thesocietypages.org/ccf/2022/07/26/the-power-of-the-gold-digger-stereotype/>).

David Ekerdt: Everything is data, including one's own life. In October 2021, Professor Emeritus David Ekerdt published an article in the Wall Street Journal: "I Spent 44 Years Studying Retirement. Then I Retired." The piece generated 600 written comments, some affirming his observations, some disputing them. This was basically akin to an exercise in member checking, as after fieldwork. If our research is to be valid and valued, it's worth knowing what the public thinks. In other work with Erin Adamson, Dave has a paper in press based on their collaboration with the five-nation Ageing as Future Project. The paper, "Economic Inequality in Later Life and the Imagination of the Future," is forthcoming in *Ageing and Society*. Dave also has a contribution on queer aging and narrative in the forthcoming volume, *Critical Humanities and Ageing: Forging Interdisciplinary Dialogues* (Routledge). At the ASA meeting in August, Dave's book, *Downsizing: Confronting Our Possessions in Later Life* (Columbia University Press), received the 2022 Scholarly Publication Award from the Section on the Sociology of Consumers and Consumption.

Eric Hanley: Eric Hanley continues to study political behavior in the United States with a focus on the rise of white nationalism in this country. His article, "Sexism as a Political Force: The Impact of Gender-Based Attitudes on the Presidential Elections of 2012 and 2016," appeared in the August 2021 issue of *Social Science Quarterly*. He also has several papers in progress, including a study examining the impact of whites' attitudes towards the Black Lives Matter movement and their voting behavior. Eric remains active in a number of KU area studies programs including the Center for Global and International Studies and the Environmental Studies program.

Margaret Kelley: This year, Margaret Kelley was appointed Interim Chair of American Studies. She continues writing and publishing about guns and American gun culture, including two recent articles: "How Do Veterans View Gun Policies? Evidence from the Guns in American Life Survey" in *Social Science Quarterly* and "Peace through Superior Firepower: Belief in Religious Evil and Gun Policy Attitudes in the United States" in *Social Science Research*. Her research on natural mentors also resulted in a publication in *Sociological Inquiry*: "What Matters to You Matters: Natural Mentors and Self-valuation in School Sports."

ChangHwan Kim: ChangHwan Kim continues to serve as Director of Graduate Studies. He is delighted that KU Sociology has successfully recruited five graduate students this academic year: all with full financial support. Two international students won Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship and University Graduate Fellowship. Even though Covid-19 has affected all aspects of the graduate education, he anticipates that KU Sociology will keep providing strong support for graduate students and flourish academically in coming years. During the 2021-22 Academic Year, Professor Kim published four articles in *Social Science Research*, *Social Forces*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, and *Korean Journal of Sociology*. He co-authored with current and former KU graduate students, Matt Erickson, Andrew Taeho Kim, Yurong Zhang, and Byeongdon Oh. Professor Kim is currently developing several papers with KU graduate students. In the coming academic year, he will serve the American Sociological Association as an elected chair of the Inequality, Poverty and Mobility section and an editorial board member of *Sociology of Education*.

Tracey LaPierre: Tracey LaPierre's work continues on two externally funded interdisciplinary team based projects: Care and Safety Practices During COVID-19 in Home Based Care (homecarestudy.ku.edu) and the Kansas City Quality & Value Innovation Consortium (KC QVIC) Opioid Management Project (www.kcqvic.org/projects/project-1-opioid-management/). Jennifer Babitzke and Darcy Sullivan were employed as Graduate Research Assistants for the home care study, and Clara Boyd and Amber Richmond gained valuable research experience as undergraduate assistants. Over the past year, initial findings and insights from these two programs of research have been presented at the annual research meetings for Academy Health, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, and the Midwest Sociological Society, as well as Academy Health's Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. The home care study was also featured by the KU School of Social Welfare in a Research Impact Talk.

To facilitate making Sociology available as an online major, Dr. LaPierre developed the required Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis course for online delivery, while learning Canvas, KU's new learning management system. She shared lessons learned during this process through presentations and workshops at the Big 12 Teaching & Learning Conference, and the American Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Additional presentations on the culture of teaching and learning and the use of peer teaching evaluations among graduate students were made at the ASCN NSEC Transforming Institutions Conference, and the Transforming Higher Education – Multidisciplinary Evaluation of Teaching Knowledge Exchange and Summit, in collaboration with Lisa-Marie Wright and Derek Wilson.

Dr. LaPierre also co-authored a chapter on "Family Demography: Continuity and Change in North American Families" in *Family Health Care Nursing: Theory, Practice, and Research*, with Jennifer Babitzke that was published in 2022.

Joane Nagel: Joane Nagel is continuing her work on the intersection of gender, science, and climate change. Her other interests have been overtaken by quickly escalating climate change. This summer's heat, wildfires, and flooding around the world are strong evidence of the disruption of the planetary climate system and the importance of understanding the gendered dimensions of both the causes and consequences of the climate crisis. In a March presentation to the U.S. State Department, Joane offered her analysis of the role of men and masculinity in the failures of climate policy and the ongoing domination of masculinist interests (in the fossil fuel industry, climate denialism, warfare, disregard for social impacts) in setting scientific and policy agendas. Joane also continued to coauthor articles with graduate students in Sociology and Social Psychology. She coauthored "Re-Gendering Climate Change: Men and Masculinity in Climate Research, Policy and Practice" (*Frontiers in Climate*) with Trevor Scott Lies, and once they finally address the seemingly endless comments from readers, the chapter, "Gender and the Production of Scientific Knowledge," coauthored with Sam Kendrick, will appear in *Research Handbook for the Sociology of Knowledge*.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh: Mehrangiz Najafizadeh has been continuing her research and teaching on global gender issues and continues to be active in various aspects of KU's area studies programs including the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the Center for Global and International Studies, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. During the academic year, Mehrangiz presented a paper on Azeri women at the Annual Meeting of the Central Slavic Conference. In addition, she has continued to serve as a member of the Azerbaijan Steering Committee of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) and as a member of the ARISC Grants and Fellowships Advisory Group. Her on-going research activities—supported by a University of Kansas Hall Center Research Grant and a KU International Affairs Humanities Grant—include both research on contemporary issues pertaining to Azerbaijanis who were displaced from their homelands during the Nagorno-Karabakh War and social historical archival research on gender and social change.

Most significantly, Mehrangiz is the recipient of a 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar Award to teach and conduct research in Azerbaijan. The presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board selects Fulbright Scholars. During her time as a Fulbright Scholar in Azerbaijan, Mehrangiz engaged in mentoring and in teaching courses on Gender in the Global Context as well as Sociological Theory. She also engaged in scholarly presentations and in various other academic activities with Azerbaijani colleagues, and she continued her research pertaining to gender issues in Azerbaijan, both in social historical and contemporary contexts. Mehrangiz previously received a Fulbright Scholar award in 2004 and served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Azerbaijan during summer 2005 and 2008. To the right is a photo of Mehrangiz and the Chancellor of Azerbaijan University, Saadat Namig Aliyeva, from her 2021-2022 Fulbright.



Jarron Saint Onge: Jarron Saint Onge continues to study the social determinants of health with several ongoing projects examining health lifestyles, rural health disparities, and neighborhood impacts on health behaviors. This past year he spent time working on a National Science Foundation Grant to model responses to the COVID-19 pandemic with KU colleagues. He co-published several papers on COVID transmission. He published another paper linking dollar stores, warehouse clubs, and fast food restaurants to rural obesity outcomes. Professor Saint Onge has spent the past year working on projects related to environmental stressors, climate change, and deliberative democracy. He has been partnering with the KU health system to explore a project focused on individual social determinants and social needs. He continues to be the blog editor of the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Science. He taught a new graduate seminar in demography and looks forward to working more in-person in the upcoming year.

David N. Smith: David N. Smith held the E. Jackson Baur professorship during the 2021-2022 academic year. Besides teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, he chaired the successful defense of Pamela Rooks' PhD thesis, "The 'Jayhawk Nazi' of Kansas: Gerald Winrod, Antisemitism, and the Evangelical Far Right 1925-1944," which was awarded departmental honors. He also chaired the successful defense of Laura Muñeton's MA thesis, "Whose Work is Essential?", while supervising five more doctoral dissertations and a second masters' thesis. Smith also completed two in-press book chapters on classical sociological theory, served on the Lifetime Achievement committee of the American Sociological Association's section on the History of Sociology and Social Thought, and was elected to the Council of that same ASA section. He submitted a research proposal with Eric Hanley and Christopher Altamura to the 2022 American National Election Study and presented papers at meetings of the International Social Theory Consortium, American Sociological Association, and Midwest Sociological Society.

Bill Staples: Professor Emeritus Bill Staples is closing the Surveillance Studies Research Center this summer. The Center's major project, "Safeguarding and Enhancing the Experience of Public Internet Users" will end this fall. The interdisciplinary research team—lead by Bill and CO-PIs Perry Alexander and Drew Davidson from KU-ITTC, and a number of sociology graduate and undergraduate students including Matt Comi, Walter Goettlich, Erin Adamson, Sarah Smith, Scott Tuttle, Sarah Colegrove, and Erin Adamson—have engaged in a multi-year, multi-method project to understand and mitigate the challenges faced by people who must use public libraries to connect to the internet. Supported by more than \$1mil in NSF grants since 2017 and in partnership with several regional libraries, the team has engaged in hundreds of hours of active participant observation, conducted more than 75 semi-structured interviews with users and library staff and organizational analysis. A key contribution has been development and user testing of a hybrid software-hardware prototype device that will allow a library patron to have a seamless, secure computing session carried out and maintained on the device. Recent dissemination of findings include presentations at the annual meetings of the American Sociology Association, the Midwest Sociological Society, the International Digital Security Forum 2022 in Vienna, Austria, a chapter in the IPSR Kansas Broadband Report, as well as "Digital Home-lessness: Exploring the links between public internet access, technological capital, and social inequality," forthcoming in *Current Sociology*. All presentations and publications have had graduate student lead authors.

Paul Stock: In addition to celebrating the completion of Matt Comi's PhD, Paul Stock has enjoyed some international highlights this past year. First, Paul served as a (Virtual) Visiting Professor at the School of Life Sciences and Technology at the Institute Teknologi Bandung' in November 2021 including a public lecture entitled "Who (or What) Will Grow Our Food? Considering Freedom, Care, and Technology in the Lives of Farmers." That opportunity is directly linked to both Paul being selected as a Fulbright Specialist and securing funds from the KU office of International Affairs from their South, Southeast & East Asia Fund to travel to Indonesia to pursue a collaborative research project comparing Kansas and Indonesia farmers use and attitudes toward digital technology in agriculture. Second, Paul continued his work on the New Farmers project by presenting in Porto, Portugal at the interdisciplinary CombArt 3 conference focused on utopian thought, art, and activism. Third, Paul published an article in the *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* called "Food Utopias, (Mature) Care, and Hope" (<https://doi.org/10.48416/ijaf.v27i2.92>).

Fithawee Tzeggai: Fithawee Tzeggai spent his second year at KU continuing his main line of research on the evolution and shortcomings of school desegregation reform after the 1950s. He prepared a paper on the history of the idea of the "achievement gap," a now pervasive concept in debates about educational inequality, and he presented this work at the 2021 meeting of the American Sociological Association. He also shared this work on campus at a Red Hot Research colloquium hosted by The Commons. Fithawee presented findings from a newer project on the politics of "white flight" and urban school reform at the Social Science History Association and the Midwest Sociological Association, and he brought his work to the community by hosting a workshop on racial educational equity for the ACLU of Missouri.

NEW FACULTY



Liz Felix is very excited to be joining the KU Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor this fall. Her primary research and teaching interests are in the areas of the sociology of health, social psychology, and crime, law, and deviance, with secondary interests in social networks and social inequality. In May, she defended her doctoral dissertation, entitled "Mental Health Stigma: Social Relationships, Social Cognition, and Perceptions of Violence," which consisted of three distinct but interrelated studies that elucidate key mechanisms involved in health-related stigma and discrimination. In the past year, her published work has appeared in such journals as *Society and Mental Health*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, including a featured article that was highlighted in an ASA podcast.

Her current, ongoing, and future research projects largely center on status and stigma processes—the devaluation and social exclusion of individuals with a particular identity or label, such as mental illness. She earned various research fellowships, as well as research and travel grants, to develop these research projects and disseminate findings at national and regional conferences. Liz is looking forward to beginning her career at KU, continuing her work investigating mental health stigma, and getting to know all of the wonderful faculty and students in the Sociology Department.

Kelly Sharron is excited to be joining KU this fall! Moving most recently from Long Beach, California, she is happily returning to her midwestern roots. Kelly's work is attentive to state violence and racial formations, considering the multiple state tactics at play in police brutality including the extension of a feminist ethic of care in producing violent effects. Her work has been published in *TSQ: Transgender Studies*, *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*, and *Somatechnics*. She is currently working on a textbook, *Feminist Studies: Foundations, Conversations, Applications* (Routledge).



STATEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY

All Department of Sociology and Sociology Graduate Student Association Statements of Solidarity can be found at <https://sociology.ku.edu>.

A Statement from the Sociology Graduate Student Association regarding the acts of violence throughout the week of May 9, 2022

The graduate students of the University of Kansas Sociology Department would like to express our deepest condolences to those lost in the shootings this past weekend. Several of these shootings appeared to be motivated by hate, racism, and replacement theory. Not only do we condemn these horrendous actions and loss of life, but also the motivations. We believe in an equitable society where individuals should not fear gun violence in their daily routines.

We stand with Black Lives Matter, Stop AAPI Hate, and all marginalized racial identities that are targeted by violence and hate on a daily basis. We wish to express our support for all marginalized identities at the University of Kansas and beyond. We are committed to recognizing, combating, and abolishing hate in whatever form it takes. Injustice has no place in our society.

Please Take Care,
Sociology Graduate Student Association, University of Kansas

A Statement of Solidarity with the Faculty and Staff of Emporia State University

Many have witnessed Emporia State University's decision to terminate tenured faculty, staff, and academic programs. The faculty and students of the Department of Sociology acknowledge and stand in solidarity with the faculty and staff of Emporia State. We understand that financial hardships have created the need for difficult decisions. However, the actions of Emporia State do not reflect the best interest of higher education in Kansas. Teaching universities thrive on their ability to offer an excellent educational experience taught by passionate professionals. As fellow scholars, it is troubling to witness the mistreatment of academics that have contributed to the university's success. The removal of qualified educators, dedicated staff, and critical academic programs demonstrates a lack of concern for the educational experience of students at Emporia State and the well-being of Kansas's academic atmosphere. We strongly urge the leadership of Emporia State University to reconsider their decision to terminate faculty, staff, and academic programs, restoring validity to tenure and honor to higher education in Kansas.

GREGORY GOLDMAN, 1985-2022



After a brief illness, Gregory Arthur Goldman passed away on July 21, 2022. As his obituary notes, he was the "beloved son" of Denise Goldman, Arthur Goldman and Arthur's wife Lisa Moore, as well as a "devoted brother" and "cherished uncle." Among the Sociology community at the University of Kansas, he was a bright mind, rising star, kind friend, devoted student.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in liberal arts at Wesleyan University and a master's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, he came to the University of Kansas, where he was mere months away from obtaining his doctorate in sociology. His family noted in his obituary that "he literally put his heart, soul, and body" into this pursuit. The University of Kansas and Department of Sociology will award Gregory a posthumous doctorate this new academic year. We are grateful to the University for honoring his hard work and his life in this way.

The heartbreak and sorrow felt by our department, and greater still by his family and friends, is deep. We are grateful to have known him, worked with him, taught with him, and befriended him.

We will do our best to honor his memory in our work and lives.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. ChangHwan Kim, Director of Graduate Studies, along with Graduate Studies Committee members Brian Donovan and Eric Hanley and the entire Department of Sociology, would like to congratulate our 2022 graduates and award recipients.

Jennifer Babitzke, MA
Spring 2022

Basil Cassell, Ph.D.
Spring 2022

Matt Comi, Ph.D.
Spring 2022

Elyse Neumann, Ph.D.
Summer 2022

Pamela Rooks, Ph.D.
Spring 2022

Erin Adamson

- Carroll D. Clark Award for Teaching Excellence

Damilola Adapeju-Fashina

- Office of Graduate Studies Summer Research Scholarship
- University Women's Club Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Christopher Altamura

- Samuel and Fred Sass Summer Dissertation Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Jennifer Babitzke

- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Outstanding Thesis Award

Matt Erickson

- Office of Graduate Studies Summer Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Joel Evans (Anthropology)

- E. Jackson Baur Award for Research & Study of Social Conflict & Its Resolution

Gregory Goldman

- E. Jackson Baur Award for Research & Study of Social Conflict & Its Resolution
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

John Kaiser

- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Samantha Kendrick

- Christopher Gunn Graduate Student Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Andrew Kim

- Samuel and Fred Sass Summer Dissertation Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Kafayat Mahmoud

- May J. Geis Opportunity Scholarship for Student-Faculty Research, with Dr. Jaron M. Saint Onge
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Elyse Neumann

- Carroll D. Clark Award for Professional Service
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Brenden Oliver

- Helen Waddle Roefe Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Qixin Pan

- Helen Waddle Roefe Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Rafael Pinto Martinez

- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Anna Poudel

- May J. Geis Opportunity Scholarship for Student-Faculty Research, with Dr. Brian Donovan
- Helen Waddle Roefe Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Heeyoun Shin

- Truman Good Neighbor Foundation Sherman & Irene Dreiseszun Scholarship
- Helen Waddle Roefe Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Joelle Spotswood

- Office of Graduate Studies Argersinger Dissertation Award

Derek Wilson

- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

Yurong Zhang

- Helen Waddle Roefe Research Scholarship
- Carroll D. Clark and Morris C. Pratt Graduate Student Scholarship

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES



Erin Adamson: Doctoral candidate Erin Adamson is writing her dissertation on the economic and social impacts of North Americans and Europeans who migrate to Costa Rica, and she plans to graduate in the Spring. During Summer 2022 she travelled to Jena, Germany, with Professor Emeritus Dave Ekerdt to present findings from their qualitative research on aging in the Midwest at the final conference of the Aging as Future project. The project brings together researchers from the U.S., Germany, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Their paper on the topic, "Economic Inequality in Later Life and Imagination of the Future," is forthcoming in *Ageing and Society*. She also traveled to ASA in Los Angeles to take part in a mini-conference organized by the International Migration section and present her paper "Privileged Migration: Euro-American Lifestyle Migrants, Business Entrepreneurship and Neocolonialism in the Costa Rican Tourism Economy" at an IM roundtable. This fall, Erin is a recipient of the Morris C. Pratt Special Scholarship that allows her to write full-time. She is also applying for academic positions.

Chris Altamura: Chris Altamura co-authored an article with Brenden Oliver titled, "Who Feels the Bern? An Analysis of Support for Bernie Sanders in the 2020 Democratic Primary" that was published in the journal *American Politics Research* in July. He is also working on a paper with Brenden Oliver and David Smith that examines how authoritarianism and social attitudes have changed across a 60-year period in the U.S. Finally, in addition to teaching, he continues to work on his dissertation, which analyzes the relations between class, authoritarianism, social attitudes, and protest during the final days of the Soviet Union.



Jennifer Babitzke: Jennifer Babitzke successfully defended her thesis, "The Cumulative Cost of Care: Caregiving over the Life Course and Severity of Depression" in Fall 2021, for which she was awarded the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from the KU Office of Graduate Affairs in Spring 2022. Jennifer also presented the findings from her thesis at the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) conference in April 2022. During the 2021/2022 academic year, Jennifer worked with Dr. Carrie Wendel-Hummell (Center for Research on Aging & Disability Options), Dr. Tracey LaPierre (Department of Sociology), and Dr. Danielle Olds (KU Medical Center) researching the impact of COVID-19 on those receiving home-care services under the Medicaid Home & Community-based Services program. In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the media and social science researchers focused much of their energy on understanding the impact of the virus on vulnerable older communities in shared residential living spaces such as assisted living or long-term care institutions; however, very little research had been done on those who received care services within their private homes. This mixed-methods study worked to clarify the outcomes and processes that the HCBS system took to mitigate risks to these vulnerable populations by interviewing and surveying consumers, workers, and care providing institutions. Jennifer contributed to various administrative tasks on the project including developing and managing surveys in the Qualtrics system as well as tracking demographic and coding data within the qualitative software program. Jennifer conducted and coded caregiver interviews and contributed to presentations and publications on this project.

For the 2022/2023 academic year, Jennifer is now teaching SOC 220: Sociology of Families, and is serving as co-editor of the STAR journal. Jennifer plans to complete her first ASD in gender this semester and plans to make measurable progress on her second ASD in families in the Spring. Lastly, Jennifer has started a weekly writing accountability group for graduate students in the Sociology Department. All graduate students who would like to have a devoted space set aside for writing are welcome to join. This semester, the group is held from 1-3 p.m. every Friday via Zoom.

Walter Goettlich: Walter Goettlich continues his work researching the experiences of digitally marginalized Kansans, as part of the Surveillance Studies Research Center team. He and co-authors Matt Comi (KU 2022), Sarah Smith (KU 2021), and Bill Staples (emeritus) published an article entitled "Digital Home-Lessness: Exploring the Links Between Public Internet Access, Technological Capital, and Social Inequality," in *Current Sociology* (available now via OnlineFirst; print forthcoming). Goettlich is lead author on a chapter for the forthcoming *2022 Report on Broadband Access in Kansas*, entitled "'It's a Lifeline for Me': Public Library Computing Services and Digitally Marginalized Kansans," (KU IPSR), and he published [a review of the book *Living with Floods in a Mobile Southeast Asia: A Political Ecology of Vulnerability, Migration and Environmental Change*](#) (Middleton et al. 2018) in *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobilities Studies*. Additionally, Goettlich and Comi presented their work at the 2022 MSS Annual Meeting in Chicago, as well as at the 2022 International Digital Security Forum in Vienna, Austria (the latter virtually; sadly, not in person).





Sam Kendrick: In January 2022, Sam Kendrick's article "Scripting Sex in Courtship: Predicting Genital Contact in Date Outcomes" (co-authored with Nancy Kepple in the School of Social Welfare) was published in *Sexuality and Culture*. It received media coverage from outlets including *The Telegraph* and *The Daily Mail UK*. In the spring and summer of 2022, Sam co-authored a chapter for *The Handbook of the Sociology of Knowledge* entitled "Gender, Climate Change, and the Production of Scientific Knowledge" with Professor Joane Nagel. In May 2022, she was invited to present preliminary findings from her ongoing dissertation research on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on courtship culture at the KU Close Relationships Interest Group (CRIG) meeting. Over the summer of 2022, Sam conducted follow-up interviews as part of her ongoing research. Thus far she has conducted 106 interviews with 87 participants. She is currently in the process of applying for the ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant as she works on her dissertation proposal, tentatively titled "Sexual Scripts in Unsettled Times: The Gendered Implications of Pandemic Courtship."

Brenden Oliver: After a wonderful vacation in Ireland with his wife Monique, Brenden Oliver successfully published a journal article, "Who Feels the Bern? An Analysis of Support for Bernie Sanders Voters in the 2020 Democratic Primary", with Chris Altamura in *American Politics Research*. This paper has motivated us to construct a socialism scale so we can uncover how "socialist" Sanders voters actually are. Currently, Brenden is finishing a draft for submission on the change in racial resentment after George Floyd was killed, which is a continuation of his argument that the U.S. is experiencing asymmetrical polarization, rather than symmetrical, because prejudice among the left is plummeting while prejudice on the right remains relatively the same. Furthermore, Brenden is working with Eric Hanley on a similar project that focuses on attitudes toward the Black Lives Matter Movement and its relationship to voting behavior.



Brenden is also collaborating on a project with David Smith. David has conducted a multitude of surveys over a long period of time with key variables. We plan to analyze the changing relationship of authoritarianism, prejudice, and identity with attitudes toward Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and the supreme courts overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Outside of his sociological work, Brenden has been gaining experience at the Institute for Policy and Social Research as an administrative assistant and member of the editorial board for the Kansas Statistical Abstract, a conglomeration of public-use data on Kansas, by assisting with data retrieval and data entry.



Anna Poudel: Anna Poudel is grateful for scholarship funds that enabled her to conduct 30 interviews with mixed Asian Americans over the summer. The interviews focused on participants' growing up experiences with family and popular culture. This data will be used for her master's thesis, which looks at factors influencing how mixed Asian people's racial identities change over the life course. It will comparatively analyze the experiences of mixed Asians with different racial backgrounds.

Darcy Sullivan: During the 2021-2022 academic year, Darcy was one of the Institute for Policy and Social Research's Doctoral Fellows. Darcy also spent the past year working on an AHRQ-funded grant at the Center for Research on Disability and Aging Options with Professor Tracey LaPierre and Dr. Carrie Wendel-Hummell. As a graduate research assistant on this project, Darcy conducted interviews with Kansas HCBS consumers to explore how homecare services were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using data from this research, Darcy presented at the 2022 Midwest Sociological Society meeting. Darcy is also a co-author on a paper examining opportunities and constraints in self-directed care during the COVID-19 pandemic that is under review at the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*.



In August 2022, Darcy was awarded a graduate research assistantship at the Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies, where she works with Dr. Jean Hall and Noelle Kurth. As part of her new research duties, Darcy is working on two research projects. One project evaluates the reliability, validity, and sensitivity of person-centered HCBS outcomes measures. The second project, which is funded by NIDILRR, administers and analyzes data from the National Survey on Health and Disability (NSHD). Darcy is currently leading a paper that uses NSHD data to examine food insecurity among persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the summer, Darcy passed her oral comprehensive exam. She is currently working on her dissertation, which explores the relationship between state-level abortion policies and women with disabilities' use of reproductive healthcare services, such as Pap tests, mammograms, and fertility care.



Derek Wilson: Derek Wilson has started teaching Politics of Physical Appearance and Intro to WGSS for the WGSS department after receiving a graduate certificate from the department in 2021. In 2022, he worked with the sociology department and the Center for Online and Distance Learning to develop SOC364: Society, Popular Culture, and Media. This online course utilizes innovative teaching techniques, including podcast lectures and artifact analysis assignments. Derek has participated in multiple learning workshops earning two different education certificates to further develop his skills as a future teaching professor. The first certificate was the Faculty Teaching Certificate, presented by the Midwest Sociological Society and the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society. Derek also received the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society Teaching and Learning Certificate, a certification usually awarded to less than ten people annually.

Besides teaching, Derek attended the Midwest Sociological Society and the Southern Sociological Society annual meetings to present research on gerotechnology and coordinate panels about teaching support at large research universities. He also attended the Gender and Sexuality state conference to present teaching tactics related to gender and privilege. Derek has taken a position with the Social Thought and Research journal as the social media editor to develop the journal's online presence over the next several years. Lastly, Derek is working with his master's advisor, Dr. Twyla Hill of Wichita State University, to publish research on older adult use of computer and internet technologies.

WELCOME, NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!



Matthew Bettencourt completed his bachelor's degree in sociology and English as a member of the University of Kansas' University Honors Program in May 2022 and is grateful for the opportunity to continue his education here and become a member of the KU Sociology graduate community. He is interested in social theory, quantitative research, environmental sociology, and feminist sociology. He looks forward to broadening his understanding of sociology and discovering his research interests.

Patrick Clemens received a bachelor's degree in sociology with minors in English and environmental policy from Millersville University of Pennsylvania in 2019. While at MU, he completed a senior honors thesis focusing on the theory of Georg Simmel as it applied to the concepts of individualism and relationships in society, as well as completing research projects in environmental economics and anthropology. After taking a year off and working for Tesla in the renewable energy sector, Patrick returned to academia and completed his master's degree in sociology with a minor in psychology from Texas Tech University. While at TTU, Patrick completed a master's thesis focusing on social psychology and international migration as it pertained to migrants from Latin America. He also served as the President of the Texas Tech Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta. Patrick is excited to be here in Lawrence and will likely be continuing his work in social psychology during his time at KU.



Kaniz Fatema earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh. Before coming to KU, she served as the regional manager of BRAC's microfinance program where she observed the role of personal preferences and self-image of female employees in making their own career decisions. This piqued her research interest in exploring the relationship between women's self-image, preferences, job careers, and subsequent empowerment. She is also interested to learn how access to small-scale resources, such as microfinance, changes women's social networks, gendered norms, self-image, and preferences. Her research article on disaster risk perception and adaptation practices has been recently published in the *International Disaster Risk Reduction Journal*.

Zahra Mansoursharifloo completed her Bachelor of Science in sociology from Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran, and Master of Art in communication and leadership from Park University, Parkville, MO, in 2022. In her thesis, "The Role of Online Social Movements in the Emergence of Offline Social Movements," Zahra studied an online social movement on Persian Twitter using qualitative methods. Zahra also collaborated as the second author in writing two research papers about the Taliban and ISIS portrayal in the US media. Her area of interest is media, social media, social media influencers, online social movements, and online activism.



Andi Petrovic graduated with her bachelor's degree in sociology from Weber State University in Ogden, UT. She is joining KU Sociology after several years of organizing alongside labor, environmental, and progressive organizations on international trade-related issues in Washington, D.C. She is excited to continue her work on the political and economic impacts of globalization and trade policy through her academic research at KU.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & AWARDS

Members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee for 2021-2022 were Tracey LaPierre (Director), Jarron Saint-Onge, Fithawee Tzeggai, Lisa-Marie Wright, and Kevin McCannon. John Kaiser and Yurong Zhang served as graduate student representatives and Mikhayla Sheeley was our Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

The department was honored with the Christopher-Haufler KU Core Innovation Award. The Christopher Haufler KU Core Innovation Award, funded by the Office of the Provost, honors the creative and forward-thinking work of academic departments in developing or transforming outstanding core courses, assessing the KU Core learning outcomes, and disseminating the assessments as models of excellent teaching and learning. The award comes with a monetary award to the department that may be used to advance their work on teaching, learning, and assessment. Kevin McCannon and Tracey LaPierre put together the nomination package that featured the inspiring work that Kevin has been doing in SOC 308 Principles of Family Sociology.

The Sociology Major is now available to online students who are unable to study in-person at KU.

The Department was pleased to offer more than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards to undergraduate majors this year and anticipates offering a similar level of support over the next few years. Graduating majors Grace Cooper and Charles Herro were recognized with Distinguished Graduate Awards and were featured speakers at the Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony. Returning sociology majors Simmi Rana, Carolina Sharp, and Preston Means were recognized with Rising Star Awards. Divya Hegde, Jocelyn Pembleton, Leah Stein, and Kamryn Villa also received scholarships.

The Department was excited to hold our annual Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony in-person this year. In total, nearly 100 faculty, graduates, family and friends gathered for a ceremony and reception honoring our graduating majors and their notable achievements. Candidates for Graduation with Distinction: Lauren Spence, Leah Stein, and Nora Lackey. Honors in the Major: Charles Herro "Far-Right Online Forums in a Post-Trump Era: Internet Culture and Memes" (Faculty Mentor: Tracey LaPierre).

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA (AKD)

AKD is the International Honor Society of Sociology, and seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of social problems, sociology, and intellectual activities that lead to improvements in the human condition. The Department of Sociology was pleased to cover the cost of membership for all qualified majors this year and 27 outstanding majors accepted the invitation and joined the Beta Chapter of Kansas: Claire Austin, Matthew Bettencourt, Samantha Bower, Grace Cooper, Kenneth Fite, Gracious Ford-Brownlee, Dulani Hannadige, Divya Hegde, Madison Hendrickson, Charles Herro, Nora Lackey, Natalie Martens, Preston Means, Madison Messenger, Jakaila Morgan, Cambre Morrow, Lauren Nelson, Jocelyn Pembleton, Hannah Pennington, Meriel Salisbury, Maiya Schroeder, Caroline Sharp, Hallie Steed, Aisha Taal, Samantha Torres, Kamryn Villa, and Amanda Weinberg.

The Beta Chapter of Kansas was awarded \$1200 to support the travel of 6 graduate students who presented their research at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Damilola Adepeju-Fashina, Jennifer Babitzke, Brenden Oliver, Anna Poudel, Derek Wilson, and Darcy Sullivan.

STAR



Social Thought and Research (STAR) is accepting submissions for Volume 37, under the theme of Social Dis/Order. For STAR Volume 37 we invite social scientists, humanities scholars, artists, and policymakers to contribute work that describes, analyzes, or otherwise addresses the contemporary moment of social dis/order, the failures of the established social order(s) that inform these conditions and dynamics, and/or consequent imaginings of social (re)ordering and contestation. Learn more at <https://starjnl.ku.edu>.

KU MENTORING

We want to encourage sociology alumni to check out KU Mentoring through the Alumni Association at <https://mentoring.ku.edu/>. It is like LinkedIn, but made exclusively for KU students and alumni! By joining KU Mentoring, alumni can help students and other alumni explore different career outcomes and industries, evaluate college and career advice, and expand their professional networks. For more information, contact Howard Graham, Director, Jayhawk Career Network, KU Alumni Association at howardgraham@kualumni.org.

Alumni should be on the lookout for a survey coming their way soon. This brief survey will give alumni a chance to share their thoughts about the sociology program and help our current and future students succeed. You will also be invited to share your story in this very newsletter!

McCLUGGAGE RENOVATIONS

The McCluggage Conference Room is getting refreshed this fall. New carpet and chairs now furnish the conference room where students gather for daily and professional lunches, meetings, and coffee, and where job talks, faculty meetings, lectures, and courses happen.



before



after



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Bethany Engel joined the department in November 2021. After moving to Lawrence 18 years ago as a student and barista, she's been in administrative work for more than a decade now. She is excited to be the Office Manager for the Sociology Department, which has the best views in all of Kansas from the top of Fraser Hall and the best people at the university.

Jan Emerson is a temporary half-time Administrative Assistant for the department. Jan formerly worked on campus in the departments of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and History.





DEPT OF SOCIOLOGY CLARK LECTURE SERIES



DR. ADIA HARVEY WINGFIELD

Professional Work in a 'Post-Racial' Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy



What happens to black professionals when work transforms? In an era of rapid technological change, shrinking protections for workers, and growing income inequality, work is no longer the secure, stable, predictable path to economic stability that it once was for some segments of the population. Instead, organizations today focus on shedding labor, cutting costs, and increasing shareholder returns. At the same time, however, many organizations also profess an interest in meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse population. How do they manage the tensions of adapting to these neoliberal ideals in a more multiracial society?

4:00 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 27
Kansas Room
Kansas Union

785.864.4111
sociology.ku.edu

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS
Sociology
College of Liberal Arts
& Sciences

Adia Harvey Wingfield is the Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor of Arts & Sciences and Vice Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research examining how and why racial and gender inequality persists in professional occupations has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals including *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, and *American Sociological Review*. She is the recipient of the 2018 Public Understanding of Sociology award from the American Sociological Association (ASA), and her most recent book, *Flatlining: Race, Work, and Health Care in the New Economy*, won the 2019 C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the 2020 Distinguished Book Award from the Race, Gender, and Class Section of the ASA.

KU is an EO/AA institution.



HISTORY OF THE DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY AT KU

"Sociology at the University of Kansas began on Monday, February 3, 1890, at 5 p.m., when Frank Wilson Blackmar initiated a handful of students to "Elements of Sociology," a course which bears the same title today and which enrolls hundreds each semester. Blackmar was "Professor of History and Sociology," heading a department of "History and Sociology," arguably the first in the nation, and therefore the world, to be so named (Sica, 1980). Around 1915, when Albion Small solicited letters from colleagues for his analysis of the discipline's "first fifty years," Blackmar responded at length, including this remark: "So far as my knowledge goes, this was the first time that the word 'sociology' was used in connection with the name of a university department in the United States" (Small, 1949:202). Small replied, "Professor Blackmar seems to be correct on this point. No evidence of priority in this respect of the University of Kansas is known to the writer of this paper" (Small, 1949). Although some have since claimed that the University of Chicago began the American academic tradition in sociology (e.g., Faris, 1970:11; Lewis and Smith, 1980:xii), this is factually untrue. It does nothing to diminish the stature of the Chicago department to recognize that Blackmar anticipated, not imitated, their venture, and that sociology was already blooming at other Midwestern schools before Small initiated his great experiment."

-Former faculty member, Dr. Alan Sica in his article, "Sociology at the University of Kansas, 1889-1983: An Historical Sketch," The Sociological Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Autumn, 1983), pp. 605-623.



The Department of Sociology gratefully acknowledges contributions to support faculty and graduate student research. Your support is important, and very much appreciated.

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