

University of Connecticut

Sociology

2017 Newsletter Vol. 10



Message from the Department Head

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This was a year of several transitions. **Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** completed her tenure as Head of the Department and went on to pursue her Fulbright Nehru award in Hyderabad, India. Dr. Purkayastha's commitment to supporting faculty research and increasing diversity are evident in our productivity, and the retention and promotion of faculty of color. Not that this in any way slowed her own prolific publication and presentation record, which continued apace. We are indebted and grateful for dedication and service to the department and look forward to having her back in the Fall.

For over a decade, **Dr. Kathryn Ratcliff** provided invaluable service as Associate Head putting in place structures and processes to facilitate fairness, transparency, and efficiency, leaving behind huge shoes to fill. **Dr. Lynne Goodstein's** service as Director of Undergraduate Studies was instrumental in revitalizing and increasing the number of our majors and minors. She will be stepping down as DUS at the end of this academic year. After 30 years of service at our Waterbury Campus, **Dr. Susan Eisenhandler** retired at the end of this academic year.

We thank them all for their service and wish them well as they pursue their work without administrative and in the case of Susan without academic responsibilities.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate **Dr. Jeremy Pais**, who was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and officially inducted into the Dead Wood Society at our retreat; and to **Dr. Ingrid Semaan** who was promoted to Associate Professor in Residence. Congratulations to **Dr. Bernstein** and **Dr. Purkayastha** for career awards from Sexualities and Asian and Asian American sections of the ASA; **Dr. Hughey** for CLAS Excellence in Research award; **Dr. Voyer** for the Russell Sage Project award and **Dr. Wright** for the Templeton award. As you will see on the coming pages, our faculty continue to win awards, fellowships, grants, and publish prodigiously. Congratulations to us all.

When seeking the Headship, I articulated my vision to my colleagues as one of collaborating with everyone to build a place in which each of us flourished as professionals and individuals but also where each was committed to the collective wellbeing and our mutually agreed upon goals for the department.

Towards that end, I met with every faculty member, staff, along with the graduate students to get a sense of how I could support them individually and to hear their ideas for our collective endeavors. I began Happy Hours after faculty meetings, which hopefully will have better attendance next year. We started a Brown Bag series where faculty and students alike can present their work in progress or discuss ideas related to teaching, the discipline or the world at large.

The year-end retreat (thanks **Drs. Christin Munsch** and **Ruthie Braunstein** for all your work in bringing it together) attended by 18 faculty across ranks and 2 staff members, provided an opportunity for us to get to know each other better and to discuss collaborative initiatives. Among the ideas that faculty have committed to taking further are workshops for advanced graduate students, writing in progress workshops for faculty and grads.

Our department is scheduled to undergo a self-study next year and I see this as an excellent opportunity for us to take stock of where we are and where we'd like to be in the future and in the process build a more robust intellectual and social community.

– Manisha Desai

OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM: AN OVERVIEW

(BY: Dr. Elizabeth [Liz] Holzer)

For the first time in the history of the department, the incoming cohort in Fall 2016 was majority minority (8 out of 10 incoming students are students of color) thanks in part to the NSF PIRE grant of the incoming Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Holzer.

Three students were awarded their Ph.Ds this academic year and four students received their MA.

The Sociology Graduate-Undergraduate Research Team Pilot Project

In Spring 2017, the Sociology department piloted a new research opportunity for students. The Sociology Graduate-Undergraduate Research Team grant supported undergraduate research training in sociology and advanced graduate student progress towards completion through research partnerships. In this research partnership, undergraduate students spent five hours per week during the Spring semester working on the advanced graduate student's research project while maintaining regular contact with a faculty mentor. Examples of undergraduate research duties included organizing, coding and analyzing data in qualitative software (NVivo) and quantitative software (Stata) and archival research. The undergraduate research assistant and the graduate mentor both received a \$750 stipend.

Thirteen teams applied to the competition, and in addition, we also compiled a list of more than ten undergraduates who expressed a desire to be matched with mentor and engage in undergraduate Sociology research more broadly based on the call for proposals. Four teams were awarded funding: Jordan Rees and Jared Delane, "Sociodemographic Trends in Complementary and Alternative Health." (Faculty mentor: Jeremy Pais); Michael Rosino and Fatuma Belly, "Racial Politics and Everyday Life in a Progressive Third Party." (Faculty mentor: Matthew Hughey); Malaena Taylor and Alexander Karl, "Electoral Outcomes of Social Movements" (Faculty mentor: Mary Bernstein); Kamryn Warren and Jillian Rastinejad, "Living Transnational Lives Through the Bureaucracies of Forced Migration" (Faculty mentor: Elizabeth Holzer).

Graduate Shared Drive

In Fall 2016, we created an online repository of resources for Sociology graduate students including examples of successful job market materials and successful grant and fellowship proposals including NSF dissertation improvement grants, Fulbright, Mellon-ACLS, Guggenheim and others.

Analysis of placement and time to degree

In December 2016, we began an evaluation of graduate student placement (2010-2016) and time to degree (2014-16). Our time from MA to PhD averaged 4.9 years. Our employment rates were above the national average: 62.1% tenure track positions, 20.7% applied positions, 6.9% non-tenure track academic, and 6.9% unknown. We have requested data to analyze trends in the graduate program related to gender, race and ethnicity and international status.

Recruitment Materials: Faculty-Graduate Student Collaborations

For next admissions cycle, we have begun to collect data to highlight the breadth of faculty-graduate student research collaborations including coauthored publications, recent QAships and anticipated future collaborations. We intend to create a website that highlights these collaborations to serve a recruitment tool for prospective graduate students.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM: A REFLECTION (BY: Dr. Lynne Goodstein)

2016 -2017 was a busy year for our Undergraduate Program committee. We had two goals for this year—one, to increase enrollments in our major and minor, and two, to enhance the sense of community among our undergraduates. We believe we have succeeded on both fronts. By the end of the academic year the number of students majoring in sociology topped **200**, a big advance from the low point of 130's only a couple of years ago. Many people worked hard to get the word out about our great major, including Lauren Munyard, our staff advisor for most of the year, Maddie Teixeira, our undergraduate program student assistant, and, of course, Kathy Covey, our departmental administrator.

Our great faculty members have helped in recruiting more honors students to the major as well. Special kudos go out to Dr. Mary Bernstein who reached out to honors students through her Spring 2017 honors course entitled *The Sociology of Law: Global and Comparative Perspectives* and inspired more than a few honors students to choose sociology as their major. We ended the year with **14 honors majors**.

Five of our 2017 graduates were named to Phi Beta Kappa and six graduated as honors scholars.

Throughout the year sociology faculty and staff have been busy in other ways spreading the word about what the discipline of sociology is and why it is so important. We started our year with a welcome back reception in October for our undergraduate majors and minors, where we heard from Department Head Dr. **Manisha Desai** and Associate Head Dr. **Kathryn Strother Ratcliff** about how to make the most out of your sociology major. We are grateful to **Drs. Richard Rockwell** and **Michael Wallace** for representing our major to prospective students and their families at the University Open House and to **Dr. Bradley Wright** for being our featured speaker and to **Dr. Phoebe Godfrey** for helping us to highlight our signature program in sustainability at our Spring Undergraduate Event on Internships in Sociology.

To recognize the accomplishments of our graduates, the department held a reception for them and their families on the day of commencement in May. Faculty members, including **Drs. Desai, Goodstein, Ratcliff, Hughey**, and others came to congratulate their students and share in the delicious food and convivial company. Our students and future students are important to our health as a department, and we are pleased that their attendance at these events show that they appreciate our efforts.

We are in the midst of changes in leadership in the undergraduate program. After three years in the position, **Dr. Lynne Goodstein** is working to turn over the responsibilities as Director of Undergraduate Studies to **Dr. Simon Cheng**. We know that Dr. Cheng will bring fresh ideas and energy to the task of supporting our undergraduate program and its students. Also, **Katie Upson** has recently replaced **Lauren Munyard** as our staff advisor and is already busy advising our new majors during summer orientation. Congratulations, Dr. Cheng and Ms. Upson.

Faculty News

Honors and Awards

Dr. Mary Bernstein received the *2017 Simon and Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award* from the American Sociological Association's Sexualities section.

Dr. Ruth Braunstein received the *2016 Clifford Geertz Best Article Award* from the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Culture section.

Dr. Manisha Desai received the *2017 Faculty Mentor of the Year Award* from the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring: Compact for Faculty Diversity.

Pictured Right:

Graduate student **Chriss Sneed** and advisor **Dr. Manisha Desai** look on as the Master of Ceremony announces her Mentor of the Year Award. (Tampa, Florida; October 2016)



Dr. Matthew Hughey was the winner of several awards this past year. Matthew was awarded the *Helena Znaniecki Lopata Mentoring*



Excellence Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He was the 2016 Winner of the *Outstanding Publication Award* for his 2014 book *White Savior Film: Content Critics, and Consumption* (Temple University) from the Southwest Sociological Association.

Matthew, pictured above second to the left, also received UConn's *2017 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Excellence in Research Award (Social Sciences)*.

Dr. Bandana Purkayastha, pictured right, received the *2016 Contributions to the Field Award* from the American Sociological Association's section on Asia and Asian America for career contributions to research and teaching.



Dr. Ingrid Semaan received the *2016 Stamford Faculty Recognition Award*.

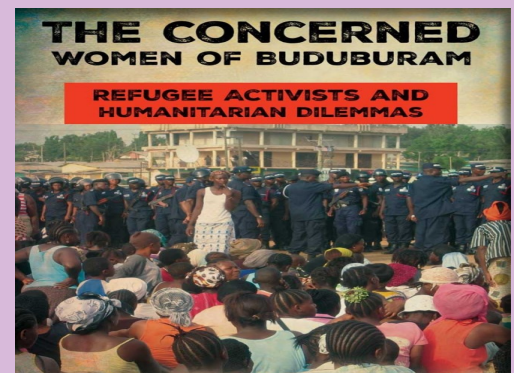
Sociology Professor's Book Receives Recognition

Dr. Elizabeth Holzer's 2015 book *The Concerned Women of Buduburam: Refugee Activists and Humanitarian Dilemmas* (Cornell University) was the winner of three awards:

The **2016 Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award** from the American Sociological Association Human Rights Section

The **2016 Outstanding Book Award** from the American Sociological Association Peace, War and Social Conflict Section

The **Co-Winner** of the **2016 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award** from the American Sociological Association Political Sociology Section



Fellowships and Grants

Dr. Mary Bernstein was received the *CLAS Fund for Innovative Education in Health and Society Award* for her project: "City Guns, Country Guns? Explaining Differences in Gun Violence Prevention Efforts and Outcomes in Urban and Suburban Connecticut."

Dr. Ruth Braunstein was awarded the *Humanities Institute's CLAS Book Support Grant* for *Prophets and Patriots*.

Dr. Manisha Desai was awarded an *American Institute of India Studies Senior Research Fellowship* for 2017-2018 for her project "*From Mathura to Nirbhaya and Beyond: Theory and Praxis in Feminist Organizations Working to End Violence Against Women in Neoliberal India*."

Dr. Phoebe Godfrey, along with UConn colleagues, received the *Academic Plan Tier 1 Award* for "Student Engagement in a Living Laboratory for Sustainable Agriculture." Phoebe is also a Director on another Academic Plan Proposal that has been funded called "Transportation, Technology, & Society."

Dr. Matthew Hughey was awarded the *2017 Public Discourse Project Fellowship* from the Humanities Institute.

Dr. Christin Munsch received a *UConn Research Excellence Program Award* for "Marital Status Discrimination: Evidencing Employment Bias."

Dr. Bandana Purkayastha was the *2016 Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, JNU, India*. Bandana also is part of a team that received a *Global Religion Research Initiative* grant for an international collaboration on everyday religions.

Dr. Daisy Reyes was awarded the CLAS Fund for Interdisciplinary Research Endeavors (FIRE) Research Award for "Campus Activism for Social Justice and Racial Inclusion."

Dr. Andrea Voyer received the *Russell Sage Foundation Project Award* for her project, "The Etiquette of Inequality in Democratic Spaces."

Dr. Bradley Wright was awarded a 3 year Templeton Grant for the study "Transforming the Study of Religion and Spirituality by Promoting the Use of Field Experiments".



Faculty Appointed Visiting Scholars

Dr. Matthew Hughey was a Visiting Scholar in the following programs: Center for Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University, the Postgraduate School at Universiteit Van Die Vrystaat (University of the Free State) in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Matthew continues to be a Research Associate of the Centre for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

During her Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship, **Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** held Visiting Scholar positions at several prestigious universities including University of Hyderabad and Savitribai Phule University of Pune.

Editorships

Dr. David Embrick is the Founding Series Editor of *Sociology of Diversity* (Policy Press; Bristol, UK). David continues his work as Founding Co-Editor of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* (SAGE), the official journal of ASA's Section on Race and Ethnicity; along with his work as Associate Editor of *Social Problems*, the Society for the Study of Social Problems' journal.

Dr. Matthew Hughey is the Editor of the Race and Ethnicity section of *Sociology Compass*. Matthew finished his term as Book Review Editor of *Humanity & Society* in 2017.

Dr. David Weakliem continues as Editor-in-Chief of *Comparative Sociology*.

Guest Editorships

Dr. Mary Bernstein was the Guest Editor of "The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on LGBT Activism, Politics, and Communities," a Special Issue of the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Dr. Manisha Desai was the Guest Editor of "Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies", a Special Issue of *Social Sciences*. Manisha, along with Dr. Rachel Rinaldo, was the Guest Editor of "Gender and Globalization", a Special Issue of *Qualitative Sociology*.

Our faculty serve in other editorial capacities including **Ruth Braunstein** (Ed. Board, *The Immanent Frame*), **Simon Cheng** and **Manisha Desai** (Ed. Board, *American Sociological Review*), **Andrew Deener** (Ed. Board, *Contemporary Sociology*, *City & Community*), **Manisha Desai** (Ed. Board, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*), **Mary Fischer** (*Sociology Compass*—Social Stratification Division), **Matthew Hughey** (Associate Editor, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Advisor Editor, *Social Problems*, Ed. Board, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*), **Nancy Naples** (Ed. Board, *Journal of Poverty*, *Journal of Progressive Human Services*), **Bandana Purkayastha** (Ed. Board, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Journal of South Asian Diasporas*), **Daisy Verduzco Reyes** (Ed. Board, *Sociology of Education*), and **David Weakliem** (Ed. Board, *Sociological Methods & Research*).



Appointments

Dr. Ruth Braunstein has been selected as Chief Operating Officer of ASA's Culture section (2017-2018). Ruthie also served as the Chair of the Shils-Coleman Award for Best Student Paper committee of ASA's Theory section (2017).

Dr. Simon Cheng was invited to serve as a specialist consultant at UConn Statistics Consultant Services (SCS) in 2016, as the only member who is not from the Statistics Department.

Dr. Manisha Desai is the Co-Chair of Sociologists for Women in Society's Publications Committee.

Dr. David Embrick is the 2017-2018 Program Committee Chair of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) annual meeting. David is also the 2018 Program Chair of ASA's annual meeting and served as the 2016-2017 Chair of ASA's Local Arrangements Committee and the International Sociological Association's RC 36 Newsletter Editor (2015-2018).

Dr. Matthew Hughey is the 2017-2018 Co-Chair of Eastern Sociological Society's Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Committee, as well as the Co-Chair of SSSP's Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. Matthew (pictured left) also serves as a 2017 Panelist of the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program.

Dr. Nancy Naples served as Chair of the Nina Fortin Dissertation Proposal Award for the Women's Studies Program at the Graduate Center (CUNY).

Dr. Daisy Reyes has been elected to Council for ASA's Latino/a Sociology section.

UConn Professors Take on National Leadership Positions

Join us in congratulating two faculty members who have been elected to top leadership positions within national organizations.

Dr. David Embrick has been selected as President-Elect of the Association for Humanist Sociology and will serve in this capacity until the end of his term as Past-President in 2019. David will also finish his 2017-2018 term as Vice President of SSSP this upcoming year.

Dr. Daisy Verduzco Reyes was elected the 2017-2018 Secretary of the Sociology of Education Association.



Pictured Above: Dr. David G. Embrick



Pictured Above: Dr. Daisy Verduzco Reyes

University Promotions



Dr. Davita Silfen Glasberg

Named Interim Dean for the
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences



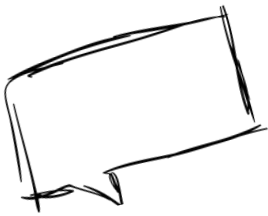
Dr. Jeremy Pais

Awarded tenure and promoted to
Associate Professor



Dr. Ingrid Semaan

Promoted to
Associate Professor in Residence



Invited Talks

International

Dr. Simon Cheng gave a presentation entitled "From American Experiences to Chinese Experiences: Examining Adolescents' Internet Safety Issues from a Family Perspective" for the Protecting Children & Youth Online Workshop hosted by Internet Society of China and China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center (Beijing, China) on 9/20/2016. Simon also gave another presentation on September 21st entitled "Too Much of a Good Thing: Parenting, Overparenting, and Student Outcomes."

Dr. Manisha Desai was the plenary speaker for "Global Movement Assemblages: Continuities, Differences, and Connectivities" at Brock University. Manisha was also the Chair of "Intersectionalities of Power in Research: Strategies for Action and Justice" at the Third ISA Forum in Austria; along with the speaker at Graz International Summer School Seggau in Austria where she gave the talk "Transitions in Transnational Feminisms."

Dr. David Embrick was the 2017 Keynote Speaker at the EEOC Annual Technical Assistance Program sponsored by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission & the American Bar Association held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. His speech was entitled "Diversity, Diversity Ideology, and Implicit Bias: Why Structure Matters."

Dr. Matthew Hughey gave a three-part lecture at University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa entitled "The Ethics of Race, Social Science, and the American (and Global) Imagination)." He also gave a talk entitled "American Sociology, Race Theory, and Where We're (not) Doing," for the Race and Rights Reading Group at University of Nottingham in Nottingham, England.

Dr. Andrea Voyer gave a talk entitled "Postcoloniality, the Civil Sphere, and the Outsider Within" at the Culture Matters Symposium on Culture and Ethnography at Uppsala University in May 2017.

National

Dr. Simon Cheng was invited to give a talk entitled "Getting Started Using Stata for Statistics Consultant Services" at UConn.

Dr. Manisha Desai was the presenter at the "Spaces of Neoliberal Contention" workshop at Rutgers University in April, a panelist for the Producing Inclusive Knowledge: Voices from the Global South," session at SWS in February, along with a panelist at the "Women in Career" event organized by USG at UCONN in March and the moderator of the "Feminism and Academia" panel organized by GEU-UAW 6960's Women's Committee.

Dr. David Embrick was the invited speaker for over 15 events including "Decolonising the Social: A Jr. Scholar's Workshop" at Boston University in May; a plenary discussant for the "New Directions in Critical Race" at the New Directions in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Conference in April at University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and others at University of California, Merced; the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Exposition; Wichita State University; Brown University; University of Illinois at Chicago; Arkansas Tech University; University of Oklahoma; Duke University; University of Southern Florida; University of Central Florida; and UConn.

Dr. Matthew Hughey gave a lecture entitled "White Savior Films: The Content of the Characters" at the Critical Race Initiative and the Parren Mitchell Symposium held at University of Maryland, College Park, along other talks at Reed College; University of Cincinnati; the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting; Portland State University; University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; SUNY Stony Brook; Columbia University; and more.

Dr. Jeremy Pais was invited to give a lecture entitled "Urban Inequality: Longitudinal, Multilevel, and Spatial Approaches" at Brown University sponsored by the Population Studies and Training Center.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, **Dr. Daisy Reyes** gave talks at the Center for Research on Educational Opportunity at University of Notre Dame and at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

Administrative Changes in the Department



Simon Cheng | Photo by Peter Morenus / UCONN



David Weakliem



Kathryn Upson

Dr. Simon Cheng will serve as the next Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Dr. David Weakliem will serve as the next Associate Head of the Sociology Department.

Both were unanimously voted by the faculty to serve in those positions.

Katie Upson is now serving as our department's new Academic Advisor.

Passing the Torch

After 30 years of service at our Waterbury Campus, **Dr. Susan Eisenhandler** retired at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Lynne Goodstein has finished her term as Director of Undergraduate Studies within the Sociology Department. Under her leadership, we have seen a growth in majors and minors, along with many innovative programs and events. Join us in congratulating Lynne for years of excellent service.

Arlene Goodwin left this Spring, after completing over twenty years of service in the department.

Dr. Kathryn Ratcliff will be stepping down as Associate Head of the Sociology Department. By **Dr. Davita Glasberg** reflects:

Kay was indispensable to me when I was Department Head for seven years. I appointed her as Associate Head and Scheduler, and she was without hesitation the best choice! Her meticulous attention to detail, strong organizational skill, and ability to keep many moving parts in focus while juggling complicated schedules never ceased to amaze me. She was the initiator in developing the Programming Committee, composed of the Department Head, the Associate Head/Scheduler, Director of Graduate Studies and Director of Undergraduate Studies, along with the Program Assistant, to review the staffing plans every semester; this is an institutional structure that remains in place today, and for every good reason. Having this focused set of eyes on the proposed schedules always produced a well-balanced schedule serving everyone's needs. I can't thank her enough for her fantastic skills, her good cheer and professional sensibilities, and her friendship. She has served the department so well for so many years, and she has remained a great colleague and more importantly a great friend...even after I moved over to the Dark Side of administration!

Best of luck, Kay, and thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Davita Glasberg

International Collaborations

Transnational Scholarship & Praxis

Dr. Manisha Desai was the organizer of "Precarity and Gender in an Era of Neoliberal Globalization." a session of the Third ISA Forum of Sociology in Vienna, Austria this past July. She was also the Co-Organizer of the ISA session "Twenty Years After Beijing: A Cross-National Approach to Feminist Movements and Implementation of the Platform for Action."

As Co-Principle Investigator of the NSF funded research project "Taming Water in Ethiopia", **Dr. Elizabeth Holzer** will be traveling to Ethiopia with her research assistants over the next five years. Liz, along with several graduate students have been learning Amharic for the past year.

Dr. Matthew Hughey was named a 2017-2018 Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Warwick University, United Kingdom.

In her capacity as ASA's Representative to ISA, **Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** organized, introduced, and commented on the following ASA-ISA Special Sessions in Seattle last August:



*Pictured Above: Margaret Abraham, ASA Executive Officer
Sally Hillsman (center) , and
Bandana Purkayastha*

"Whose Knowledge? Who Benefits?" with panelists: Sujata Patel, University of Hyderabad, India; Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney; **Bandana Purkayastha**; and Vrushali Patil, Florida International University

"Movements Matter: Connecting the Local and Global in Addressing Violence Against Women" with panelists: Yakin Er-turk, Former Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, UN & Professor (Emeritus) METU, Turkey; Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, President, ISA; and Elanor Lyon, University of Connecticut, Winner of the 2015 ASA award for Distinguished Contributions for the Practice of Sociology.

Bandana also reviewed a major grant for Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (as a global expert on gender and human rights). After being invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to serve as an expert on a committee to shape WHO'S initiatives for female migrants for 2016-2017, she also reviewed several iterations of WHO's position paper and report on Female Migrants and Human Right to Health.



*Pictured Above: Vrushali Patil, Bandana Purkayastha,
Margaret Abraham and Raewyn Connell*

Fulbright Winner Represents UConn Sociology Across the Globe



As noted in last year's newsletter, **Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** was awarded the 2017 Fulbright Nehru Award until July 2017. She is working on her project "Water, Inequalities, and Rights." Read a short note from Bandana about her work below.

I spent several months in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, India last semester as a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies. During my stay in India I gave invited talks at Calcutta University, Jadavpore University (both in Kolkata), Jamia Milia University, JNU (both in New Delhi), University of Hyderabad, Savitribai Phule University of Pune, Tata Institute for Social Science (TISS-Hyderabad), as well as Centre for Social Development (Hyderabad) and the American Center in Kolkata. Her talks focused on the themes of migrants and human security, the Indian diaspora in the US, and water, inequalities, and rights.

I also completed a special issue for Current Sociology on Migration and Human Security drawing upon scholarly conversations from different parts of the world. This special issue addresses some of the persistent knowledge hierarchies between the Global North and South (in spite of a significant corpus of scholarship on migration in different countries) as well as the fragmentation in the field. Intersectionality, within a global context traversing tangible geographic and virtual spaces shape the contours of the scholarship from India, Pakistan, Japan, Taiwan, South Africa, UAE, UK, and the United States.

- Bandana Purkayastha



Research Across Borders

While completing her Fulbright Nehru research, **Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** was invited to organize and present a number of talks:

Bandana was the plenary speaker for the representatives of the national sociological associations as the ASA-ISA representative for the session "Whose Voice? Whose Silence? Reflections on the Structures of Contemporary Worlds" at the Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan.

On June 14th, she was invited to speak in Hong Kong about "Contemporary Global Challenges through a Transnational Feminist Lens."

Bandana was a panelist within the session "Global Social Theory" with Raewyn Connell of Australia and Manuela Boatca of Germany at University of Hyderabad on April 13th, 2017. This was a part of an international scholarly colloquia on global social theory.

Additionally, she chaired three sessions at different conferences, along with the release of the Indian Report on Gender, Violence, and Family Law—a part of a global series organized by Turkish Sociologist Yakin Erturk.

Bandana shared her research and expertise in a number of forums across India during the 2016-2017 academic year. These invited presentations were held in top national^{*} and regional^{**} universities in different regions of India:**

*September 22, 2016: "Decolonizing Methodologies" at University of Calcutta^{**}.*

*October 3, 2016: "Interrogating Gender and Intersectionality: 21st Century Reflection" at Jadavpur University^{**} (Kolkata)*

*November 2, 2016: "Migrants and Human Security: Which Migrants? Whose Security?" Bhowanipur Education Society^{**} (Kolkata)*

*November 3 & 4, 2016: "Ethnicity: Negotiations and Resistances; Migrants and Human Security: Contemporary Issues" Indian Institute of Technology^{***} Kanpur)*

*November 7, 2016: Panelist with Professor Asha Mukherjee —Philosophy, Santiniketan for "Women and Religion" at Jamia Milia University^{**} (Delhi)*

*November 8 & 10 2016: JNU Institute for Advanced Studies Fellow's Talk "Water, Inequalities, Rights; Human Security: Theoretical Dilemmas, Methodological Challenges" at Jawaharlal Nehru University^{***} (New Delhi India)*

*February 22, 2017: "The Indian Diaspora in the US and Questions of Belonging" hosted by the Department of Sociology and Center for Advanced Studies^{**} at Savitribai Phule University of Pune^{**} (Pune)*

*March 3, 2017: Panelist with Suchorita Sen— Director, SACI Waters and Jasveen Jairath, SOUL, for the "Water, Inequalities and Rights: Some Methodological Issues" workshop organized by Regional Studies^{***} at University of Hyderabad^{***} (Hyderabad)*

March 5, 2017: "Water, Inequalities and Rights: Research Updates" at the Fulbright Conference in Kolkata

March 15, 2017: "Intersectionality: Which Boundaries? Which Context?" at Center for Social Development. This presentation was widely reported in the mainstream press.

*March 17, 2017: "Intersectionality in the 21st Century" at Tata Institute for Social Sciences-Hyderabad^{***} (Hyderabad)*

March 23, 2017: "Water, Inequality & Rights: Voices within Households" workshop for World Water Day by South Asian Consortium of Researchers and Policy Makers on Water (SACI)

March 29, 2017: "Migrants and Human Security: Contemporary Conversations, Continuing Questions." hosted by the Department of Sociology at University of Hyderabad (Hyderabad)

June 7th, 2017. "The Indian Diaspora in the US", introduced by the Consul General, Craig Hall at the American Center (Kolkata)



Publications

* Indicates UConn Alum

Books

- Braunstein, Ruth.** 2017. *Prophets and Patriots: Faith in Democracy Across the Political Divide.* University of California Press.
- Braunstein, Ruth,** Todd Nicholas Fuist and Rhys H. Williams, Eds. 2017. *Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories about Faith and Politics.* NYU Press.
- Cazenave, Noel A.** 2016 *Conceptualizing Racism: Breaking the Chains of Racially Accommodative Language.* Rowman and Littlefield.
- Ratcliff, Kathryn Strother.** 2017. *The Social Determinants of Health: Looking Upstream.* Polity Press.
- Henricks, Kasey, and **David G. Embrick.** 2017. *State Looteries: Historical Continuity, Rearticulations of Racism, and American Taxation.* Routledge.
- Godfrey, Phoebe** and D. Torres (eds). 2016. *Emergent Possibilities for Global Sustainability: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender.* Routledge.
- Naples, Nancy A** (ed). 2016. *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexualities Studies* (5 volumes). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Weakliem, David.** 2016. *Hypothesis Testing and Model Selection in the Social Sciences.* The Guilford Press.

Articles

- Braunstein, Ruth** and **Malaena Taylor.** 2017. "Is the Tea Party a "Religious" Movement? Religiosity in the Tea Party versus the Religious Right." *Sociology of Religion.* 78(1): 33-59
- Powell, Brian, Laura Hamilton, Bianca Manago, and **Simon Cheng.** 2016. "Implications of Changing Family Forms for Children." *Annual Review of Sociology.* 42: 301-322.
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- Naples, Nancy A.** 2017. "Women, Gender and Politics: An International Overview." Special Issue of *Social Science*
- Naples, Nancy A.** 2017 "Praxis: Theory in Action Series." Book Series of *SUNY Press*

Book Chapters

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- Desai, Manisha.** 2017. "Exploring the Persistence of Gendered Geographies of Global Justice Movements" in *Social Movements and World System Transformation* edited by Jackie Smith, Michael Goodhart, Patrick Manning, and John Markoff. Paradigm Publishers. 121-131
- Desai, Manisha.** 2016. "Gendering Democracy: Insights from Four Decades of Feminist Activism in India" In *Democratizing Indian Democracy? Social Movements and the State in Contemporary India* edited by Kenneth Bo Nielsen and Alf Gunvald Nilsen. Palgrave MacMillan. 93-114
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Gonzalez-Sobrin, Bianca. 2016. REVIEW: *It's Been Beautiful: Soul! And Black Power Television* by G. Wald. *Ethnic and Racial Studies Review*

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Jackson, Carol Ann and Matthew W. Hughey. 2016. REVIEW: *Mythologizing Black Women: Unveiling White Men's Deep Frame on Race and Gender* by B. Slatton. *Critical Sociology.* 42(6): 923-925

Lesser, Emma and **Matthew W. Hughey**. 2016. REVIEW: *Getting Away with Murder: The Twentieth-Century Struggle for Civil Rights in the U.S. Senate* by V. A. Holloway. *Ethnic and Racial Studies Review*. 39(3): 522-524

Lesser, Emma and **Matthew W. Hughey**. 2016. REVIEW: *Black Masculinity in the Obama Era* by W. Hoston. *The Social Science Journal*. 53(3): 382-83

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Rosino, Michael L. 2016. REVIEW: *The Race Whisperer: Barack Obama and the Political Uses of Race* by M. T. Price. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

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Rosino, Michael L. and **Matthew W. Hughey**. 2016. REVIEW: *The Struggle for Black Freedom in Miami Civil Rights and Americas Tourist Paradise, 1896-1968* by C. N. Rose. *Ethnic and Racial Studies Review*. 39(8): 1536-1538

Voyer, Andrea. 2016. REVIEW: *Elusive Jannah: The Somali Diaspora and a Borderless Muslim Identity* by C. M. Abdi. *Contemporary Sociology*. 45(6): 708-709.

Voyer, Andrea. 2016. REVIEW: *How Chinese are You: Adopted Chinese Youth and their Families Negotiate Identity and Culture* by A. Louie. *Contemporary Sociology*. 45(6):

Other Publication News

Wendy M. Laybourn and graduate student **Devon R. Goss's** book *Diversity in Black Greek-Letter Organizations: Breaking the Line* is currently under contract with *Routledge*.

Graduate student **Abbey Willis** was the Editor of "All About Attraction and Safe Dating Workbook: A Workbook on Positive Relationships for Adults with Developmental Disabilities" produced by *The Center for Relationship & Sexuality Education*, a program in Oak Hill, Hartford CT.

Dr. David Embrick's 2015 article "Two Nations, Revisited: The Lynching of Black and Brown Bodies, Police Brutality, and Racial Control in 'Post-Racial' Amerikkka" published in *Critical Sociology* was reprinted in *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective* (2016) edited by Michelle Inderbitzin, Kristin A. Bates, and Randy R. Gainey—*SAGE*.

Dr. David Embrick and Kasey Henricks' 2013 article "Discursive Colorlines at Work: How Epithets and Stereotypes are Racially Unequal" published in *Symbolic Interaction* was reprinted in *(Un)Making Race and Ethnicity* (2017) edited by Michael O. Emerson, Jenifer L. Bratter, and Sergio Chavez—*Oxford University Press*.

Dr. Andrea Voyer's 2015 article "Multiculturalism as the Normative Context of Immigrant Reception" published in *Journal of Intercultural Studies* was reprinted in *National Identity in an Age of Migration: The US Experience* (2016) edited by Peter Kivisto—*Routledge*.

Sociologists in the Media

Dr. Ruth Braunstein was the editor and author of the introductory chapter of the 2016 series “The Politics of National Identity,” of the Immanent Frame blog, which had contributions from Mucahit Bilici, Rogers Brubaker, Philip Gorski, Peggy Levitt and Geneviève Zubrzycki.

Drs. Brunisma, **David G. Embrick**, and James T. Thomas’s 2016 essay “Campuses as Racial Utopias? It Depends Who You Ask” was published in *Inside Higher Ed* on August 25, 2016. Available at:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/08/25/college-leaders-often-deny-racial-tensions-their-own-institutions-essay>

David’s September 6th article “College Leaders Think Race Relations Suck—Except on Their Campuses: Are Commitments to ‘diversity’ and ‘inclusion’ Just a Way of Downplaying Campus Tensions?” was also reprinted in *Slate* on September 9th, 2016. Available at:

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/inside_higher_ed/2016/09/college_leaders_say_race_relations_on_their_campuses_are_just_fine.html

On March 1st, 2017, Graduate student **Rhys Hall** was a radio show guest for *The Motivational Jump Start with Michael Mallary* for the broadcast “What’s Going on in Hip Hop: A Millennial Perspective.”

Dr. Matthew W. Hughey, Menaka Kannan, and graduate student **Rhys Hall**’s article “Watching Moonlight in the Twilight of Obama” was published in *The Huffington Post* in February 2017.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/watching-moonlight-in-the-twilight-of-obama_us_58a72816e4b0fa149f9ac4fb

Matthew has been featured in a number of media platforms including *The Huffington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, the *Hartford Courant*, *Fox News*, *NTN24 Nuestra Tele Noticias*, *Salon.com*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsweek Europe*, the *Stamford Advocate*, *the Root*, and *WNPR*. Some of these features are available at:

<http://www.ozy.com/acumen/how-being-a-news-junkie-makes-you-racist/78611>

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2017/05/nazi_principal_monuments.html

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/movies/ct-burning-sands-frat-violence-mov-0428-20170425-story.html>

<http://www.theroot.com/does-a-black-face-in-a-white-place-count-as-progress-at-1794740141>

Dr. Daisy Verduzco Reyes’s 2016 essay “Echoes of Students Mobilizing for Visibility and Integration on College Campuses” was published in the Newsletter of ASA’s Latino Sociology section.

Dr. Andrea Voyer was invited to publish the 2016 essay “A Cultural Sociology of Social Inequality” in the Newsletter of ASA’s Culture section.

Dr. Bradley Wright was featured on a number of forums like Christianity Today, where he discussed research stemming from his SOULPULSE study for “Can You Control Yourself? New Research on Willpower and Self-Control” (which was the May cover story); 94.1FM Hartford, where he gave a radio interview on my research on self-control; and finally UConn Today, where his speech at the Graduate Student Council Research Forum for the UConn College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources” was featured.

Public Sociology

Dr. Phoebe Godfrey organized a talk by author and food justice activist Mark Winne at CLiCK, co-sponsored by The UCONN Office of Public Engagement.

Graduate student **Rhys Hall** gave several talks this spring. He, along with undergraduate student Kyle Harrington, facilitated a discussion with author Jessie Luther for "Beyond the Field" on May 20th, 2017. This was a conversation on issues relating to Rape in Sports at the Dodd Center and was done in collaboration with UConn's Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP). Rhys was the host of a discussion with activist and former NFL Player Wade Davis about Masculinity on April 18th, 2017 at the Student Union.

Dr. Matthew Hughey provided Expert Witness Reporting for the racial discrimination/Civil Rights case "Thomas v. Stamford, Buzzel, and Degnan."

Dr. Jeremy Pais was contacted to discuss the merits of the "Charter Oak Communities is Developing Dovetail: Social Innovation Platform (SIP)" action program based out of Stamford, Connecticut.

Dr. Bandana Purkayastha continues her work as an Executive Committee Member of the Intersectional Research Initiative through Wake Forest University. This is a national network of researchers and practitioners originally started through an initiative of President Obama's White House Initiative on Research on Women and Girls of Color.



Pictured Above: Rhys Hall & Wade Davis

Dr. Kathryn Strother Ratcliff continues her work as President, Board of Directors, of Eastern AHEC.

Graduate student **Chriss Sneed** was invited to give a workshop on "Research Paper Design: Gender & Sexuality Studies" for the True Color's Queer Academy, an annual program sponsored by the Rainbow Center this past August.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

In conjunction with his SOCI 1251 Social Problems: Social Problems in American Capitalism course, **Dr. Michael Wallace** organized a weekly video series titled "Re-Imagining American Society: A Documentary video Series", which was also open to the wider UConn Community. Each video was followed by a short discussion.

Re-Imagining American Society: A Documentary Film Series Schedule

Wednesday 8-31	"The Civilian Conservation Corps"
Wednesday 9-7	"Capitalism: A Love Story"
Wednesday 9-14	"Gasland: Can You Light Your Water on Fire?"
Wednesday 9-21	"Who Killed the Electric Car?"
Monday 9-26	"Sick Around the World"
Wednesday 10-5	"We All Fall Down: The American Mortgage Crisis"
Wednesday 10-12	"Inequality for All"
Wednesday 10-19	"Two American Families"
Wednesday 10-26	"Freedom Summer"
Monday 10-31	"She's Beautiful When She's Angry"
Wednesday 11-9	"Struggle: Voter Suppression in Ohio"
Wednesday 11-16	"Citizen Koch"
Wednesday 11-30	"Dirty Wars"
Wednesday 12-7	"We Are Wisconsin"

Conferences & Workshops

Through “Religious Conviction and Intellectual Humility in Public Life”, Professor Highlights Complexities of Public Discourse



REGISTER by 4/16/2017

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

RELIGIOUS CONVICTION & INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

April 21-22, 2017

UConn Humanities Institute, Homer Babbidge Library, 4th Floor

In the context of public debates about issues of public concern and controversy, are religious conviction and humility at odds with one another? This interdisciplinary conference brings together scholars studying a range of religious actors who are engaged in public life in order to consider the complex relationship between religious conviction, intellectual humility and constructive public discourse.

KEYNOTE Friday, April 21 4:00pm - 5:30pm

José Casanova, Georgetown University
Religious Conviction and Intellectual Humility in Public Life: Socio-Theological Reflections

Speakers:

- Michele Dillon, University of New Hampshire
Humility Required: Public Conviction with Francis
- Korie L. Edwards, The Ohio State University
Fortifying Communities: How Religious Leaders of Race and Ethnicity Challenge Congregations Work to Build Places of Inclusion
- Philip Gorski, Yale University
Restoring the Face/Vision: Thoughts on a Post-Plinian Ethics for the Social Sciences
- Jeffrey Guhin, University of California, Los Angeles
The Problem with "Just a Theory": Creationism, Climate Change, and the Distance Between Certainty and Action
- John Hartley, Yale University
Revealed Intellectual Humility in Exemplary Struggles over Relations with Muslims and Islam
- Andrew March, Yale University
Engaging Doubt? The Question of Radical Religious Pluralism in Islamic Thought
- Wes Markofski, Carleton College
American Evangelicalism: Social Hypocrisy, and Intellectual Humility in Public Life
- Dawne Moon, Marquette University
Is Humility or Obedience with Social Justice?
- Anthony Petro, Boston University
From Pluralism to Abolitionism in Public Conviction: The U.S. Civil War, Bishop, LGBT Rights, and the Politics of Religious Freedom
- Richard L. Wood, University of New Mexico
Plurality and Virtue in Public Life, or A Sociological View of the Political Plurality of the World
- Grace Yukich, Quinnipiac University
Pluralistic Humility: Social Justice and Humility in American Buddhist Activism

Conference Organizer: Ruth Braunstein
ruth.braunstein@uconn.edu

For a detailed schedule and to register for this workshop, see www.humilityandconviction.uconn.edu

JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION **HUMILITY AND CONVICTION** **UConn HUMANITIES INSTITUTE**

On April 21-22, 2017, **Dr. Ruth Braunstein** organized a conference on "Religious Conviction and Intellectual Humility in Public Life," which brought an interdisciplinary group of scholars to the UConn Humanities Institute in order to consider the complex relationship between religious conviction, intellectual humility and constructive public discourse. Drawing on empirical research as well as political and social theory, philosophy, and theology; and understanding that religion takes many forms and is "lived" in myriad ways, speakers explored variation in how these dynamics play out across different groups of religious actors, public settings and political issue areas. Participants collectively considered how a more nuanced understanding of how this works in practice could be used to inform ongoing theoretical discussions about the roles of religious conviction and intellectual humility in public life, and ongoing practical discussions about how citizens can more effectively engage with one another across religious and political differences.



The conference featured a keynote address by José Casanova (Georgetown University), as well as two days of talks by leading scholars of religion and public life, including Michele Dillon (University of New Hampshire), Korie L. Edwards (The Ohio State University), Philip Gorski (Yale University), Jeffrey Guhin (University of California, Los Angeles), John Hartley (Yale University), Andrew March (Yale University), Wes Markofski (Carleton College), Dawne Moon (Marquette University), Anthony Petro (Boston University), Richard L. Wood (University of New Mexico), and Grace Yukich (Quinnipiac University). UConn Sociology graduate student **Amy Lawton** participated in the conference and assisted with its organization.

The conference was organized under the auspices of the UConn Humanities Institute's Humility and Conviction in Public Life Project, which received a \$5.75 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to support this work.



More information is available at:

<http://humilityandconviction.uconn.edu/events-2/workshops/religious-conviction-intellectual-humility/>.

Presentations and Session Organizing

Our faculty (and graduate students) were active in several professional organizations and conferences including the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, the Eastern Sociological Society, the Southern Sociological Society, the Association for Humanist Sociology, the International Sociological Association, the Association of American Geographers, the National Women Studies Association, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, the Social Theory Forum, Left Form, the Law and Society Association, the Population Association of America, the American Psychological Association, the Southwestern Social Science Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems; along with many others.

Dr. Ingrid Semaan was the co-organizer of the annual meeting of the Coalition of Women's Studies & Women's Centers in Connecticut and Rhode Island Annual Meeting held on March 24th, 2017. She was also the facilitator of the session "Re-Imaging Campus Activism & Experiential Education."

Graduate Student Organizes Second Annual Borderlands Symposium

With generous support from the UConn Humanities Institute, El Instituto, the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute, the American Studies Program, the Department of Sociology, and the Graduate Students of Color Association, *Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium* took place for the second time April 21st and 22nd, 2017. The conference featured the work of over 30 scholars, bringing together voices from more than eight universities and disciplines. In addition to individual research talks, the conference featured two film screenings, and a keynote by Dr. Margot Weiss, Chair of the Anthropology Department at Wesleyan University. In total, more than 120 people attended the two-day event that took place inside of Lauren Hall and four cultural centers on campus: African American Cultural Center, Asian American Cultural Center, Rainbow Center, and Women's Center.



Leadership: **Chriss Sneed** was the lead organizer of the conference, with much help from the *Borderlands* Organizing Committee; which consisted of the following graduate students: Sasha Davis (Education Policy), Monique Golden (Education Leadership), Cynthia Melendez (El Instituto), Lauren Perez-Bonilla (El Instituto), Gayatri Phadke (Chemistry), and **Kevin Zevallos** (Sociology).

Several UConn Sociology graduate students participated in the conference. **Stuart Riepl** and **Kevin Zevallos** served as Session Moderators. **Chriss Sneed**, **Rhys Hall**, **Zachary Kline**, and **Michael Rosino** were among the presenters at the conference.

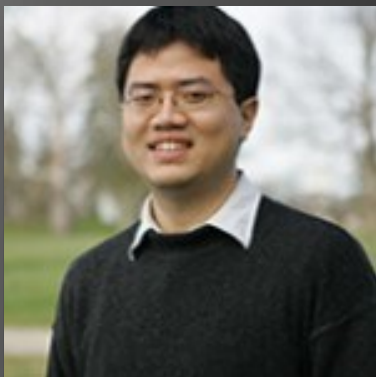


Inside the Graduate Program

Two Graduate Students Receive Prestigious Pre- & Post-Doctoral Fellowships



Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino has been awarded the *2017-2018 Jackie McLean Fellowship* from the University of Hartford. Bianca will be a Visiting Scholar and receive fiscal sponsorship for one academic year.



Josef (Kuo-hsun) Ma has been named a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Josef also was awarded the *Chiang Ching-kuo Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship* (\$18,000) this past fall.

Fellowships & Grants

Koyel Khan received the *2017 Hira Jain Scholarship* from the Asian and Asian American Studies Program.

Kathleen Ragon received a *Sociology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship*.

Michael Rosino was awarded the *Lee Student Support Fund Travel Grant* from SSSP.

Chriss Sneed was awarded a *UConn Humanities Institute (UCHI) Conference Funding Grant* for *Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium*. Chriss was also awarded a *Working Group Grant* from El Instituto for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Abbey Willis was awarded a *Eastern Sociological Society 2017 Travel Grant*.

Adane Zawdu received research grant from the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at UConn.

2017 Human Rights Institute Graduate Research Grants

Caner Hazar

Todd Vachon

2016-2017 UConn Dissertation Fellowships

Jordan Rees

Michael Rosino

Qiong (Miranda) Wu

Sociology Graduate-Undergraduate Research Team Grants

Jordan Rees (with Jared Delane)

Michael Rosino (with Fatuma Belly)

Malaena Taylor (with Alexander Karl)

Kamryn Warren (with Jillian Rastinejad)

Milestones Achieved

PhD

Por-fu Aspen Chen: *The Early Academic Growth of Children of U.S. Immigrants: A Longitudinal Analysis*

Allen Hyde: *Neoliberalism, Finance, and Income Inequality: An Examination of Affluent Capitalist Democracies*

Josef (Kuo-hsun) Ma: *The Inequality of Digital Learning among Students in Rich and Poor Countries*

Kristine Olsen: *Negotiating Success: Organizational Continuity and Decline in the Movement for Same-Sex Marriage.*

Completed Area Exams & Achieved Candidacy

Ordoitz Galilea

Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino

Cristina Khan

Kathleen Ragon

Caner Hazar received the *2017 Susan Porter Benson Graduate Research Paper Award*. Caner was also given the *Davis Educational Foundation Open Educational Resources Course Redesign Award*, along with a *2017 Open Educational Resources Appreciation Certificate*.

Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino won the *2017 Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award* from the Eastern Sociological Society. Bianca also received the *Dean Ross MacKinnon Endowment for CLAS Graduate Fellows Award*.



Pictured Above: Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino receiving the Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award from Dr. Willie (center) and from the committee chair Dr. Pavan Dhingra of Tufts University (Left).

MA

Jordan Moses (Plan B)

Matthew Rogers: *'Vidya Games are for Nerds like Us': Identity Deployment in the GamerGate Controversy.*

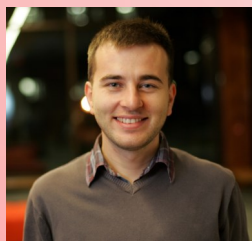
Chriss Sneed: *Black Queer Feminist Thought: Theory and Praxis in a Community-Based Movement Organization.*

Jessica Yorks: *Beyond Economics: The Effects of Religion, Migration and Women's Education on Nonmarital Fertility in Poor Counties*

Completed Graduate Certificates

Chriss Sneed—Feminist Studies Certificate

Honors & Awards



Several graduate students received the *2017 Recognition for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching* from Office of the Provost, including **Ordoitz Galilea** and **Michael Rosino**.

Chriss Sneed was given the *2017 Excellence in Graduate Teaching in Women's Studies Award* from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.



Invited Talks & Lectures



Caner Hazer gave the lecture 'Using Open Educational Resources in Undergraduate Courses' at UConn on April 13, 2017.

Carol Ann Jackson was invited to give the talk "Strengthen She, Solidify We" at the Bridgeport Rally in Peace, Each One Teach One at Bridgeport Public Library.

Cristina Khan was invited to give the lecture "Professionalism and Racialized Embodiment" for the Graduate Diversity Fellowship Lecture Series at University of Maryland, Baltimore MD.

Kathleen Ragon was asked to speak at the Brain Injury Alliance of CT Support Group on UConn's Storrs Campus about the practical aspects of making social and legislative change for people with Traumatic Brain Injury on September 19, 2016.

Chriss Sneed was the invited discussant of the Political Theory Workshop on Dr. Alexandra Moffet-Bafaeu's research "The Social Networks of Black Women: Neighborhood Violence and the Development of Political Identity" in March 2017. Chriss also spoke on the panel "Feminism and Academia" organized by GEU-UAW Local 6850 Women's Committee.

Rhys Hall was the invited Moderator and Guest Panelist for the 2017 Ronald E. McNair Scholars Conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. Rhys was also a guest panelist for the Workshop on Scholar Activism, as part of the '30 Days of Black Feminist Thoughts' series at the University of Maryland, College on November 18th, 2016. Rhys also was invited to speak on the Graduate School Experiences panel at the SchOLA2RS House Living Learning Community on October 7th, 2016.

Kamryn Warren was invited to give the talk "Bhutanese Refugees Navigating Encampment Exile and Resettlement" in March at Holy Cross and another invited lecture for the Fulbright Foundation next week in D.C. titled "Mental Health and Well Being While Researching Abroad."

Kevin Zevallos was a panelist on "Imposter Syndrome in Graduate School" for a program organized by the Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion at Connecticut College in November 2016. Kevin also was the invited speaker for "The First Year Experience in Graduate School" lecture for LLAS 2001: Latin@s, Mentoring, and Leadership class at UConn. He also was a panelist for "Latinx Experiences in Graduate School" program organized by the Graduate Organization of Latinx Students at UConn.

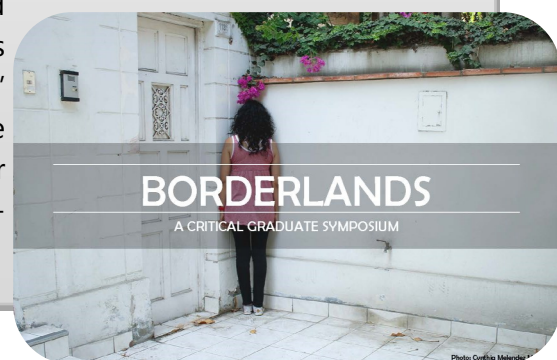
Session & Panel Moderation Organization

Josef (Kuo-hsun) Ma gave a series of lectures for the program Research for Social Work at Eastern Connecticut State University in November. In January, Josef was the lead lecturer for the Column Binary Data Workshop at The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research in Cornell University.

Michael Rosino was the session organizing of "Racial Politics, Law, and the State" at the 12th Social Theory Forum in Boston.

Chriss Sneed was the moderator of "The End of Human Rights? Critical Inquires & 'the Other'" at *Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium*.

Kevin Zevallos was the moderator of two sessions, "[Un]equal Playing Fields within Education" and "Decoloniality in Praxis: Towards Reflexive Healing Methodologies" for *Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium*. He also co-organizer and presider for the Eastern Sociological Society in February 2017.



Presentations

Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrin, "Construction of the "Threat": Media Portrayals of Puerto Rican Immigration, 2000-2015." Eastern Sociological Society. Philadelphia, PA.

Rhys Hall, "Insidious Lives of the Felonious Felines: Human Rights Violations in the Black Panther Party" Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium. UConn, Storrs.

Cristina Khan, "Negotiations of Identity and Embodiment through Language." After Marriage Conference by CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies.

Josef (Kuo-hsun) Ma, Todd Vachon, and Simon Cheng, "Can National Investments Reduce the Second Digital Divide among Middle-School Students? A Comparative Analysis across 55 Countries." North American Chinese Sociologist Association.

Kathleen Ragon, Panel, "Women's Leadership in Labor" panel at the UConn Women's Advance Conference.

Kathleen Ragon and Ordoitz Galilea: "'Taking Care': Organizational Responses to Sexual Harassment in Public Festivals and Higher Education." Eastern Sociological Society Meeting. Philadelphia PA.

Jordan Rees and Michael Wallace. "Gender, Marriage, and Higher Education: Conservative Christian Fundamentalism and Income in The U.S. 1994-2016." Southern Sociological Society. Greenville, SC.

Jordan Rees and Michael Wallace. 'That the Word of God Be Not Blasphemed': Biblical Literalism and Workers' Income in Contemporary America." Southern Sociological Society.

Michael Rosino, "'A Problem of Humanity': The Human Rights Framework and the Struggle for Racial Justice." Borderlands Research Symposium, University of Connecticut.

Michael Rosino, "From Ideology to Identity: Racial Meanings in the 'War on Drugs' Debate," Social Theory Forum

Chriss Sneed, "Ga(y)tekeeping Identity & Claims to Justice: 'Gay' Marriage and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." After Marriage Conference by CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies.

Chriss Sneed, "Identities to the Front!: Screening of 'Voices – Vol. 1' & Discussion." A Critical Graduate Symposium.

Chriss Sneed, Panel, "In the Name of Progress™ ? Contesting Unequal Landscapes within the Academy." Sociologists for Women in Society.

Michael Wallace, Todd Vachon, and Allen Hyde. "Political Party Control, Union Strength, and Neoliberalism: Accounting for Rising Income Inequality across the 50 U.S. States since 1950." Southern Sociological Society.

Abbey Willis, "Undoing the Reasonable Middle." Eastern Sociological Society Conference.

Abbey Willis, "Multi-Sites of Power, Kinship Patterns, and State Theory." Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference.

Adane Zawdu with Sarah Willen, "Immigration and The Changing Ground for Jewish Nativity in Israel" (w/Sarah Willen). Association for Israel Studies.

Adane Zawdu, "Negotiating Biblical Notions of Impurity In Contemporary Israel." Annual Meeting of Afro-Jewish Studies.

Service on Campus & in Professional Organizations

Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrin is an Editorial Board Member of *Sociology Compass*. Bianca is also the Student Representative of ASA's Racial and Ethnic Minorities section.

Carol Ann Jackson served on the SSSP-DREM Graduate Paper Award Committee.

Emma Lesser is the Managing Editor of *Humanity and Society*.

Kathleen Ragon finished year 2 of 3 as Recording Secretary of GEU-UAW.

Jordan Rees was the 2016-2017 GSS Communications Director.

Michael Rosino is an Editorial Board Member of *Sociology Compass*.

Chriss Sneed was elected SWS Student Representative to Council.

Kevin Zevallos will move from Assistant Managing Editor to Managing Editor of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. He was also elected to serve as a student member of ESS's Status of Minorities Committee.

Abbey Willis serves as Advisor of UConn's BRAVE Mentoring Leadership Service organization.

Meet the New Cohort

Incoming Graduate Student Bios

Semra Bayik graduated with a B.A. in Law from Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey. After her graduation, she enrolled to the M.A. program in Political Science at the very same school in 2015. She was interested in sociology of law and human rights in her undergraduate years. In her masters year, on the other hand, she expanded her perspective by reading on violence, power, and feminism. Through her education both undergraduate and masters level, she wrote many published reviews on various books and movies, in addition to her award winning British parliamentary style debate career. Her current research interests are collective violence, social movements, and power from a sociopolitical perspective, as well as feminism and gender studies. She defines herself as a cinephile.

Hawolti (Faith) Curry graduated from University of Missouri with a BA in International Studies and concentrations in Sociology and Multicultural Studies. As a McNair scholar, Faith explored how refugees experience race in the United States in an ethnography of East African refugees in Columbia, MO. At UConn, Faith intends to deepen and expand her investigation of refugeeeness, race and belonging.

Dana Humrighouse graduated *summa cum laude* from Kent State University with a B.S. in education and *magna cum laude* from Chapman University School of Law with a J.D. She is interested in studying contemporary human rights issues. She has conducted legal research on the use of drones to conduct targeted killings and on university permit schemes that violate First Amendment speech rights. Her research on the latter topic was published by *The National Lawyers Guild Review*. She has also worked for a human rights organization in Cambodia conducting field and legal research concerning the impact of state-sponsored property confiscation. Dana loves traveling and has lived in six countries.

Davida Schiffer graduated from University of Maryland with a BA in Government and Politics. As an intern at the National Center for Transgender Equality, she witnessed the tangible power of state policies—progressive and hostile—on people's lives. Joining UConn as an Outstanding Scholars Fellow, Davida intends to pursue her work on the intersections of human rights and transgender identities.

Erica Shaw earned Bachelors degrees in Biology and Philosophy from Nazareth College and completed her Master's in Public Administration from SUNY Brockport. She was the recipient of the Public Administration Department Scholar Award while at Brockport. As a research assistant, Erica examined factors which influence food security status and obesity. Her outreach work and research in women's health provided extensive experience with the contraceptive choices made by low-income mothers at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Her current research interests include the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class as reproductive mechanisms of inequality. Erica is also a fan of competitive sports, especially women's college basketball.

Xinyan 'Tiu' Wu graduated with an MA in Sociology from the New School for Social Research in May 2017; previously he graduated with a BA, also in Sociology, from Nanjing University in China. His research interests include racialization in the process of urban neighborhood changes, sovereignty in an era of global population management, and mobility as a means of resistance. In a word, human differentiation in different dimensions. He prefers to enter the field with his own senses – feels it, tastes it, and dreams about it. He is an emotionless computer program who is obsessed with numbers. He loves contradictions.

Undergraduate Updates



Events in Sociology

The Sociology Department hosted several events this year. There was a Welcome Back Reception held for majors, minors, and friends where faculty members discussed how to get the most out of sociology professionally & academically. The department also held an event in the Spring to discuss Internships in Sociology. Finally, the department ended the year by hosting the annual commencement reception for sociology graduate students and their families.



Professor Leads New Sociology Bridge Program



Dr. Mary Bernstein is now running the Early College Experience (ECE) program for Sociology. This entails working with the ECE office to examine applicants from Connecticut high school teachers who want to teach an introduction to sociology course for which high school students would receive UConn credit. Mary has established criteria (with input from UPC), reviewed applicants and connects with 4 high schools that will be offering an introductory sociology course in 2017-2018. During 2017-2018, Mary will conduct site visits to each of these four schools and review additional applications, while also conducting morning conferences and workshops.

Dr. Barret Katuna

graduated from the Ph.D. program in sociology in 2014 and shortly thereafter began working as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology until the end of the Fall 2016 semester. Barret is presently the Executive Officer of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). She joined SWS back in 2008 when she first started graduate school when she served as a Research Assistant for Bandana Purkayastha who was a Deputy Editor of the organization's top-ranked journal, *Gender & Society*. Since becoming Executive Officer, Barret has worked on a variety of projects including planning for SWS Meetings that are bi-annual, supporting the work of SWS Committees, and focusing on the logistics of transitioning the Executive Office from the University of Kansas to Connecticut.



Please contact Barret at swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com if you would like to discuss non-academic career tracks. She will be speaking at an event, sponsored by UCONN Career Services, this November 2017 about her career as a graduate student that led her to working for this non-profit organization.

Q&A with 2016 PhD Graduate Dr. Allen Hyde

Q: Allen, you defended your dissertation with a job lined up. How did that feel?

A: Yeah, it definitely felt nice to have a job lined up and served as motivation to complete the dissertation in a timely manner. As often happens, things do not go as planned with dissertation writing but having the job waiting for me when I finished helped me stay focused during tough times. I am still grateful and realize how lucky I am because things do not always work out that way.

Q: What position do you hold? How was your first year?

A: I am an Assistant Professor in the School of History and Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology (aka Georgia Tech). I had a great first year. There was some adaptation (new university and department, new position, new classes and students, new city and neighborhood, knee surgery, etc.), but overall it was a very positive experience. I have been really impressed with my new colleagues as they are kind and also productive faculty. Joining a joint program in history and sociology also worked well for me because I had a double-major in history and sociology as an undergrad. I also found an apartment walking distance to my office so I skip out on the notorious Atlanta traffic. I enjoy the students here (mostly engineers and STEM students who are genuinely curious about social issues) and have maintained research activity. I really could not wish for a better situation. It has been the perfect place for me.

Q: Now that you've settled in Atlanta, what advice would you give to folks heading on the job market in the coming year?

A: I could almost write a book or article length response to this question. But I will summarize the highlights: 1) Know what you want (generally) and have a plan. You should really start planning for the job market several years before you start. Attend proseminar meetings about the job market and start coming up with a general strategy. Publications and understanding the difference between teaching, research, and nonacademic positions are important. 2) Make sure that you work together with other people on the job market, as well as other faculty members, to craft your job market materials, such as your CV, cover letter, teaching statement, and research statements. You may need different versions for different types of jobs too. 3) Probably the most important thing: be ready for failure. Do not expect to apply to 1-5 jobs and then land one. I was told to expect two years on the job market. One to test the waters and the second to really give it a go. I applied to around 100 jobs over 2 years and only got three job offers. I think you need to be realistic about the process and stay positive. It is easy to get caught up in pessimism but resist that urge. That is my advice.



Q: Last question: what research projects should we look out for from you?

A: I have a forthcoming coauthored article with **Todd Vachon** and **Michael Wallace** published in *Social Currents* on the effects of financialization on income inequality and redistribution in affluent nations. I also just got back from Luxembourg for a workshop on the Luxembourg Income Study so you can expect some new papers from that, as well as my dissertation, which examines the impacts on the growth of finance on income and wealth inequality in the United States and other nations. Finally, I am working on a coauthored paper with **Mary Fischer** on segregation of Latino and white homeowners in US metropolitan areas during the housing boom.

Life Cycle Events

*Newsletter Designed by
Chriss Sneed*

Births

Celebrating First Blooms



Matthew Hughey's rose bushes have seen their first summer bloom.



This past year, Charlie was born to **Ruthie Braunstein** and her husband Tim.



Joonghyun Kwak's baby boy, Duran Kwak, was born on February 16th, 2017.

Marriage



Kathleen Ragon married **Ordoitz Galilea** in a small ceremony at Mansfield Hollow Lake on January 15th, 2017.



Christin Munsch married Kavetha Sundaramoorthy in July 2016.

We Appreciate Your Generosity!

Private support provides an edge for excellence. It allows us to reward top scholarly effort and to competitively recruit students and faculty. Please consider making a donation to the department.

There is a fund at University of Connecticut Foundation which makes it possible to contribute directly to the Department of Sociology.

To contribute to the fund:

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the department by making a check payable to the "UConn Foundation" or "University of Connecticut Foundation" and writing "Sociology Department—Unrestricted Fund 22735:*" in the memo field or on the face of the check. You may also give through the UConn Foundation's website by using the name and number of the fund.



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