

# ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



## News from the Chair



Dear SALC Members:

I am delighted and honored to serve as chair of our section this year. In just my past month as chair, I have been impressed and inspired by the energy, creativity, and dedication of our members, section officers, and committee members. I look forward to introducing new SALC programs and features this year, including expanded mentoring activities (which you will learn more about in the coming months), a new SALC Twitter feed (led by Duygu Basara), and newsletter features which will introduce you to your fellow section members.

SALC had a lively and stimulating 2014 program at the ASA meeting in San Francisco, due in no small part to the tireless leadership of past chair Ellen Idler. I'm looking forward to working together to maintain that high quality for our 2015 meeting in Chicago. The high point of our meeting was our Mentoring Dinner,

coordinated by Janet Wilmoth, Allen LeBlanc, Jennifer Caputo, Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson, and many other volunteers. The dinner would not have been possible if not for the dedication of the event coordinators, the meticulous bookkeeping of past Secretary/Treasurer Janet Wilmoth, the generous contributions of our members (topping \$3,350), and the \$470 raised by our annual Book Raffle, led by the dynamic team of Jennifer Ailshire and Sara Moorman.

Thanks to the leadership of last year's Membership Committee co-chairs Georgiana Bostean and Robin Shura, we have hit the "magic number" of 600 members, and will have four sessions in addition to our Matilda White Riley Lecture and Business meeting at our 2015 meeting. Our unifying meeting theme is to take a truly "birth to death" approach to the life course, focusing on three rapidly evolving areas of research: disability, cross-national analyses, and sexuality. The latter dovetails with the overall 2015 annual meeting theme of "Sexualities in the Social World." We will also have one invited session, which was postponed from the 2014 meeting due to an ASA scheduling snafu. A blue-ribbon panel of eminent scholars will discuss the ways that cohort replacement and aging processes will shape the social institutions of criminal justice, family, health care, and religion.

This year's open sessions are:

### **Disability Over the Life Course** (co-sponsored with section on Disability and Society).

Session Organizer: Eva Kahana, Case Western Reserve University.

Email Address: [eva.kahana@case.edu](mailto:eva.kahana@case.edu).

This session will explore the meaning, correlates, and consequences of disability in childhood, adolescence, adulthood and later life.

### **Sexuality over the Life Course.**

Session Organizer: Amelia Karraker, Iowa State University

Email address: [karraker@iastate.edu](mailto:karraker@iastate.edu)

This session will explore sexual identities, sexuality, and sexual behavior over the life course.

### **Cross-National Comparisons of Life Course Transitions and Trajectories.**

Session Organizer: Christine Mair, University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Email address: [Christine\\_mair@umbc.edu](mailto:Christine_mair@umbc.edu)

This session will focus on key life course transitions, including school graduation, marriage, childbearing, work, and retirement, with attention to the ways that social, cultural, political, and economic contexts shape these transitions and trajectories.

## Inside this issue:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| News from the Chair                | 1-2   |
| Committee reports                  | 3-4   |
| Publication awards                 | 5     |
| Election results                   | 5     |
| Matilda W. Riley award             | 6     |
| Nominations for 2014               | 7,11  |
| Getting to Know You                | 8-9   |
| 2014 sponsors                      | 10    |
| New publications and announcements | 11-12 |
| Transitions and awards             | 13    |

## News from the Chair

(continued from page 1)

### SALC Roundtables

Session Organizers: Jennifer Karas Montez, Case Western Reserve University ([Jennifer.montez@case.edu](mailto:Jennifer.montez@case.edu)) and Kristen Schultz Lee, SUNY-Buffalo ([kslee4@buffalo.edu](mailto:kslee4@buffalo.edu))

In addition, we will hold the invited session:

### Aging and Cohort Replacement as Engines of Social Change in Institutions

Session Organizers: Ellen Idler, Emory University and Deborah Carr, Rutgers University

Matilda White Riley's age stratification perspective first illuminated how the processes of aging, cohort flow, and replacement are fundamental sources of social change. Speakers will examine how the prolonged aging of individuals and waves of unsynchronized cohorts during the 20th century have influenced social institutions such as family, criminal justice, religion, and health care. Speakers will include Mark Chaves, Duke University; Bernice Pescosolido, Indiana University; Robert J. Sampson, Harvard University; and Pamela J. Smock, University of Michigan.

**The Matilda White Riley Lecture** will be given by Kenneth Ferarro, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University.

Here are some dates to keep in mind as we look forward to next year's meeting. On October 30, ASA will post the Call for Papers on its website. The online system will open on December 5. The submission period will end on January 8, 2015. Please submit your papers to our open sessions and roundtables!

Please also nominate a colleague for one of our SALC section awards: the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Publication Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award. Nominations are due no later than March 1, 2015. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor our colleagues who are doing exemplary scholarship.

The accomplishments of SALC members often transcend our section's boundaries, making our members strong candidates for ASA's major awards. Nominations for the ASA association-wide awards, including awards for Distinguished Book, Best Dissertation, Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues, Jessie Bernard Award, Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, Award for the Public Understanding of Sociology, Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology, Distinguished Contribution to Teaching, and W. E. B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship. Nominations are due on January 31, 2015.

I encourage all of you to reach out to your colleagues, students, and friends, and invite them to join our section. We are the only section to hold a mentoring dinner, and to really put mentoring front and center of our activities. As you know, our section membership typically dances around the magic number of 600, yet we need to make sure that we hit (and surpass!) that number each year, to maximize the number of ASA sessions featuring the work of our members.

Please continue to share your thoughts about ways that our section can best meet your intellectual, professional, and interpersonal needs. Please also share information about your latest research on our Facebook page and Twitter feed! As life course sociologists, our research is methodologically rigorous and theoretically rich, yet it also tackles issues that every single person (even non-sociologists!) cares about deeply. Our research on health, well-being, marriage, retirement, the college transition, adolescence, and so on is worth sharing with the largest possible audience! Let's use our resources to help spread the word about SALC research beyond the boundaries of our section and our academic journals.

Let me close by sharing my gratitude to the outgoing leadership of our section. Ellen Idler, our past chair, organized a wonderful 2014 program, and showed me the ropes of "chair" life by providing advice and wise insights as she faced tough decisions throughout the year. A special thanks to Jill Suitor, Secretary/Treasurer, who has documented every SALC activity and calculated every penny of our budget this past year. I would also like to express my thanks to our council and committee members. David Warner has done (and will continue to do) a terrific job in managing our listserv – his careful organization of important announcements is a real benefit of our section. Kristen Schultz Lee has graciously agreed to continue on as Newsletter Editor (while also serving as a newly-elected council member). Kristen has provided four beautiful newsletters this past year. Thanks to Ellen Idler (and her husband Philip Ayers) for maintaining our website. With our newsletter, listserv, Facebook page, website, and new Twitter feed, we are highly communicative section!

Looking forward to working with and sharing ideas with you in the coming year.

Deborah Carr, Chair



## Section on Aging and the Life Course Business Meeting

**Call to Order:** Ellen Idler, Emory University

### Secretary's Minutes from 2013 Annual

**Meeting:** Jill Sutor, Purdue University.

Last year's minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Jill Sutor, Purdue University



The Section on Aging and the Life Course continues to be in excellent financial shape. We maintain a high level of activity at the annual meeting, which includes holding the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Reception and mentoring program dinner. We are able to cover these costs through the generous institutional and individual support that we continue to receive, as well as income from the book raffle. The section chair, Ellen Idler, and the chair of the Professional Development and Mentoring Committee, Janet Wilmoth, were particularly successful in obtaining financial support for this year's reception and mentoring dinner. Income from dues and our section allocation from ASA have changed little over the past several years. Yet annual meeting costs have risen dramatically, due to the higher costs of food and drink, especially in cities like San Francisco. The section treasury has sufficient funds to pay for these expenses and has seen increase in net assets every year for the past five years. However, in anticipation of further rising costs of food and drink at ASA locations in 2015 and 2016, the SALC Council voted that the Matilda White Riley Lecture and the SALC Business Meeting will be held late in the day, to be followed by the Mentoring Dinner at a nearby location. This change will substantially reduce the cost of hosting these events and allow fundraising efforts to be focused primarily on the Mentoring Dinner. Net assets at the end of 2014 are estimated to be approximately \$13,000.

### Program Committee Report

Ellen Idler, Emory University

We received five sessions this year, thanks to a last-minute surge in members that put us over 600. The program theme was how social change is driven by aging and cohort processes. The centerpiece of our program, an invited panel on "Aging and Cohort Replacement as Engines of Social Change in Institutions" had to be postponed until 2015, due to an ASA scheduling error. Instead, Deborah Carr and I led a discussion on "What Can Facebook and Social Media Tell Us about Trends in Aging and Life Course Research." Our other sessions include the Roundtables, MWR Lecture/Business Meeting, and two open paper sessions on changes in the timing of life course transitions in young adulthood and midlife. The roundtables included 10 tables featuring 41 papers, representing a sizeable increase over the 7 tables and 29 papers at the 2013 annual meeting.

### Membership Committee

Georgiana Bostean, Chapman University

As of 8/1/2014, SALC has 561 members, which is slightly below our average levels (584 this time last year), and slightly above the ASA average of 550. We may reach over 600 members by September, but we need to continue recruitment efforts through personal communications and e-mails. Word-of-mouth is very effective, so thank you to all Council members who have sent e-mails or mentioned SALC to their students and colleagues, and we ask that you continue to do so. Committee goals in the next year include: reducing membership attrition, enhancing use of social media, increasing student membership, assessing and better meeting the needs of student members, re-engaging lapsed members, expanding membership to those in other sections, and engaging in joint -section membership campaigns.

### Book Raffle Committee

Jennifer Ailshire, University of Southern California and Sara Moorman, Boston College

The book raffle will be held at the Mentoring Dinner. Section members donated eight books, one Kindle, and four San Francisco-themed gifts. Members are encouraged to donate their books for next year's raffle.

(continued on page 4)

## Section Business During 2014 Annual Meeting (continued from page 3)



### Communications Report

Newsletter Editor: Kristen Schultz Lee, University at Buffalo-SUNY

Section Web Manager: Ellen Idler, Emory University  
 Listserv Editor, David Warner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Newsletter Editor, Kristen Schultz Lee, distributed three newsletters in Fall, Winter, and Summer, along with a special Spring newsletter dedicated to the question of section name change. Please submit information you would like to share. Volunteers are also welcome to write special columns for the newsletter, such as a column on teaching issues, or

professional advice for junior colleagues.

The Section Web Manager, Ellen Idler, explained that ASA shifted the responsibility of maintaining and updating content to the Section, and that the cost of hiring an assistant to do this work was prohibitively expensive. Ellen has thus taken on the responsibility herself (working with the assistance of her in-house webpage consultant Philip Ayres). This is not a long-term solution, but has been doable as the updates seldom take more than three hours per year. Section member John Reynolds graciously volunteered to take over these duties in 2014-15.

The Listserv Editor, David Warner, has been distributing announcements via the listserv twice a month, typically during the first and third weeks of the month. Twice-monthly mailings are the long-standing practice of the section, in order to limit the number of messages sent. Each announcement contained both official Section business as well as announcements of interest submitted by members, including: jobs, conferences, journal invitations, and new publications by section members. Members are encouraged to regularly submit items that may be of interest to section members. Submit items to [david.f.warner@gmail.com](mailto:david.f.warner@gmail.com), and refer to SALC Listserv in the subject line.

### Committee on Mentoring and Professional Development

Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

This year the dinner was held on Monday August 18 at John's Grill from 6:15-8:30 p.m. The program was "How Do I Get Funded" A Guide to NIH R01 Applications," featuring remarks by Mark Hayward, Jill Sutor, and Jeylan Mortimer, followed by a Q&A session. Tickets were priced at \$35 for faculty and \$15 for students.

The estimated attendance at the event was 80 persons. Despite vigorous fundraising and generous pledges from section members (\$3350) and ticket sales revenue (\$2225), the high costs of food and beverage in San Francisco meant that revenue for the event fell short of expenditures (\$6915). Funds from the treasury were used to offset the cost; the council agreed that this was preferable to raising tickets prices. The committee will strive to balance the costs and expenses for next year's event. They urge section members to understand the importance of fundraising for the event, given that all tickets are subsidized. However, ticket prices may be raised slightly in 2015 if necessary. Institutional and individual donors were thanked.

### Committee on Nominations

Mark Hayward, University of Texas-Austin

SALC's Nominations Committee solicited the section's membership for nominations for section chair, council, and student council representative. Two positions were open for council. Solicitation was done via SALC's newsletter and listserv to reach as many section members as possible. In addition, committee members were also solicited for nominations for the chair. Fourteen nominations were received. Nominations were ranked by each committee member and averaged to obtain a slate of candidates, with the goal of having two nominees per open position. The committee chair submitted the slate of candidates to the ASA. The section's election resulted in the officer slate described elsewhere in the newsletter.

### New Business

Incoming chair Deborah Carr thanked Ellen Idler for her superb leadership of the section, and announced the topics of the SALC sessions at the 2015 annual meeting.



## Presentation of ASA Section Awards 2014

### Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Chair: Y. Claire Yang, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

The committee for the Graduate Student Paper Award comprised Jim Raymo, Jessica Kelley-Moore, and Yang C. Yang (chair). They received 10 submissions that were all of high quality. The committee was unanimous in giving the award to Jonathan Horowitz at UNC Chapel Hill. His paper is titled "Doing Less with More: Cohorts, Education and Civic Participation in America." Using Age-Period-Cohort models, the paper examined the educational attainment and civic participation link across multiple cohorts. It provides new knowledge about the education premium with regard to the decreased likelihood of civic participation as successive cohorts gained more access to higher education. Among other excellent competitors, the paper is considered by committee members and Dr. Ellen Idler to be particularly ambitious, breaks new ground, and serves as an exemplar of cohort replacement as a driver of social change – the theme being developed at this ASA meeting.



Jonathan Horowitz

### Outstanding Publication Award

Chair: Kenneth Ferraro, Purdue University (Presenter: Debra Umberson, University of Texas-Austin)

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee. The committee was unanimous in choosing David Warner and Tyson Brown's co-authored paper "Understanding How Race/Ethnicity and Gender Define Age-Trajectories of Disability: An Intersectionality Approach," published in *Social Science and Medicine* in April 2011. The article was praised for significantly pushing conceptual and substantive boundaries and offering a very thoughtful approach about how to address race/ethnicity and gender disparities in life course processes. Its theoretical innovation is evident in its application of intersectionality theory to the study of disability trajectories. David is an assistant professor of sociology at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Tyson is assistant professor of sociology at Vanderbilt University.



David Warner



Tyson Brown



Jeylan Mortimer



Stacy Torres

## Congratulations to New SALC Officers!

Chair: Jeylan Mortimer, University of Minnesota

Council:

Kristen Schultz Lee, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Jennifer Karas Montez, Case Western Reserve University

Student Representative: Stacy Torres, New York University

The Nominations Committee thanks all candidates who agreed to be placed on the ballot and to serve in these capacities.



Kristen Schultz Lee



Jennifer Karas Montez

## Kenneth Ferraro Receives 2014 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award



*"The Section on Aging and the Life Course has long been a wonderful intellectual home for me. Thus, I am deeply grateful to receive the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award. Matilda's scholarly legacy and advocacy for the science of aging continue to energize my work."*

Kenneth Ferraro  
Distinguished Professor of Sociology  
Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course  
Purdue University

*From Deborah Carr's award presentation at the 2014 SALC Business meeting:*

The winner of this year's Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award truly needs no introduction. That phrase has become a cliché, yet every single SALC member has been influenced in some way by this year's winner. If you submitted a manuscript to *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences* between 2006-2009, our honoree would have offered you wise feedback on your work, in his capacity as Editor. If you presented your work at an ASA SALC section, or stood for election for our Council, or nominated a colleague for our section's Matilda White Riley Award or Distinguished Publication Award, you no doubt had a gracious exchange with our honoree, as he has held multiple leadership roles in our section throughout the past decade, including Section Chair, Chair of the Nominations Committee, and Chair of every major award committee. Some of us remember fondly the celebration and tribute he organized as part of the SALC section's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary session. For those who are new to SALC, your scholarship might have been influenced by this year's winner – if you've ever referred to self-rated health as the "gold standard" of survey health measures, or pondered the ways that cumulative inequality affects health. There's also a very high chance that every one of our members has cited his scholarship -- spanning nearly 100 refereed journal articles, three edited volumes, and countless book chapters, as he has been cited well over 2,000 times based on *Web of Science* reports. Our winner is perhaps best known by his current and former graduate students with whom he collaborates closely and serves as a cherished mentor. By our count, he has co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles with 28 former and current students. It's no surprise that he received the 2011 Distinguished Mentorship Award from the Gerontological Society of America, for his mentorship of eminent and emerging life course scholars including Jessica Kelley-Moore, Markus Schaefer, and Tetyana Pylypiv Shippee. Our honoree is a distinguished scholar, editor, teacher, mentor and leader in sociology, SALC, and social gerontology.

This year's Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award goes to Ken Ferraro, Professor of Sociology at Purdue University and Director of the Center on Aging and the Life Course. We will be honored to have Ken Ferraro deliver the Distinguished Scholar lecture at the 2015 ASA meetings in Chicago.

## Mark Your Calendars for the 2015 ASA Annual Meeting!

The 2015 ASA annual meeting will be held in Chicago, IL on Saturday August 22 through Tuesday August 25. Mark your calendars: our section day is August 25, and our MWR Lecture and mentoring dinner will be held on August 24.

## Appreciation to Outgoing Officers

A sincere 'thank you' to outgoing chair Ellen Idler for an exemplary job in running our section and putting together a wonderful 2014 meeting in San Francisco. Thanks also to outgoing council members Pamela Herd, Michael Shanahan and Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson for their outstanding service.

## Now is your chance to help grow our section for the benefit of all!

As you know, our section membership numbers are directly linked to the number of amazing paper sessions SALC is allocated for the following year's annual meetings. More sessions mean more opportunity for you to share your work at ASA.

We hope that you might share with at least one potential new member (perhaps your student, a colleague, etc.) about your SALC experience in order to get the word out that SALC is not just for those who study older adults. Then you can bask in their appreciation for introducing them to our great section.

So, please tell your colleagues and students about SALC today. Every member counts.

We're on the web, Facebook and Twitter!  
<http://www.asanet.org/sectionaginglifecourse/index.cfm>  
 @ASA\_SALC

## SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

### Outstanding Publication Award

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee. Eligible publications include original research reports, theoretical or methodological developments, and policy-related contributions. The outstanding publication may be an article, book, or chapter published within the past three years. The committee will consider nominations and self-nominations. The award will rotate between a book and an article (or chapter) at least once every three years.

Eligible nominations are limited to publications appearing from 2012-2014. A single author or one of the co-authors must be a SALC member. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations. Nominations should be sent by **March 1, 2015** to:

#### Professor Jacqueline Angel

Chair, SALC Outstanding Publication Award  
 LBJ School of Public Affairs  
 The University of Texas at Austin  
 P.O. Box Y  
 Austin, TX 78713-8925  
 Email: [jangel@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jangel@austin.utexas.edu)

### Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors the outstanding paper written by a graduate student (or students) member(s) of the Section on Aging and the Life Course, as determined by the Graduate Student Paper Award committee. Papers authored or co-authored by students are eligible; faculty co-authorship is not allowed. Eligible student authors include master's students and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program or who have graduated no earlier than December 2014.

Unpublished, under review, accepted, or published papers are eligible. If published, the paper should have appeared within the past two calendar years (e.g., a paper nominated in 2015 may have been published anytime during 2014 or 2015). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9,000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc.). All nominations are due by **March 1, 2015**. Self-nominations are encouraged. To be nominated, send a hard copy and electronic version of the paper to the Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee along with a completed and signed nomination form (available online). The award consists of \$250 presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the annual ASA meeting.

#### Professor Andrea Willson

Chair, SALC Graduate Student Paper Award Committee  
 Department of Sociology  
 The University of Western Ontario  
 Social Science Centre  
 London, ON N6A 5C2 CANADA  
 Email: [willson@uwo.ca](mailto:willson@uwo.ca)

## Getting to Know You...

We are pleased to debut two new features in our newsletter: *Graduate Student Profiles* and *Five Questions for ...* The former profiles our graduate student or postdoctoral fellow SALC members who are or who will soon be on the job market. A sincere 'thank you' to our student council representatives Jennifer Caputo and Stacy Torres for agreeing to be our first duo of featured students. Please nominate yourself or a student for an upcoming issue!

Our "Five Questions for..." introduces SALC members to one another, by providing a quick glimpse into our work and non-work lives. Thank you to former section chair Mark Hayward for being the first of our SALC members to share some fun facts about himself! Please nominate yourself, a student, or a colleague for an upcoming issue. (If we do not receive nominations, we will do a random draw of our members for each issue...).

### Five Questions for... Mark Hayward

**Mark Hayward**, Professor of Sociology, Centennial Commission Professor in the Liberal Arts, and director of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Hometown?** Up and down the West Coast. I bounced between San Diego, CA and Gig Harbor, WA.

**Proudest accomplishment?** On a personal level, my proudest accomplishment is helping raise my son to be a wonderful adult. My proudest professional accomplishment is the mentoring of so many remarkable Ph.D. Students.

**My first-ever job?** Professional - Research Scientist at the Health and Population Research Center, Battelle Memorial Institute in Seattle. But, I had extensive experience as a bartender in case my research career didn't pan out.

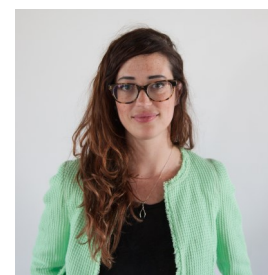
**A surprising fact about yourself?** I used to be very shy until my dad told me in junior high school that I had to learn how to talk. Now I can't shut up.

**Best piece of professional advice you've ever received?** "Work hard and play hard."



**Jennifer Caputo**, Indiana University  
Dissertation: "Gender Differences in Psychological Distress among Contemporary Young Adults in the U.S."  
Email: [caputoj@indiana.edu](mailto:caputoj@indiana.edu)

My research explores how social structures influence the well-being of individuals, with a special emphasis on inequality. This interest is exemplified in my dissertation, which explores gender differences in symptoms of psychological distress using the most recent wave of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). The analyses in my dissertation: (1) provide a descriptive profile of gender differences in distress in Add Health, (2) assess gender differences in the relationship between contemporary adult social roles and distress, and (3) explore how mismatches between adolescent expectations for adulthood and current achievements affect distress, as well as gender differences therein. The dissertation elaborates existing work on gender and psychological distress in three ways. First, I use four outcomes to capture a range of ways individuals express distress (including depressive symptoms, alcohol abuse, hypertension and sleep problems). Second, I explore racial/ethnic and socioeconomic differences in the relationship between gender and distress, which have generally been overlooked. Third, prior work focuses on gender differences in distress in the general population, but recent changes in the structure and meaning of gender for contemporary young adults mean that these patterns do not necessarily extend to this cohort, who are coming of age in a different social and economic context, and need examining.



Findings from the dissertation underscore that there are contingencies in the ways that individuals of different genders, races/ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds encounter and experience distress, and highlight the continuing significance of gender for adults' emotional lives. For example, analyses from

(continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8)

the first analytic chapter show that for this sample—in which more women than men have graduated college—the gender gap in depressive symptoms that favors men is smaller among college graduates than it is among less educated groups. However, the analyses also show that as women of Add Health become more educated relative to men they abuse more alcohol than less educated groups of women.

My other research projects are similarly focused on inequalities in adults' health and well-being. A paper based on my thesis (with Robin Simon) explores functional limitation status and gender differences in the emotional benefits of marriage using two longitudinal samples of adults in midlife. Published in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* in 2013, the study shows that the relationship between marriage and mental health varies by functional limitation status, gender, and the outcome explored. Dr. Simon and I are investigating health inequalities associated with another major social role in two papers examining parental status differences in health. I am also working on projects exploring the relationships between discrimination and caregiving at midlife and later health and mortality (with Eliza Pavalko and Melissa Hardy).

In addition to these research endeavors, I have taught or served as a teaching assistant for a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including designing and teaching a course in social psychology and teaching a section on using Stata within a graduate methods course. I was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship for this year, and look forward to completing work on my dissertation and other current projects.

**Name:** Stacy Torres

**Affiliation:** New York University

**Email:** [smt339@nyu.edu](mailto:smt339@nyu.edu)

**Webpage:** <http://sociology.as.nyu.edu/object/soc.phd.stacytorres>

**Title of Dissertation:** "Survival and Belonging: The Importance of Neighborhood Ties and Public Spaces to Urban Elders Aging in Place."



I am currently a PhD candidate in the sociology department at New York University, with an expected completion date of June 2015. I received an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from Columbia University, and an M.A. in sociology from NYU. My teaching and research interests include aging and the life course, community/ urban sociology, gender, family, ethnography, qualitative methods, mental health, and medical sociology.

My dissertation is under contract as a book with the University of California Press, entitled *Old New York: Late Life in the City*. This project has been supported by fellowships from the Ford Foundation and the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program. The dissertation is an urban ethnography of older adults living in a gentrified New York City neighborhood. We know belonging matters for elders but less about how, why, and what facilitates it. How do older people maintain their independence when faced with multiple vulnerabilities? To investigate these questions and understand the lived experience of aging in place, I have conducted a longitudinal, five year multi-sited ethnographic study following participants as they coped with gentrification, the accumulated losses of neighbors, friends, and family, health setbacks, depression, financial struggles, and other everyday challenges. While my research expands our knowledge about the life course and the social construction of age, this study also contributes to multiple subfields, including gender, community, public policy, social psychology, and social network research.

My paper, "Where Everybody May Not Know Your Name, The Importance of Elastic Ties," has won three graduate student paper awards from the ASA sections on Family, Urban and Community Sociology, and Aging and the Life Course. This paper presents empirical data that push our understanding of social ties beyond simple weak vs. strong dichotomies by analyzing relationships that fall somewhere in between. When questioned, research participants minimized neighborhood relationships. But my ethnographic observations of their social interactions revealed the presence of what I call "elastic ties"—relations in which individuals share intimate details of their lives with people that they nonetheless do not consider "confidants."

Additionally, my sole-authored articles, essays, and op-eds have appeared online and in such publications as *The Society Pages*, *Contexts*, *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *The New Republic*, and *Slate*. My recently

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

published *New York Times* op-ed discussed my findings on the importance of urban public spaces for older adults to develop social support.

In the NYU Sociology Department, I have served as sole instructor for "Sex and Gender," co-instructor for "Research Methods," and teaching assistant for "The Family." I am prepared to teach a range of core undergraduate sociology courses, including introduction to sociology, research methods, and sociological theory, and more specialized undergraduate and graduate-level courses that draw on my training in qualitative methods, medical sociology, mental health, gender, family, life course, and urban sociology. I bring equal passion and dedication to my scholarship and teaching and will continue to pursue opportunities that strengthen my ability to serve my students, such as my completion of NYU's GSAS Teaching and Learning Certificate in 2013.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

### **2014 Section on Aging and the Life Course Mentoring Dinner and Program**

#### **Individual Sponsors**

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### **2014 Matilda White Riley Award Reception**

#### **Organizational Sponsors**

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## Recent Member Publications

### Articles

Chen, Jen-Hao, Linda Waite, Lianne M. Kurina, Ronald A. Thisted, Martha McClintock, and Diane S. Lauderdale. 2014, forthcoming. "Insomnia symptoms and actigraph-estimated sleep characteristics in a nationally representative sample of older adults." *The Journals of Gerontology Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*

Ruppanner, Leah, and Georgiana Bostean. 2014. "Who Cares? Caregiver Well-being in Europe." *European Sociological Review* 30.5: 655-669.

Sun, Ken Chih-Yan. 2014 "Reconfigured Reciprocity: How Aging Taiwanese Immigrants Transform Cultural Logics of Elder Care." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76(4): 875-889.

Sun, Ken Chih-Yan. 2014. "Transnational Kinscription: A Case of Parachute Kids and Their Parents in Taiwan." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 40(9): 1431-1449.

### Books

**Erickson, Karla. 2013. *How We Die Now: Intimacy and the Work of Dying*. (Temple University Press).**

[http://www.temple.edu/tempress/titles/2193\\_reg.html](http://www.temple.edu/tempress/titles/2193_reg.html)

Erickson's research explores the rituals, connections, and strategies for resilience during longer lives and slower deaths. Based on interviews with nurses' aides, administrators, residents, and family care providers, *How We Die Now* uses the experiences in one small town to explore the new social terrain of old age.

**Harrington, C. Lee, Denise D. Bielby, and Anthony R. Bardo. 2014. *Aging, Media, and Culture*. (Lexington)**

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739183632>

The intersections of aging, media, and culture are under-explored given trends in population aging, rapid increases in the mediation of everyday life, and the growing cultural significance of media consumption at the global level. This book brings together an international collection of critical scholars, both well-established and up-and-coming, from the various academic disciplines that share a common interest in the future study of aging and media. This anthology of original articles integrates aging theory and media studies through a study of core issues including the media's influence on the

construction of old age, the reciprocal influence of aging on media industries, age-based identities in a mediated world, issues of gender and sexuality in an aging society, and the practical implications of a more integrated approach between the two fields. The chapters explore the intersections between aging and media in the realms of advertising/marketing, television, film, music, celebrity and social media, among others.

Contributions by Rebecca G. Adams; Anne L. Balazs; Anne Barrett; Shyon Baumann; Nathalie Claessens; Kim de Laat; Justine Gunderson; Justin Harmon; Stephen Katz; Barbara L. Marshall; Leni Marshall; Rosa Martey; Kelly Quinn; Alexandra Raphael; Cornel Sandvoss; Christine Scodari; Merrill Silverstein; Aagje Swinnen and Hilde Van den Bulck

**Mitra, Diditi and Joyce Weil. (Eds.) 2014. *Race and the Lifecourse: Readings from the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Age*. (Palgrave).**

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/race-and-the-lifecourse-diditi-mitra/?K=9781137379160>

Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, this book examines the intersection of race, ethnicity and the lifecourse. The 10 chapters in this edited volume are divided into three parts: the journey to adulthood, adulthood and midlife, and aging and latter years. In each chapter, authors look at how the race, ethnicity, and age intersect with gender, social class, sexual orientation, immigrant status, and other factors to shape social organization and the lived experiences of people in society. The book includes works that use a variety of methodologies (theoretical analysis, semi-structured interviews, ethnographies, grounded theory, autoethnography, regression analysis, and new economic indicators) to inform the analysis of race, ethnicity and the lifecourse. Introductions at the beginning of each section integrate the chapters and provide an overview of common themes.

**Weil, Joyce. 2014. *The New Neighborhood Senior Center: Redefining Social and Service Roles for the Baby Boom Generation*. (Rutgers University Press).**

<http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/New-Neighborhood-Senior-Center,5348.aspx>

In 2011, seven thousand American "baby boomers" (those born between 1946 and 1964) turned sixty-five daily. As this largest U.S. generation ages, cities, municipalities, and governments at every level must grapple with the allocation of resources and funding for maintaining

### Recent Member Publications (continued from page 11)

the quality of life, health, and standard of living for an aging population.

In *The New Neighborhood Senior Center*, Joyce Weil uses in-depth ethnographic methods to examine a working-class senior center in Queens, New York. She explores the ways in which social structure directly affects the lives of older Americans and traces the role of political, social, and economic institutions and neighborhood processes in the decision to close such centers throughout the city of New York.

Many policy makers and gerontologists advocate a concept of "aging in place," whereby the communities in which these older residents live provide access to resources that foster and maintain their independence. But all "aging in place" is not equal and the success of such efforts depends heavily upon the social class and availability of resources in any given community. Senior centers, expanded in part by funding from federal programs in the 1970s, were designed as focal points in the provision of community-based services. However, for the first wave of "boomers," the role of these centers has come to be questioned.

Declining government support has led to the closings of many centers, even as the remaining centers are beginning to "rebrand" to attract the boomer generation. However, *The New Neighborhood Senior Center* demonstrates the need to balance what the boomers' want from centers with the needs of frailer or more vulnerable elders who rely on the services of senior centers on a daily basis. Weil challenges readers to consider what changes in social policies are needed to support or supplement senior centers and the functions they serve.

### Conferences

**Aging Families, Changing Families: An International Conference**, June 3-6, 2015, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. This conference will provide a forum for scholarly papers on aging in the context of family life with an emphasis on social change and global perspectives. It is co-sponsored by the Research Committees on Aging and Family Research of the International Sociological Association and the Aging Studies Institute of Syracuse University. Abstracts are due December 15, 2014. For more information and online abstract submission, visit:  
<http://asi.syr.edu/event/agingfamilies2015/>

### SALC Seeks Nominations for 2015 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award honors a scholar in the field of aging and the life course who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations will be carried over for one year. Materials should be sent by March 1, 2015 to:

#### Professor Jeylan Mortimer

Chair, SALC Matilda White Riley Award Committee  
Life Course Center  
Department of Sociology  
University of Minnesota  
1014 Social Sciences Building  
267-19th Avenue South  
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### Introducing SALC's Twitter manager, Duygu Basara

SALC's presence in social media is growing. In addition to the Facebook page SALC now has a Twitter Account. Those who are active on Twitter can follow us @ASA\_SALC. If you are not on Twitter but would like to follow us you can sign up in just a few steps. SALC's Twitter Editor, Duygu Basaran Sahin, would be happy to guide you through the steps if you need help ([dbasaran\\_sahin@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dbasaran_sahin@gc.cuny.edu)). Duygu is a second-year doctoral student in the sociology program at the Graduate Center, City University of New York and a fellow at the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research. Her research interests include social inequality, aging and social policy. Her name can be pronounced in English as Doi-goo according to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duygu_Basaran).



## Transitions

Amelia Karraker has changed positions from a postdoctoral fellowship at University of Michigan's Population Studies Center to an assistant professor in the department of human development and family studies at Iowa State University.

Tetyana Pudrovska has moved from Penn State University to University of Texas-Austin, where she is an assistant professor of sociology and faculty research associate in the Population Research Center.

Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson is now an assistant professor of sociology at Baylor University. She received her Dual-Title PhD in Sociology and Gerontology from Purdue University in 2014.

## Awards

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) has chosen J. Jill Suitor, PhD, of Purdue University as the 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award. The award is given annually to an individual whose theoretical contributions have helped bring about a new synthesis and perspective or have yielded original and elegant research designs addressing a significant problem in the literature.

*Please submit announcements of recent publications, transitions, or awards as well as announcements of upcoming conferences, calls for papers, special issues of journals or grant opportunities to [kslee4@buffalo.edu](mailto:kslee4@buffalo.edu) by January 15, 2015*

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