# ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



## Inside this issue:

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



**News From The Chair** 

Dear SALC Members,

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer! Our meeting in Philadelphia is just around the corner. We have a wonderful set of SALC sessions, including a special "speed talk" session covering controversies and challenges in key areas of aging and life course research. Our Section day is Monday, August 13, but please note that the Mentoring Dinner is on Sunday, August 12. See the full schedule on pages **4-6**.

Our annual Awards and Mentoring Dinner will be Sunday evening. We need to have an accurate count for the dinner, so please order your ticket as soon as possible. The

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announcement and ordering information is available on **page 4**. We are able to provide a low-cost ticket price for students in part thanks to generous donations from individuals and departments. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Janet Wilmoth (salc-mentor@maxwell.syr.edu). We will showcase the names of the donors in the dinner program and at the business meeting.

I want to call your attention to an important membership matter. Every year we work very hard to ensure that we have at least 600 members. This influences the number of SALC sessions on the annual meeting program. If we fall short of 600, we lose a SALC session. One of the ways that we ensure that we meet this number, as well as foster the inclusion of young scholars into the Section, is to provide gift student memberships. This is where you can help. You can provide support for the Section by sponsoring memberships for students and young scholars! It's easy to do and the details about how to do it are on **page 3**. However, you must do it **before July 31** in order to count toward our drive to 600. Although we have until September 30 to make the goal of 600, after July 31, people must join themselves. If you plan to gift a membership to a student or colleague, do not delay! Do it today!

One additional note regarding our annual Book Raffle. It is one of our major section fundraisers. Be on the look out for Christine Mair during the business meeting and at the mentoring dinner to buy tickets!

As the annual meeting rapidly approaches, as well as the end of my term as Chair of SALC, I want to thank Council, the communications team, the mentoring dinner committee, and all of those willing to serve on awards committees this year. Please also make note of our newly elected Section Officers and Council members. We're grateful for their willingness to serve. See **page 2** for the details! Finally, I want to make special note of the student editors of our newsletter, Stephanie Ureña Salas and Shannon Shen. They have done an incredible job, and put a lot of hard work, into putting together our Newsletters this year. One of the things that I love most about this Section is peoples' willingness to serve and support the Section, often in ways that are not highly visible.

Please take a few moments to peruse our newsletter! I do look so forward to seeing everyone in Philadelphia in August!

*Pamela Herd Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course* 

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# **ELECTION RESULTS**



Chair-Elect (1-year term begins in 2019)

**Toni Calasanti** Virginia Tech



**Council Member** (3-year term begins in 2018)

Patricia A. Thomas Purdue University



**Council Member** (3-year term begins in 2018)

Mieke Beth Thomeer University of Alabama at Birmingham



**Council Student Member** (2-year term begins in 2018)

**Phillip Cantu** University of Texas at Austin

Join us in thanking our outgoing section officers for their diligent work, time commitment, and dedication to our section:

<u>Council Members</u>: Carol Aneshensel & Andrew London <u>Council Student Member</u>: Rebecca Wang <u>Book Raffle Chair</u>: Jennifer Ailshire

# **Gift Membership Deadline – July 31, 2018**

Please consider participating in the Section's Gift Membership program. We need to actively recruit members throughout the year and this program is a great way to make our Section stronger. It also influences the number of sessions we have at the ASA annual meeting! The DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2018!

## To purchase a gift section membership:

Once logged into the member portal, click on "Purchase a gift section membership" under the Contribute/Give heading. Select the section and search for your recipient by name. Section membership requires 2018 ASA membership. Only 2018 ASA members who do not already have a membership in that section are eligible to receive a gift. Your recipient will receive an e-mail immediately after your payment notifying them of the section gift. (Your name will be included in this message). If the recipient declines the gift within 30 days of receipt, you will receive a refund by mail. Gifts are not tax deductible.

The deadline for a 2018 gift section membership additions is **July 31, 2018**. Thank you for considering this recruitment mechanism!

## To purchase a gift ASA membership for students:

Once logged into the member portal, click on "Purchase a gift membership for a student" under the Contribute/Give heading. Students can be searched by name through the online member database. A new contact record can be created by the member if the student is not found in the database.

Your gift will be redeemable by the recipient for a ASA student membership (or a \$51 discount on another membership type). Your gift recipient will receive their gift credit via email immediately after your purchase. Gift memberships are not refundable if unredeemed by the end of the 2018 membership year, September 30, 2018. Gift memberships are not tax deductible.

The deadline for a 2018 gift ASA membership for students is **July 31, 2018**.

## **Journal Showcase**





## **Public Policy & Aging Report**

Published quarterly, this journal explores policy issues generated by the aging of American society. Edited by Boston University policy expert Robert B. Hudson, each thematic issue is designed to stimulate debate, highlight emerging concerns, and propose alternative policy options. Recent issues have addressed: legal and policy issues associated with end-of-life care; technology and aging; income security among older populations of color; Medicare reform; and elder abuse and neglect. The audience consists of decision-makers in the public and private sectors, advisors and staff to those decision-makers, program administrators, researchers, students, and the interested public.

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2018 Annual Meeting Program for the Section on Aging & the Life Course

# **Annual SALC**

**Mentoring Dinner** 

Sunday, August 12 6:30 PM

# **MAGGIANO'S**

1201 Filbert St., Philadelphia

# Tickets are now on sale! Reserve by Friday, August 3!

The SALC mentoring dinner will be held at 6:30pm on Sunday, August 12, 2018, at Maggiano's Little Italy, 1201 Filbert St., Philadelphia, PA. In addition to drinks and a family style dinner, the evening will include a short program entitled: "Peer Review: How to get started and how to do it well," which is being organized by Rebecca Wang and Stephanie Ureña Salas. We will also be acknowledging the dinner sponsors, our section's award winners, and members who are retiring. **Please email the name of retiring SALC members to salc-mentor@maxwell.syr.edu**.

Tickets (students= \$10, SALC regular member and guests= \$30) must be reserved and payed for by **Friday, August 3**. To reserve tickets, send an email to salc-mentor@maxwell.syr.edu indicating the number and type of tickets you wish to purchase. Also, if someone other than the person making the reservation will be paying for the ticket(s), please include their name and email. You will receive an email that confirms the reservation and includes instructions on submitting the payment.

SALC Award and Mentoring Dinner Committee: Janet Wilmoth (chair), Rebecca Wang and Stephanie Ureña Salas (council student members) Page 5

# 2018 Annual Meeting Program for the Section on Aging & the Life Course

-Monday, August 13-

## **SALC Council Meeting**

7 AM - 8:15 AM

## **Roundtables**

Session 3422 Pennsylvania Convention Center, 113A, Level 100, 2:30 - 4:10pm

# Session 3111. Comparative Perspectives on Inequality in Later Life

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 105AB, Level 100, 8:30-10:10am

**Organizer & Presider**: James M. Raymo, University of Wisconsin Madison

**Discussant**: Zoya Gubernskaya, State University of New York, Albany

"How Work and Retirement Transitions in Russia Impact Subjective Well-being: A Gendered Analysis"

"A Comprehensive Analysis of Morbidity Life Expectancies among Older Hispanic Subgroups in the United States"

"History of Income Insurance Benefits and Inequalities in Health and Disability at Older Ages in Canada"

"Health Inequality in the Older Population of China: The Contribution of Adult Children's Socioeconomic Status"

#### Session 3211. Inequality Across the Life Course: 9 Experts Discuss Current Issues and Debates

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 105AB, Level 100, 10:30am-12:10pm

**Organizer**: Jennifer Karas Montez, Syracuse University

Presider: Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

"Parental Resources and Youth Academic"

"Debt in Young Adulthood"

"Work-Family Trajectories"

"Chronic Pain and Opiod Use"

"Religion in Later Life Health Trajectories and Lifespan Variation"

"Bereavement and End-of-Life Decision-making"

# Matilda White Riley Award Lecture

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM



The Matilda White Riley 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 knowledge of aging and the life course. The 2017 Matilda White Riley Award recipient was Linda Waite, the Lucy Flower Professor in Sociology at the University of Chicago. Dr. Waite will deliver her address, which will be followed by the Section's business meeting. The 2018 Matilda White Riley Award recipient will be announced and honored at the business meeting.

# Section Business Meeting

5:30 PM - 6:10 PM

~Refreshments Served~

Please attend the section's business meeting. All are welcome! It is a great way to connect with others, learn about section activities, get involved, and enjoy face-to-face contact with those virtual SALC friends you made on Facebook!

# 2018 Annual Meeting Program for the Section on Aging & the Life Course

-Tuesday, August 14-

#### Session 4211. The Roots of Inequality: Early and Mid-Life Determinants of Health and Wellbeing in Later Life

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 105AB, Level 100, 10:30am-12:10pm Organizer: Amelia Karraker, National Institute on Aging Discussant: Wen Fan, Boston College

"Cumulative Inequality and Race/Ethnic Disparities in Low Birthweight: Differences by Childhood SES"

"Gender Differences in the Pathways from Childhood Disadvantage to Metabolic Syndrome in Adulthood"

"Precarious Employment in Midlife Shapes Health"

"Midlife Work and Women's Long-term Health and Mortality"

"Patterns of Late Life Cognitive Decline: Variation across Birth Cohorts and Socioeconomic Status"

# **Five Questions for Mieke Beth Tomeer**



Mieke Beth Tomeer, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Sociology University of Alabama at Birmingham

#### Hometown?

I grew up in Yorktown, VA. It's part of the "Historic Triangle" in Virginia, near Williamsburg and Jamestown, meaning that a typical fieldtrip as a kid involved sitting on cannons and watching a blacksmith demonstration. My brother currently works as a historical interpreter on the ships in Jamestown.

#### **Proudest Accomplishment?**

At this career stage, every publication is an accomplishment, but I'm especially proud of the mixed methods articles I've published (including one in Society and Mental Health that won Best Article in Mental Health by the Sociology of Mental Health Section of ASA).

#### Your first-ever job?

I worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for about four years in nursing homes and home health. I had a notebook in my scrubs' pocket where I kept track of residents' vital signs so I could chart them at the end of the day, but I'd also write down observations-- my first fieldnotes! I went straight from that job to graduate school with a strong interest in aging, families, and health.

#### A surprising fact about yourself?

I direct a course called Dentistry & Society in the UAB Dental School every summer. All first year dental students are required to take it, and we get to teach them about how sociology is relevant for their future dental practices. (And because that's a work-related surprising fact, a more fun one is that I played rugby in college-- although never very well!)

#### Best piece of professional advice you've ever received?

Working evenings and weekends should be the exception, not the norm. I heard this during orientation by first week of graduate school, but it's took years to put it into practice. Even now, it's way too easy to slip into evening/weekend work habits, and it often takes loved ones pointing it out for me to get back to a balanced schedule.

# **Emerging Scholar Profiles**



## Patricia A. Homan, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Sociology

Assistant Professor of Sociology Faculty Associate, Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy Florida State University E-mail: phoman@fsu.edu

This spring I received my PhD in Sociology from Duke University, and I will be joining the Florida State University faculty as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the fall of 2018. I will also be an Associate at FSU's Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy. My doctoral training and research at Duke was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Aging through the Duke Population Research Institute's T32 Training Program in the Demography of Aging. My research employs social structural and life course perspectives to understand how gender, socioeconomic, and racial inequalities in American society shape the health and well-being of populations and individuals as they age. My recent work has been published in *Social Science and Medicine* and *Social Forces*.

My ongoing research on life course processes and pathways includes a collaborative project with Scott Lynch, entitled "Rethinking the Role of Childhood SES in Adult Health: Integrating Existing Theories with Life Course Perspectives on the Disablement Process" In this work, we seek to resolve lingering theoretical and empirical uncertainty regarding the extent to which childhood disadvantage has independent, long-term effects on adult health that are not compensated for by higher socioeconomic status in adulthood. We develop and test a new theory of "progressive mediation" which argues that, while low childhood SES may leave an imprint that increases the risk of developing some common conditions (such as obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes) that often serve as precursors to more serious conditions and limitations, higher SES in adulthood may be sufficient to prevent or significantly delay subsequent stages of the disablement process. This work has been recognized with the 2018 Emerging Scholar Paper Award from the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on the Sociology of Aging (RC11), and it is currently under review.

My research on aging and health disparities includes several projects aimed at measuring the health effects of structural sexism and structural racism in middle and later life. One project nearing completion measures macro-structural sexism at the U.S. state-level using indicators of gender inequality in political, economic, cultural and reproductive domains. Combining these measures with geo-coded data from the NLSY79 allows me to locate individuals within states to capture their exposure to structural sexism and examine its effects on their physical and mental health at ages 40 and 50. I also have ongoing and planned future projects using the same structural sexism measures and analogous measures of structural racism combined with individual health and geographic data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). The goals of these projects are: (1) to produce a series of life tables estimating the proportion of healthy life expectancy at age 50 that is lost due to structural sexism, (2) to explore the potential influence of structural racism on biomarkers (e.g., C-reactive protein and cholesterol) and other health outcomes (e.g. functional limitations) in later life, and (3) to examine the joint impact of structural racism and structural sexism on the health of individuals with different intersectional identity categories (e.g., black women or white men) as they age.

Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to be featured in the Fall newsletter to Elizabeth Cooksey, SALC Chair-Elect

cooksey.1@osu.edu

# **Emerging Scholar Profiles**



Stephanie Ureña Salas, MPH, MS Doctoral Candidate Mildred & Claude Pepper Fellow, Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy Florida State University E-mail: su06c@my.fsu.edu Website: www.sites.google.com/view/stephanieurena

My research focuses on social factors that influence population health, with an emphasis on aging and the life course, demography of aging, social epidemiology, and health disparities. I am the PI of an NIA R36 grant and my peer-reviewed publications can be found in *The Gerontologist, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, and *Journal of Aging & Health*.

The long-term research agenda I established for myself involves using quantitative methods to address how institutional forces, such as the military, and social status contribute to health disparities within aging U.S. populations. This research predominantly uses the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), and also the National Long-Term Care Survey. My contributions to the field are in the areas of military service and long-term health outcomes (3 publications), the mental health of older veterans (1 publication; 1 under review), and health disparities among aging U.S. populations (1 publication, 1 work in progress). My first-authored publication was among the first to use of the 2013 Veterans Mail Survey, a data supplement to the HRS that holds key measures for understanding connections between service-related exposures and later physical and mental health outcomes. My dedication to the aging veteran community stems from my father's 20+ year career in the Army and the progression of his health.

Aside from my published work, my dissertation focuses on the long-term physical health of aging United States veterans within the HRS. Older United States veterans are a disability prone population due to their early life experiences with military service and increasing age, and they may experience more physical health difficulties compared to U.S. civilians. Using a mix of traditional regression methods, latent growth curves, and latent growth curves with random onset (LGCO), I examine the onset and progression of chronic conditions and late-life disability processes, their effects on mortality, and how service related experiences may fuel poor health processes among veterans compared to civilians at the population level. Results from my study will provide insight into the disablement process, mortality, and the factors contributing to health disparities, and intends to inform intervention development and policy decisions that can improve the overall health equity of aging U.S. veterans. My dissertation research is supported by the *Mildred & Claude Pepper Dissertation Fellowship* (2017-2018) and an *NIA Aging Research Dissertation Award* (2018-2019).

The concentration on health and my interest in policy stems from my interdisciplinary and policyfocused public health training. I am thankful for mentors like Larry Polivka at the FSU Claude Pepper Center who enrich my understanding of policy work within the state of Florida, and to Miles Taylor, who is providing me with first-hand exposure to applied demography through a Florida funded consulting project on elder care services. Outside of Florida, I visited the Boston VA to share my research with the Stress, Health, and Aging Research Program and to learn how they disseminate research and translate it into healthcare improvements for VA patients. I also organized and will be moderating a panel discussion on the long-term health outcomes and policy implications of aging military veterans at GSA 2018 in hopes of sharing the state of the field with an interdisciplinary audience and detailing how they can help move the research forward. The panelists are experts Janet Wilmoth, Andrew London, Scott Landes, Richard Settersten, Carolyn Aldwin, and Avron Spiro.

FSU has given me strong quantitative methods training. I have experience with traditional regression methods, as well as structural equation and latent variable models, trajectory techniques, and causal estimation modeling, and proficiency with *Stata* and *Mplus* software. My advisor and dissertation chair, Miles Taylor, has been instrumental in guiding my advanced quantitative training, and she is currently teaching me a variation of trajectory analysis that she pioneered within Sociology: latent growth curves with random onset (LGCRO). Thanks to extra methods funding from my department and from the Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy, I also received outside training on propensity score matching and a two-week course on matrix approaches to health demography at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany. Overall, my training during the doctoral program has been generously supported by funding from the Leslie N. Wilson-Delores Auzenne Fellowship for Minorities, an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute scholarship, and a P.E.O. Scholar Award.

My career objective is to become a faculty member at a Research I university and to continue to share my findings with my peers, the public, and policy makers. Beyond my doctoral program, I will extend my line of inquiry to studies of cognitive impairment, particularly among older veterans and older Hispanic men and women, and I will continue to apply for grant funding from sources such as the NIA.

# **News & Announcements**

## **Section Member New Position**



## 🙀 Stacy Torres, Ph.D.

This fall, Stacy Torres will join the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) as an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

## **Section Member Honored at ASA 2018**



#### Carroll Estes, Ph.D., FAAN

Carroll Estes is being honored at ASA for "A Life in Sociology" for the ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network (ORN).

Session 3609. Opportunities in Retirement Network (ORN) A Life in Sociology Series Lecture and Reception in Honor of Carroll L. Estes Mon, August 13, 6:30 to 8:10pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Level 100, 104A

## **Award Winning Section Members**



**Jennifer Karas Montez**, the Gerald B. Cramer Faculty Scholar in Aging Studies in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, has been named a 2018 Andrew Carnegie Fellow, the most generous and prestigious fellowship in the social sciences and humanities. According to an announcement by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Karas Montez and 30 other "extraordinary scholars and writers will each receive up to \$200,000, making it possible to devote their time to significant research, writing and publishing." Her research examines the large and growing inequalities in adult mortality across education levels and geographic areas within the United States. She is particularly interested in why the growing inequalities have been most troublesome among women.

## Pepper Institute of Aging and Public Policy, Florida State University



**Anne Barrett**, professor of sociology and director of the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to conduct research at the University of Trento in Italy. Barrett, who has taught at FSU's Florence, Italy, academic program during summers over the past eight years, will conduct research focusing on how Italy's rapidly aging population — now among the oldest in the world — has affected the health networks providing paid and unpaid care to older Italians.



**Miles G. Taylor**, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to teach and perform research at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She will work with Professor Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, an expert on international health care systems and health inequality. The research, using secure data from Canada's National Population Health Survey, will compare socioeconomic health disparities and aging in Canada and the United States.

# **News & Announcements**

## **Section Member Lecture**



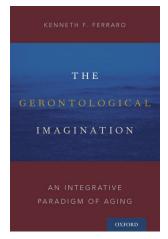
#### Jaber F. Gubrium, Ph.D.

Jaber Gubrium presented the Spencer Cahill Lecture, "Novelty and Pattern in Life Narratives," at the University of South Florida, Tampa, February 23, 2018. Professor Cahill was a prominent researcher of the ethnography of identity at South Florida. His contributions from a sociological perspective to research on the situated contours of identity added significantly to an everyday, outside-the-laboratory focus. In Cahill's tradition, Professor Gubrium was selected based on his pioneering contributions to the comparative institutional extensions of the everyday. His lecture presented the latest iteration of this work, focusing on the seen but undocumented novelty of pattern formation in aging and at the end of life.

## **Section Member New Books**

#### The Gerontological Imagination: An Integrative Paradigm of Aging

Kenneth F. Ferraro (2018). Oxford University Press.

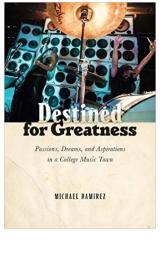


*The Gerontological Imagination* provides an integrative paradigm of aging, revealing how gerontologists think. The book is the first of its kind to identify intellectual common ground among scholars studying aging.

Although biologists, psychologists, and social scientists share an interest in the study of aging, they are distinctive in how they conduct their research. Despite the diverse approaches to research, Ferraro identifies an underlying set of principles that constitute a paradigm for the study of aging. He articulates and integrates six axioms related to causality, life course analysis, multifaceted change, heterogeneity, accumulation processes, and ageism.

The proposed paradigm provides an efficient way to identify and interpret essential ideas, findings, models, and theories across multiple disciplines that study aging. The author illustrates the axioms with findings from fields such as biology, epidemiology, genetics, medicine, psychology, sociology, and zoology.

#### **Destined for Greatness: Passions, Dreams, and Aspirations in a College Music Town** Michael Ramirez (2018). Rutgers University Press.



Pursuing the dream of a musical vocation-particularly in rock music-is typically regarded as an adolescent pipedream. Music is marked as an appropriate leisure activity, but one that should be discarded upon entering adulthood. How then do many men and women aspire to forge careers in music upon entering adulthood?

In *Destined for Greatness*, sociologist Michael Ramirez examines the lives of forty-eight independent rock musicians who seek out such non-normative choices in a college town renowned for its music scene. He explores the rich life course trajectories of women and men to explore the extent to which pathways are structured to allow some, but not all, individuals to fashion careers in music worlds. Ramirez suggests a more nuanced understanding of factors that enable the pursuit of musical livelihoods well into adulthood.

MICHAEL RAMIREZ is an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi.

## **Call for Announcements**

Submit your announcements, recent publications, and other news to be included in our next newsletter!

Announcements for the Fall newsletter should be emailed by **October 2018** to co-editors Stephanie Ureña Salas (su06c@my.fsu.edu) & Shannon Shen (Shannon.Shen@tamusa.edu)

You can peruse previous newsletters, read about your membership benefits, and more at our section website:

http://asasalc.org/

## We are on Facebook!

Join our Facebook group to get engaged with the SALC community and be notified of the latest research, events, and job opportunities related to our section.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/SALC.ASA/



# Section on Aging and the Life Course

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