

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News From The Chair



Dear fellow SALC members,

As I start to work with more Section members, I can honestly say WOW, not only is SALC a great section, but I am so lucky to be able to interact with such a terrific set of people! I'm sure everyone will agree that Pam Herd, Jennifer Karas Montez, Jim Raymo and Amelia Karraker put a wonderful program together in Philadelphia. The flash talks were especially popular and so we will be repeating that format again in New York in 2019. The mentoring committee (Janet Wilmoth, Stephanie Ureña and Rebecca Wang) also put a lot of time and effort into organizing the annual Mentoring Dinner. Maggiano's Little Italy did us all proud with their truly delicious food, and Miles Taylor and Angela O'Rand gave great advice on how to be an effective peer reviewer. This evening function presents us all with a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and most importantly, make new ones.

SALC functions well because so many members step up to the plate to help out and give generously of their time and expertise. There are many people to thank but I will focus here on those who are transitioning out of specific roles. First, our collective thanks go to Pam Herd who I know worked tremendously hard on behalf of all section members throughout the year in a calm and kind manner. Pam, you have left some large shoes to fill and I am very grateful that you have another year on Council as past-Chair! Thank you to past-Chair, Jessica Kelly, who concluded her third year on Council and chaired the Committee on Nominations. Thank you also to Council members Carol Aneshensel and Andrew London for your three years of service, and to Rebecca Wang, Council Student Member. And a huge thank you to Debby Carr who is stepping down as Facebook manager.

Let me also formally welcome new SALC Council members – Patricia Thomas and Mieke Beth Thomeer who just began their three year terms, our new Student Council member, Phillip Cantu, and of course our Chair-Elect, Toni Calasanti. We are also grateful to Jeffrey Lentz for taking over the role of Facebook manager.

I know that Stephanie Ureña and Shannon Shen have gathered a lot of information for this SALC newsletter and there is a lot for everyone to read. One new award is the SALC Mentoring Award. SALC stands out from other sections in terms of how we value and practice mentoring activities, and it will be nice for SALC to formally recognize such an important activity. More details about this award and the nomination process are given on page 7.

Good news on the membership front. Despite a final few frenzied days of emails, we made the 600 member mark. Actually (thank you, thank you Miles Taylor) we made it to 607 which is exactly the number we had this time last year! And, because our meeting day is on the last day in 2019, we not only get to keep the same number of sessions as we had in 2018, but we gain an extra one! These are described below.

So as the nights get longer, the pumpkins grin and grimace, the turkeys begin to look nervous, and the leaves fall to reveal the true shapes of their trees beneath, get working on those papers and submit them to our SALC sessions!

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Cooksey
SALC Chair (2018-2019)

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2019 SALC Program Section Day: Tuesday, August 13

***Invited Session:* Current Debates in Aging and the Life Course: Public Policy**

Organized by: Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

***Open Sessions:* Social Policies to Mitigate Health Inequalities Among Old Adults Around the World**

Organized by: Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, McGill University, and Jacqueline Angel, The University of Texas at Austin

Secondary Data Sources for Research on Aging

Organized by: Liana Sayer, University of Maryland

Contextual Influences on Life-Course Transitions

Organized by: Dale Dannefer, Case Western Reserve University

Roundtables

Organized by: Patricia Thomas, Purdue University, and Mieke Thomeer, University of Alabama at Birmingham

We are looking for ways to increase student and gifted memberships! These are due in **July 2019** rather than Sept. 30. Please stay tuned this spring/summer for our "Student Sponsor" and "The Gift of SALC" campaigns, and send suggestions to Miles Taylor (mtaylor3@fsu.edu).

**Give the
gift of
SALC!**

Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2018, Philadelphia

Award Winners

2018 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

From Elizabeth Cooksey's award presentation at the 2019 SALC Business meeting:

First I would like to thank the Committee Members for being so thoughtful and giving everyone nominated very careful consideration. All nominees are great scholars and we would have been delighted to nominate any of them - it was very tough to try and choose just one. All were deserving and each has made unique and significant contributions to the field of aging and life course studies in their teaching, in their research, in the production of theory, via the extent and nature of their mentoring activities, in their interdisciplinary approaches and in their generous service to the field. In the end, however, we did have one clear winner – someone that everyone on the committee ranked at the top, and someone who checked all those boxes – and that person is Eileen Crimmins.

Professor Crimmins has had a highly distinguished career, and continues to do so! She has edited 7 books and published over 250 articles. She has served on a range of editorial boards including *Demography*, the *Journal of Health and Aging*, the *Pacific Sociological Review*, and *Research on Aging*, she has been the associate editor for the *Journal of Gerontology*, and is currently the editor for the *Journal of Biodemography and Social Biology*. In recognition of her many accomplishments, Eileen has been elected as a fellow of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Eileen has had a long and distinguished career in the field of aging and life course with much of her work focusing on changes in health and mortality over time – both in individuals and populations. Her conceptual model for understanding the life course progression from disease to disability to death has informed many studies of population aging. Her work has challenged the status quo and made it very clear how important it is to document trends in the health of the aging population across different cohorts as each will have encountered distinctly different experiences.

Many of us know Eileen best for her pioneering work in biodemography, integrating indicators of physiological states into both data collection and analyses to enable researchers to determine how social and economic circumstances “get under the skin”. Many have also benefited from her wise advice, either as a colleague or mentee. And as the large group who contributed to writing her letter of nomination all noted, “Eileen has been a true and kind friend to many” and “In this respect she truly embodies the spirit of Matilda White Riley, who by all accounts was another exceptional scholar who also just happened to be warm, friendly, and very supportive.”

2018 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award



Eileen Crimmins
AARP Professor of
Gerontology
Davis School of Gerontology
University of Southern
California

Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2018, Philadelphia

Mentoring Dinner



"How to be an Effective Peer Reviewer"

Mentoring dinner program presented by professors
Miles Taylor (Florida State University) and **Angela O'Rand** (Duke University)

Thanks to our Sponsors!

2018 SALC Reception and Mentoring Dinner

Individual Donors

Ron and Jacqueline
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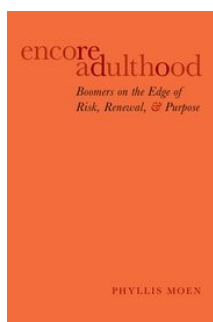
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 Department of Sociology, Anthropology,
 and Health Administration & Policy
 University of Minnesota Department of
 Sociology

Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2018, Philadelphia

Award Winners

2018 Outstanding Publication Award

Selection Committee: Rick Settersten (chair), Jacqui Angel, Christin Mair, Richard Miech



Phyllis Moen

Encore Adulthood: Boomers on the Edge of Risk, Renewal, and Purpose

2016, Oxford University Press

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/encore-adulthood-9780199357277?cc=us&lang=en>

2018 Graduate Student Paper Award

Selection Committee: Andrea Willson (chair), Tyson Brown, Hui Liu



Beth Truesdale

Harvard University

"Coming of Age in an Unequal State: The Life Course Effects of Economic Inequality on Health"

Five Questions for Toni Calasanti

Hometown?

I was actually born in Hollywood—but that is just where the hospital was. I grew up in Woodland Hills, CA (Los Angeles). This was not the Woodland Hills of today; we had lots of open land and greenery...There were even cows nearby!

Proudest Accomplishment?

Contributing to conversation about age/ism and gender. It is gratifying to know that those of us who urged aging scholars to consider the ways that gender shapes later life have been heard. Similarly, feminists (and sociologists) have long ignored age as a system of inequality; but some are now getting the message.

Your first-ever job?

I worked in retail, in a department store, often selling shoes. It was a good education in sociology, though, as selling shoes is commission-driven so quite competitive; and since I was a "floater" I could give my sales away. Seeing how others treated me as a result was interesting.

A surprising fact about yourself?

I won a gold medal in the state Olympics! Really. It was for co-ed volleyball (4 men and 2 women on a team). Growing up, girls were only given space to play volleyball at my school, so that is the only sport I learned. But it paid off!

Best piece of professional advice you've ever received?

I would say that I received several important pieces of advice that I would frame as falling under the heading of being a member of a scientific community. We need to work with others, because we depend upon each other, while also being self-driven and independent. So we should act in ways that respect and live up to that community: be equally responsible for maintaining it (e.g., contribute equally to service); respect the time of others; give back to the community (e.g., be the kind of mentor that I enjoyed; undertake article or tenure and promotion reviews conscientiously).

2019 SALC Chair-Elect



Toni Calasanti

Professor of Sociology, Virginia Tech

Emerging Scholar



Rachel Donnelly

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Sociology & Population Research Center
University of Texas at Austin

E-mail: redonnely@utexas.edu

Web: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/prc/directory/gradstudents/>

I am a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology and the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. My research focuses on the social determinants of mental and physical health, with an emphasis on stress, family relationships, and life course processes. I also examine how gender, sexual orientation, and race shape disparities in health, including the processes contributing to health. Together, the projects in my research agenda provide an understanding of how health outcomes in mid- and later-life are shaped by marital processes and adversities that change over time and unfold throughout the life course.

In one of my primary research projects, funded by the National Science Foundation, I examine the consequences of precarious employment – work that is uncertain, unpredictable, and risky – for marriage and health in midlife. For example, I examine the relationship between trends in precarious employment and pain and disability among midlife adults, with attention to variation by race and gender. I find that the rise in precarious employment explains the increase in disability, as well as a substantial amount of the increase in pain, especially for white men. Results from this study suggest that precarious employment is and will continue to be a problem for population health.

In a second line of research, I consider the marital dynamics of men and women in same-sex and different-sex marriages, including how spouses experience and cope with physical illness, stress, and distress. To date, my work in this area has been based on unique dyadic survey data that my collaborators and I collected in 2015 from legally married same- and different-sex couples in midlife. Overall, these articles contribute to understandings of gender, adversity, and health by suggesting that same-sex spouses may experience unique benefits from marriage compared to different-sex couples. These papers have been published in *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Society and Mental Health*, and *Journal of Family Issues*.

My future research will extend these lines of work. For example, I plan to investigate regional and state-level variation in the health consequences of precarious employment to better understand the importance of socioeconomic and policy contexts. Furthermore, for both projects on precarious employment and same-sex spouses, I will integrate a biosocial approach to identify specific biopsychosocial mechanisms contributing to poor health. I aim to build a body of research that challenges and extends prior work on the social determinants of health while highlighting the importance of stress and social relationships across the life course.

Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to:

Elizabeth Cooksey, SALC Chair
cooksey.1@osu.edu

News & Announcements

SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

SALC Mentoring Award

We are seeking nominations for the Section on Aging and the Life Course Mentoring Award. SALC has a rich legacy of mentoring, both of students and junior faculty. We want to honor this history by recognizing SALC members who have distinguished themselves as mentors in the field of aging and the life course. Submit a nomination of a candidate by **March 1, 2019**. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to mentoring in the area of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. If multiple persons wish to nominate a person, we strongly encourage co-signers on a single nomination letter. Nominations can be sent to **Pam Herd** at ph627@georgetown.edu.

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. **To nominate a colleague for the MWR Distinguished Scholar Award:**

- Submit a full nomination letter by **March 1, 2019**. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. If multiple persons wish to nominate a person, we strongly encourage co-signers on a *single* nomination letter.

Nominations will be carried over for two years. Materials should be sent to **Toni Calasanti**, Chair of the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Committee, at toni@vt.edu.

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 can be an article, chapter, or book published within the past three years (from 2016-2018). A single author or one of the coauthors must be a SALC member. Multiple entries cannot be submitted by the same author(s); please choose the strongest entry. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations, but nominators should make only one nomination. Self-nominations are accepted. Papers that have been uploaded as Advance Access articles but have not yet been published, cannot be submitted until next year as they will have 2019 copyright dates.

Nominations of publications for the award should be sent to **Elizabeth Cooksey**, SALC Chair, at cooksey.1@osu.edu. A nomination letter should accompany a PDF of the article or book. The letter should provide the full citation, describe the scope of the manuscript, and highlight some of its contributions to the field. All nominations are due by **March 1, 2019**.

Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors an outstanding paper written by a graduate student member(s) of SALC, as determined by the *Graduate Student Paper Award committee*. The award consists of \$250 presented to the winner at the SALC Business Meeting, held during the annual ASA meeting.

Papers authored or coauthored solely by students are eligible; **faculty co-authorship is not allowed**. Eligible student authors include master's and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program, or who have **graduated no earlier than December 2018**. 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 2018 may have been published anytime during 2017 or 2016). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9,000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc).

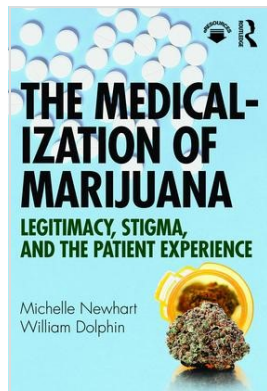
To be nominated, send an electronic version of the paper along with a completed and signed *SALC Grad Student Paper Award Nomination Form* to **Patricia Drentea**, Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, at pdrentea@uab.edu. All nominations are due by **March 1, 2019**, and self-nominations are encouraged.

Please submit names of your colleagues for these important forms of recognition. Self-nominations are also welcome. Recent winners can be found at:

<http://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/asa-sections/current-sections/aging-and-life-course/section-aging-and-life-course-past-award-recipients>

News & Announcements

Section Member Publications



The Medicalization of Marijuana: Legitimacy, Stigma, and the Patient Experience

By Michelle Newhart and William Dolphin

Michelle Newhart, Ph.D., and husband William Dolphin have coauthored a book titled *The Medicalization of Marijuana: Legitimacy, Stigma, and the Patient Experience* (Routledge, '18). This book offers an accessible yet rigorous account of how patients at midlife or older incorporate cannabis into medical treatment. It explores how concepts of medicalization, aging and life course, and stigma can provide insights into the changes in marijuana's place in society. Anchored by key sociological theories and concepts, this book is based on qualitative research that included in-depth interviews with 40 mid-life patients enrolled in Colorado's medical marijuana program, observation over a two-year period, and unstructured interviews with key actors in the medical cannabis industry.



"The Immigrant Grandparents America Needs"

By Stacy Torres and Xuemei Cao

Stacy Torres published an op-ed in August titled "The Immigrant Grandparents America Needs," co-authored with her doctoral student Xuemei Cao (University at Albany, SUNY) in *The New York Times* about family immigration policy and the caretaking contributions of immigrant grandparents: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/20/opinion/family-immigration-grandparents.html>.



"Being Human in Hard Times: Disturbing Trends and Signs of Hope"

Edited by Richard A. Settersten, Jr. and Megan M. McClelland

For their final issues as editors, Settersten and McClelland published a special double issue in *Research in Human Development* (Volume 15, Issues 3-4). The contents are FREE online until mid-December, 2018, and can be accessed by following this link to the entire issue: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/hrhd20/current>. The issue includes articles on self-reflectiveness and wisdom, self-interest, gratitude and compassion, procrastination and serendipity, adversity, resilience and coping, racial and cultural identity, and transitions in an uncertain world.



Retirement and its Discontents: Why We Won't Stop Working, Even if We Can **By Michelle Pannor Silver**

In *Retirement and Its Discontents* (Columbia '18), Michelle Pannor Silver considers how we confront the mismatch between idealized and actual retirement. She follows doctors, CEOs, elite athletes, professors, and homemakers during their transition to retirement as they struggle to recalibrate their sense of purpose and self-worth. The work ethic and passion that helped these retirees succeed can make giving in to retirement more difficult, as they confront newfound leisure time with uncertainty and guilt. Drawing on in-depth interviews that capture a range of perceptions and common concerns about what it means to be retired, Silver emphasizes the significance of creating new retirement strategies that support social connectedness and personal fulfillment while countering ageist stereotypes about productivity and employment. A richly detailed and deeply personal exploration of the challenges faced by accomplished retirees, *Retirement and Its Discontents* demonstrates the importance of personal identity in forging sustainable social norms around retirement and helps us to rethink some of the new challenges for aging societies.

News & Announcements

New Positions



Patricia Drente, Ph.D.

Patricia Drente was promoted to full professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Shannon Shen, Ph.D.

This fall, Shannon Shen joined the Social Sciences Department at Texas A&M University-San Antonio as an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Job Announcement



**Department of Human Development and Family Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin**

The Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin is seeking applicants for a tenure-track position at the assistant or associate level to begin August 2019. Applicants should have a strong background and scholarly record in one or more of the [department's research areas](#). We are especially interested in candidates whose research focuses on adult development and aging, with a particular emphasis on quantitative methodology. The successful applicant will teach courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels (ability to teach graduate-level methods/statistics is especially desirable), conduct research, obtain external research funding, and complement existing department research areas. We are committed to building a diverse faculty and are interested in candidates who will contribute to diversity and inclusion in higher education through their teaching, research, and service.

We are an interdisciplinary program focusing on individual, relationship, and family development within diverse ecological contexts. Faculty research interests include infancy and childhood, adolescence and young adulthood, adult development and aging, parenting and caregiving, interpersonal relationships, health and biobehavioral processes, diversity and culture, and contexts of human development. To examine these topics, current faculty utilize a wide range of methodologies, such as experiments, lab observational data, ecologically contextualized observational methods, longitudinal and daily diary data, big data, secondary analysis, and analyses of biomarker specimens. We have a vital program with over 500 undergraduate majors, 25 doctoral students, and 13 faculty operating in a collegial and supportive environment.

Application materials must be submitted electronically through Interfolio via the following link: <https://apply.interfolio.com/53154>. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in human development, family studies, psychology, sociology, gerontology, or a related social science field. Candidates should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, and up to 3 preprints/reprints of representative publications. Candidates also must arrange to have three letters of recommendation uploaded separately to the application site. The search is chaired by Dr. Karen Fingerman, kfingerman@austin.utexas.edu; administrative questions may be directed to Ginger Okoro, ginger.okoro@austin.utexas.edu, department manager. Review of applications will begin October 1, 2018. We will accept applications until April 30, 2018. The University of Texas at Austin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. A background check will be conducted on the applicant selected.

Journal Showcase



Journal of Aging and Health (Sage) explores the complex and dynamic relationship between gerontology and health. Peer-reviewed and published 10 times per year, scholars present views and perspectives from a wide variety of disciplines, including Allied Health, Psychology, Public Health, Social Policy and Work, Epidemiology, Health Services Research, Sociology, and Nursing.

Impact Factor
2.134

Call for Announcements

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

Announcements for the Winter newsletter should be emailed by **February 2019** to co-editors Stephanie Ureña (su06c@my.fsu.edu) & Shannon Shen (sshenn@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/>



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