

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News From The Chair



Dear SALC colleagues,

I want to extend my wishes for personal and professional renewal this summer as we anticipate reconnecting in-person at ASA in August. "SALC Day" is scheduled for Monday August 8th and the Section has planned a full day of research presentations and events, capped by the Mentoring Dessert Reception that evening to which all are invited. The full schedule for the day can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. These activities include two thematic

symposia, a session of roundtable presentations/discussions, and the Matilda White Riley lecture (delivered by our 2021 awardee Ellen Idler), after which the SALC business meeting will be held.

Please be aware that the Mentoring Dessert Reception (8-10pm) is free for students and emerging scholars and a \$20 donation is requested of others attending (and those not attending if you care to contribute to the event). A description of the reception and the website for making contributions are provided on page 4.

The July 31 deadline for gifting a student membership is approaching. Gifting a membership is a terrific way to bring junior scholars into the Section. Once you have accessed the ASA member portal, click "Purchase a gift section membership" under Contribute/Give. Select SALC and search for a student's first and last name. Only ASA members who are not already SALC members are eligible to receive the gift. An additional benefit of gifting student membership is that it gets us closer to the six hundred member threshold, which will give us an additional session at the 2023 meeting.

The leadership of SALC continues to make valuable contributions to strengthen our Section's infrastructure and hold a stimulating Section Day. Our past chair, Jennifer Karas Montez, chaired the nominations committee in 2021 and generated an outstanding slate of candidates for election. I want to thank outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Dawn Carr, Council members Terri Cooney, Jason Houle, and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée and outgoing student representative Vesna Pajovic for their generous and outstanding service to the Section. I also want to thank the volunteer service provided by outgoing Chair of the Membership Committee Miles Taylor and to outgoing Listserv Manager Stacy Torres, who is stepping down after 6 years of service. I also want to congratulate and welcome our newly elected Council members Mark Garcia and Emma Zang and Secretary/Treasurer Mieke Beth Thomeer.

At the business meeting I will be pleased to pass the torch to our incoming chair Stefanie Möllborn and announce chair-elect Miles Taylor. We will also honor those receiving the Outstanding Publication Award, Graduate Student Paper Award, Outstanding Mentor Award, and Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award. A big thank you goes out to the chairs and members of the award committees who performed the challenging task of adjudicating among many excellent nominating submissions.

I want to express my gratitude to council members and communications managers, and also to the Professional Development and Mentoring Committee, led by Janet Wilmoth, which organized online mentoring events throughout the year. It truly takes a village to have such a vibrant and engaged section that is tuned to the needs of both emerging and established scholars who study social issues related to age, aging, and the life-course.

Finally, I am particularly grateful to Shannon Shen and Stephanie Ureña for their skill and diligence in putting together the elegantly designed and detailed newsletters that you have been reading over the past year!

I look forward to seeing you in LA in August or, if you are not attending ASA, at a future meeting.

Merril Silverstein
Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course

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ELECTION RESULTS



Chair Elect
(1-year term begins in 2023)

Miles Taylor
Florida State University



Council Member
(3-year term begins in 2022)

Emma Zhang
Yale University



Council Member
(3-year term begins in 2022)

Marc Garcia
Syracuse University



Secretary/Treasurer

Mieke Beth Thomeer
University of Alabama
at Birmingham



Council Student Member
(2-year term begins in 2022)

Kagan A. Mellencamp
Bowling Green State University

Thank you to our
outgoing section
officers for their
diligent work, time
commitment, and
dedication to our
Section!

Secretary/Treasurer:
Dawn Carr

Council Members:
Teresa Cooney
Jason Houle
**Amélie Quesnel-
Vallée**

Council Student
Member:
Vesna Pajovic



2022 Annual Meeting SALC Program Section Day: Monday, August 8

Council Meeting
7:00 - 7:45 AM

Paper Session #1
Cross-National Differences in Life Course Dynamics and Aging
8:00 - 9:30 AM

SALC Roundtables
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Matilda White Riley Lecture
2:00 - 3:00 PM

Giving the lecture this year is **Dr. Ellen Idler** (Emory University), recipient of the 2020 Matilda White Riley Award.



SALC Section Business Meeting
3:00 - 3:45 PM

Paper Session #2
Caregiving Careers in an Era of Family and Social Change
4:00 - 5:30 PM

Mentoring Dessert Reception (see page 4 for details)
8:00 - 10:00 PM

You're invited!

SALC Mentoring Dessert Reception In-Person at ASA in Los Angeles!

When: Monday, August 8 from 8pm - 10pm

Where: Marriott Conference Hotel, Gold Level, Gold Salon 4

Please join us for this year's SALC mentoring event where emerging scholars and established scholars will mix in a relaxed setting for the purpose of discussing substantive areas of the field and addressing professional development questions about publishing, preparing for the academic job market, and career building for research and/or teaching positions. All ASA members interested in SALC activities are welcome. The program will consist of "speed-mentoring" where established scholars will anchor tables and facilitate discussion in a round-robin style with emerging scholars rotating among them. Desserts and coffee and tea will be available.

There is no charge for attending the reception. We ask that established scholars consider donating \$25 to the Section to offset the cost of the event. Donations should be made by credit card through the ASA website following these instructions: ASA members log into the member portal at <https://my.asanet.org>, then under *Contribute/Give*, click on *Make a Contribution to an ASA Section*. Then using the dropdown menu, select *Aging and the Life Course*, and add a dollar amount to start the donation process.

Donations beyond the cost of the dessert reception will be saved and applied to future SALC mentoring events at ASA. Your contribution will enhance SALC's mentoring activities and is greatly appreciated!



Journal Showcase



A new interdisciplinary journal about old age and policy

The *Journal of Elder Policy* (JEP) offers a forum for innovative thinking, theorizing, program planning and empirical research relevant to elder policy. We seek to publish informative articles relevant to policies that enhance quality of life and well-being of older adults including the old-old. Why a new interdisciplinary journal about old age and policy? The study of age is thriving as the scientific community works to identify and study the changing circumstances and options in later life among new cohorts of older adults. The welfare of older adults is importantly influenced by social changes, including policy arrangements, impacting both the young and old. We seek to understand factors that shape family supports available to those with needs for medical and social care in late life. We will apply diverse disciplinary lenses to explore the social forces that shape elder policy and affect what care providers can offer and sustain.

JEP is a freely available, open access journal, with two issues released per year.

Give the Gift of SALC!

Consider gifting a SALC Membership to a student or colleague
Deadline: July 31, 2022



Giftgiving a membership is a great way to encourage students to become (and stay!) involved in SALC. You can gift an ASA membership to students, or a SALC membership to existing ASA members of any membership type. Here's how to purchase a gift membership:

Purchase a gift ASA membership for students. Once you have accessed the member portal, click "Purchase a gift membership for a student" under **Contribute/Give**. Search for the student by name. You can also create a new contact record if you can't find the student in the database. Your gift will be redeemable by the recipient for an ASA student membership. The recipient will receive an email with the gift credit immediately after your purchase. Recipients will need to complete a membership form through the ASA member portal in order to redeem their gift membership. Gift memberships are not refundable or tax deductible.

Purchase a gift SALC membership. Once you have accessed the member portal, click "Purchase a gift section membership" under **Contribute/Give**. Select the Section and search for your recipient by first and last name. Section membership requires a current ASA membership. Only ASA members who are not already SALC members are eligible to receive the gift. Immediately after you make your payment, the recipient will receive an email that includes your name along with the notification of the Section gift. Recipients do not need to take any action to redeem gift Section membership. Gifts are not tax deductible.

Five Questions for Janet Wilmoth

Janet Wilmoth



Professor & Chair,
Sociology
Syracuse University

Hometown?

I was born and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where I spent a lot of time during my childhood exploring the woods behind our house, riding my bike around the neighborhood, playing kickball, hide-and-seek, or tag with my friends, and swimming at the local community pool. I have many fond memories of watching ACC college basketball and rooting for my family's favorite team - UNC-Chapel Hill.

Proudest Accomplishment?

My proudest professional accomplishment has been establishing the Aging Studies Institute and securing support to hire fantastic faculty associates over the past 10 years. Personally, I am most proud of my 27-year marriage and our two children who have grown into amazing young adults.

Your first-ever job?

In high school I did a lot of babysitting for neighbors and I worked in an after school program at a local church. My jobs during college included a range of positions including aerobics instructor, clerical work, 2nd shift production line work, and doing cold calls to collect missing data on the decennial census. I learned many lessons from these position, the most of important of which was the value of a college education.

A surprising fact about yourself?

My passion for aging and life course scholarship stems from my close relationship with my maternal grandmother who lived with my family while I was growing up. She was a gentle soul who taught me the joy of reading and art of writing letters. She was a model of positive aging who, at the time of her death at the age of 91, had a mind so sharp that she could quote from memory long passages of Shakespeare and various poets without faltering. I aspire to age as graciously as she did, in the company of family, friends, and great books.

Best piece of professional advice you've ever received?

In retrospect, there were several people who provided me with advice at key points in my career. My undergraduate advisor Carl Hand encouraged me to apply to a NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduate (REU) Program in demography, which was a turning point in my life that solidified my decision to attend graduate school. While working as a research assistant in Penn State's Population Research Institute, my dissertation chair Gordon DeJong taught me the importance of having a clearly articulated conceptual model, while my committee members Mark Hayward and Chris Himes stressed the importance of having a strong statistical tool kit. Chuck Longino was a gracious role model of collegiality and professional service as I transitioned into a tenure track position, while Ken Ferraro helped me navigate the promotion and tenure process. The best advice Ken gave me when I started as an assistant professor at Purdue University was to focus on publishing articles from my dissertation and establishing a new line of research before developing collaborations with more senior colleagues. Doing this enabled me to clearly demonstrate my scholarship contributions in my promotion and tenure case.

SALC Award Winners

Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

**Deborah Carr**

Professor of Sociology
Boston University

Selection committee members:

Stefanie Möllborn (Chair), Amelie Quesnel-Vallee, Jason Houle, and Madonna Harrington Meyer

Outstanding Mentor Award

**Irma Elo**

Professor of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania

Selection committee members:

Linda George (Chair), Amelie Quesnel-Vallee, Jill Sutor, and Vesna Pajovic

Outstanding Publication Award

Winner:

Sanyu Mojola, Nicole Angotti, Enid Schatz, and Brian Houle. "A nowadays disease': HIV/AIDS and social change in a rural South African community." *American Journal of Sociology*, Volume 127 Number 3 (November 2021): 950–1000.

Honorable Mention:

Patricia M. Morton and Kenneth Ferraro. "Early social origins of biological risks for men and women in later life." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Volume 61 Number 4 (2020): 503-522.

Selection committee members:

Melissa Hardy (Chair), Jeylan Mortimer, Estaban Calvo, and Kenzie Latham Mintus

Graduate Student Paper Award

Winner:

Kai Feng, University of Pennsylvania

"Unequal Duties and Unequal Retirement: Decomposing the Women's Labor Force Decline in Post-Reform China."

Honorable Mention:

Vanessa Delgado, UC Irvine

"'In-between' to 'Front and Center': How Brokering Shifts to Advocacy in Emerging Adulthood"

Selection committee members:

Feinian Chen (Chair), Teresa Cooney, Stephanie Ureña, and Mara Sheftel

Emerging Scholar



Mara Sheftel

Postdoctoral Scholar
Population Research Institute
Pennsylvania State University
Email: msheftel@psu.edu
Website: <https://www.mara-getz-sheftel.com/>

I am a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Crossnational Aging Research Lab (CARL) at the Population Research Institute at Penn State University working with PIs Ashton Verdery and Rachel Margolis (University of Western Ontario). I defended my dissertation "Should I Stay or Should I Go? Mexican Return Migration Across the Life Course" at the CUNY Graduate Center in June 2021. My research has been published in *Demographic Research* and *Population Review*.

I am a social demographer using a life course perspective to study new drivers of health stratification for aging adults including changing family structure, rising occupational precarity, and increasing racial, ethnic, and immigrant status diversity. I come to this field with an interdisciplinary background spanning Sociology, Demography, and Public Policy. Therefore, my research is aimed at informing policies and services to reduce health inequities.

In my first line of research, I take a crossnational approach to understanding the implications of demographic changes in family structure and social networks on older adult physical, mental, and social health. I am currently looking at crossnational trajectories of older age loneliness and exploring to what extent the age pattern of loneliness is consistent across contexts and what factors are associated with an elevated risk of loneliness. This project uses longitudinal data from over twenty-five countries to estimate transition probabilities into and out of loneliness and the risk of loneliness associated with marital status transitions, labor market changes, and grandparenthood. The objective of this project is to better understand age trajectories and risk factors for loneliness which in turn will inform policies and interventions aimed at reducing the global crisis of older adult loneliness, which has been heightened by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In my second line of research, in collaboration with Noreen Goldman (Princeton) and Anne Pebley (UCLA) I am leading a project looking at labor market segregation over the life course as an explanation for the disproportionate prevalence of cognitive impairment and dementia among Black and Latino older adults. The results of this project will advance knowledge of the consequences of labor market segregation by race/ethnicity and nativity on disparities in life course trajectories of cognitive impairment. Further, the results of this research have the potential for broader translational impacts by demonstrating to policy makers some of the long-term consequences of inequality and discrimination in education and hiring practices and unequal exposure to hazardous occupational conditions.

In my third line of research, I document the prevalence of physical and cognitive disability within Latino subgroups in the US and explore novel sources of disability risk including selection mechanisms, early life conditions, and immigrant documentation status. Specifically, the growing population of undocumented older Latinos may be vulnerable to higher risk of adverse health due to cumulative exposure to low socioeconomic status, unregulated jobs, exclusion from US social safety net programs, and stress. This work is pathbreaking because to date the older undocumented Latino population remains understudied owing to the lack of nationally representative data including documentation/legal status.

Outside of the university, I have been a community organizer in asylee and refugee resettlement for over a decade. As a demographer largely investigating issues on a population level, this keeps me rooted in the human stories behind the statistics and underlies my commitment to public service.

Emerging Scholar



Eric T. Klopach

Postdoctoral Scholar
Leonard Davis School of Gerontology
University of Southern California
Email: klopach@usc.edu

I am a medical sociologist and life course and aging scientist. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Georgia under the direction of Ron Simons and am currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. At USC, I have been very fortunate to work with and be mentored by leading aging scholars, including Eileen Crimmins and Jennifer Ailshire. My research examines life

course origins of inequalities in aging with a particular focus on biomarkers of aging and biological processes underlying stress and health processes.

Much of my research has focused on social determinants of biological and epigenetic aging. I am very excited by the research in this area, as many health inequalities appear to be driven by inequalities in the aging process itself. Understanding this process is a potential key to understanding and addressing inequalities in health. My dissertation project focused on stressful life experiences, psychosocial schemas (low self-control and hostile attribution bias), and accelerated aging measured using an mRNA aging measure. Results indicated that most of the association between harsh childhood and accelerated mRNA aging in young adulthood is mediated by antisocial psychosocial schemas (viz., low self-control and hostile attribution bias). In a recent pair of first-authored papers, my coauthors and I examined how epigenetic aging mediates the association between adverse childhood events and depressive symptoms in older US adults (*Social Science and Medicine: Population Health*), and how exposure to smoking at different life stages affects epigenetic aging (*Clinical Epigenetics*).

As a postdoctoral scholar, I have also investigated changes in adaptive immune cell distributions associated with social stressors and SES leading to two first-authored publications (one of which was recently published in *PNAS*). Using data from the 2016 Health and Retirement Study, my coauthors and I found that adult social stressors are associated with age-related lymphocyte distributions. That is, people who experience more stress tend to have fewer naïve T cells, which have not exposed to an antigen and are ready to respond to new threats, and tend to have more terminally differentiated T cells, older cells that are no longer able to respond to threats and produce inflammatory signals. In another study, we found evidence that education, race and ethnicity, and childhood SES are associated with immune aging. This research is exciting as it could help clarify how social factors affect immune functioning, including responses to COVID-19 and other novel viruses. I received an NIA funded USC/UCLA Center for Biodemography and Population Health Research Pilot (P30AG017265) to support this research.

Outside of research, I can often be found with my partner and our dog enjoying the beaches in Southern California or escaping the heat playing board games, dungeons and dragons, or engaging similarly nerdy activities. I look forward to continued involvement in SALC. I appreciate this opportunity, and please feel free to reach out!

Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to:

Stephanie Möllborn, Incoming SALC Chair
mollborn@sociology.su.se

News & Announcements

Section Member Publications

Patricia Drentea (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

Hogan, Beverly, and **Patricia Drentea**. (2022). "Secondary Emotional Labor: How Female Nurses Respond to the Contradictions of Caring." *Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634593221075952>.

Nekehia Quashie (TU Dortmund University)

Brandt, M., Kaschowitz, J. **Quashie, N.T.**, (2021). "Socioeconomic inequalities in the wellbeing of informal caregivers across Europe." *Aging & Mental Health*. (online first) <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2021.1926425>

Sarah Ashwin (London School of Economics)

Ashwin, Sarah, Keenan, Katherine & Kozina, Irina M. (2021) "Pensioner Employment, Well-Being and Gender: Lessons from Russia", *American Journal of Sociology*, 127, 1.

Section Member Documentary

(1)New Aging and Lifecourse Documentary: Duty Free

One of 2021's most-talked about documentaries - DUTY FREE - is currently booking screenings/ speaking engagements at colleges + universities around the country. After a 75 year-old immigrant mother gets fired without cause from her lifelong job as a hotel house-keeper, her son takes her on a bucket-list adventure to reclaim her life. As she struggles to find work, he documents a journey that uncovers the economic insecurity shaping not only her future, but that of an entire generation. The award-nominated film was a #1 Apple News story ahead of its national broadcast on PBS, and has screened for the World Health Organization's "Decade of Healthy Aging" campaign while its intergenerational stars have traveled to Capitol Hill to platform issues of ageism, financial insecurity, and the transformative power of caregiving with lawmakers.

Below is a private screener of the 71 minute film, and there is also a 53 minute version available upon request. All booking/licensing inquiries, please contact the DUTY FREE team at DutyFreeFilm@gmail.com



Private Link to DUTY FREE (expires Aug. 31): https://watch.indee.tv/indee/screeners/room?screener_room_key=scr-01g7cjdyy4fa62aeewdybaa1c889i201

Call for Announcements

Submit your announcements, recent publications, and other news for our next newsletter!

Announcements for the Fall newsletter should be emailed by **October 2022** to Stephanie Ureña (stephanie.urena.s@gmail.com) & Shannon Shen (sshenn@tamusa.edu).

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

<http://asasalc.org/>

We are on Facebook & Twitter!

Follow us to engage 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/>

https://twitter.com/asa_salc?lang=en



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