

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News From The Chair



Dear SALC section members,

I hope that 2023 has been treating you well so far. This marks the 44th year that our section has been in existence as a part of ASA. For me it has been a challenging year so far, as I have experienced both family and health transitions. These experiences have made me even more acutely aware of the crucial importance of the research, teaching, and practice that our section members do on how life course transitions and structural influences like social policies shape human lives and the fates of populations.

A lot has been happening in the section in the past few months. We are deep into planning section activities for the 2023 in-person ASA conference from August 18-21 in Philadelphia—a new Friday to Monday format. Please save the date for our SALC section day, which will be on Monday, August 21. Being scheduled on the last day of the conference means that we have received an additional session this year (see below for details on the 2023 SALC sessions). Our session organizers are hard at work selecting presentations for the section sessions, and we look forward to seeing the program in the coming months.

The Mentoring committee, chaired by Janet Wilmoth, has planned a virtual event on the job market for students and is also working on our mentoring dessert reception for the conference. We hope you can join us—see below for more details.

I promised an update on my communications with ASA requesting a hybrid conference model, which would be more inclusive than in-person only. So far the word is that the conference will have an in-person format but that conversations will be ongoing about the best way to manage the conference moving forward. So please don't hesitate to make your voice heard with ASA if you have a preference on this issue.

Many thanks to those who submitted nominations for one of our section awards. The award committees are now reviewing nominations and beginning to determine the award winners. The winners will be announced in a few months.

Our section has just announced a new category of awards, which are travel awards for junior scholars who identify as BIPOC or people of color. These awards also include a mentoring component. Please see below for the call for submissions for these awards, due by [April 1](#).

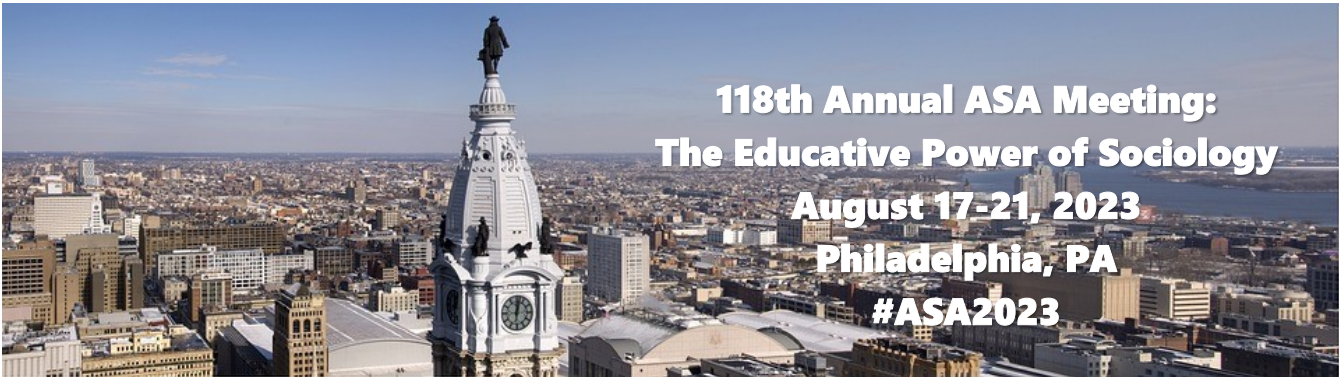
Shannon Shen and Stephanie Ureña do an amazing job creating our section newsletters. Thanks to both of you, as well as our excellent communications team. The transition from our former listserv to the new ASA Connect platform has required a lot of flexibility from everyone, and I appreciate these efforts.

Finally, it is time to begin thinking about our section's leadership for the future. Our nominations committee, chaired by Merrill Silverstein and also including Toni Calasanti, Dale Dannefer, and Pamela Hurd, has done a wonderful job presenting a slate of candidates for election. Please see details below.

All the best,
Stef Mollborn
2022-23 Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course

Inside this issue:

ASA Sessions	2
2023 Mentoring Event	2
New SALC Travel Award	3
Candidates for SALC Office	4-6
Emerging Scholar Profile	7
Getting to Know You	8
Journal Showcase	8



2023 SALC Program Section Day: Monday, August 21

Open Session: Intersectionality and the Life Course

Organized by: Jenjira Yahirun, Bowling Green State University

Open Session: Aging and Structural Inequalities

Organized by: Patricia Homan, Florida State University

Refereed Roundtables and Research Working Groups

Organized by: Marc Anthony Garcia, Syracuse University and Emma Zang, Yale University

Invited Panel Session: How Can Aging and the Life Course Research Become More Inclusive? A Panel Discussion and Conversation

Organized by: Stefanie Mollborn, Stockholm University and Sung Park, Princeton University

Matilda White Riley Lecture

Our recipient of the 2022 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, Deborah Carr (Boston University), will deliver the lecture, preceded by our section's business meeting



Save the Date for the 2023 SALC Mentoring Event!

The SALC mentoring desert reception is on Sunday, August 20, at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars and stay tuned to ASA Connect for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW SALC TRAVEL AWARDS

SALC will grant 5 travel awards of \$250 each to graduate students or postdocs who self-identify as BIPOC or people of color and who will be attending the 2023 ASA conference to present their research related to aging and/or the life course. Besides receiving the travel award and being honored for the award on our section day, awardees will be offered an opportunity to be matched with a mentor from the section according to their preferences. Section membership is not required, and awardees who are not already section members will be granted a gift membership to the section. We request that awardees plan to attend the section's mentoring reception as well as the business meeting where they will be recognized for their award.

The section chair will randomly select the awardees if the pool of eligible submissions exceeds 5 people, following these priority categories: Preference will be given first to graduate students and postdocs who will be presenting in SALC section sessions including roundtables, followed by those who are section members, followed by all other junior scholars who will be presenting research related to aging and/or the life course at the conference.

To apply, submit your CV, your previously submitted conference paper or extended abstract, and a list of the sessions to which the paper/abstract was submitted. Submissions should be sent to section chair Stefanie Mollborn at mollborn@sociology.su.se by April 1, 2023. Please contact the same email address with any questions.



Candidates for 2023 SALC Officers

The Nominating Committee of the Section on Aging and the Life Course has released its slate of candidates.
Candidates for Chair Elect



Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson

Present Position: Professor, Department of Sociology, Washington State University, 2013-Present

Education: PhD, University of Minnesota, 1999; BS Montana State University, 1994

Positions Held in ASA:

Council Member, ASA Social Psychology Section, 2020-

2023; Selection Committee, Outstanding Publication Award Committee, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2020; Chair, ASA Section on Children and Youth, 2012-2013; Selection Committee, Matilda White Riley Award, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2012-2013; Council Member, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2010-2013

Publications:

Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick and Sadie Ridgeway.

Forthcoming. "Becoming Independent and Responsible Adults: Does Parental Financial Help or Interfere?" *Journal of Family Issues*.

Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick, Jeylan T. Mortimer, and Jutta Heckhausen. 2020. "Work Value Transmission from Parents to Children: Early Socialization and Delayed Activation" *Work and Occupations* 47(1): 83-119.

Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick, and Steven Hitlin. 2017. Family (Dis)advantage and Life Course Expectations. *Social Forces* 95(3):997-1022

Shanahan, Michael J., Jeylan T. Mortimer, and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson (Eds). 2016. *Handbook of the Life Course*, Volume 2. Springer.

Hitlin, Steven and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson. 2015. "Reconceptualizing Agency within the Life Course: The Power of Looking Ahead." *American Journal of Sociology* 120:1429-1472.

Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated for Chair of SALC and excited by the possibility to lead such a vibrant and important section. As an active participant in the section's activities and leadership structure (council, committees) for over 25 years, I have always valued our lively debates, our ability to find common purpose with such a diverse set of substantive interests, and our commitment to nurturing newer scholars. One thing I've learned about myself in more recent years is how much I enjoy supporting and promoting the work of my colleagues and facilitating new connections and opportunities. As Chair, it would be an honor and a joy to help showcase the exciting and impactful work of our section members, as well as to help create spaces and opportunities for growth and connection. History has a way of reminding us all how critical it is to view lives and aging as connected to time and place. As we emerge from yet another major social global event, our insights are more important than ever.



Rebecca Utz

Present Position: Professor of Sociology & Associate Dean, University of Utah, 2004-present

Education: PhD in Sociology, University of Michigan, 2004; MGS Gerontology, Miami University, 1999; BA in Psychology and Gerontology, Miami University, 1993

Positions Held in ASA:

Editorial Board, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2012-2015; Nomination &

Awards Committee, Medical Sociology section, 2006

Publications:

Utz, Rebecca L. (2022). Caregiver Respite: An Essential Component of Home-and Community-Based Long-Term Care. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 23(2), 320-321.

Amber Thompson & Rebecca L. Utz. (2022). Beyond Patient-Provider Relationships: Expanding the Roles and Boundaries of Families during Patient End-of-Life. *Qualitative Health Research*. 10497323221111249.

Rebecca L. Utz, Alexandra Terrill, & Amber Thompson. (2021) Online Caregiver Interventions: The Use of Community-Engaged Research Practices, *Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community*, 1-16.

Deborah Carr & Rebecca L. Utz. (2020). Families in Later Life: A Decade in Review. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82 (1), 346-363.

Rebecca L. Utz., Cynthia Berg, Jonathan Butner. (2016) It's A Family Affair: Reflections About Aging & Health within a Family Context. *The Gerontologist*, 57(1): 129-135.

Personal Statement: I am a lifecourse sociologist interested in how families are affected by end-of-life transitions. My research focuses on bereavement, caregiving, and advance care planning. The ASA's Section on Aging and Lifecourse (SALC) has been an important home for me, an academic sociologist who does work that often crosses into other disciplines or includes team-members from other clinical and academic departments. I remember attending the SALC's mentoring dinners when I was first looking for a job 20 years ago. Since then, I have grown-up alongside my SALC peers and greatly benefited from the friendship and guidance from so many of the esteemed, senior members of SALC. I would be honored to serve as a leader of our section. As such, I will focus on creating community and support for members, especially initiatives where we as a section can collectively mentor students and junior scholars.

Candidates for Council

There are four candidates for two slots on the Council. The 3-year term begins in 2023.



Tirth Bhatta

Present Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated to serve as a SALC Council member. Driven by his profound concern for social and economic justice, my primary research explores how life course socioeconomic status (SES) intersects with other forms of stratification (especially race/ethnicity and gender) to shape later-life health disparities in countries both in the Global South and the Global North. I have also focused on the significance of nonmaterial resources such as altruism, love, and spirituality for psychological well-being in later life. I have been a member of the Section on Sociology of Aging and Life Course (SALC) since 2013. I have served as a member of the SALC Membership and Outstanding Publication Award Committees. SALC gave me the opportunity to meet mentors whose kindness, generosity, and guidance have been invaluable in helping me navigate our academic culture, which can be very isolating. As a member of the council, I will contribute to SALC's efforts to create a more caring and supportive community to ensure that future generations of scholars have access to the same level of support and mentorship that I had, as well as to foster an environment in which everyone feels valued and heard. I will advocate for spaces and opportunities for marginalized scholars, including those from the Global South, to exhibit their work. In addition, I will use this position to work toward increasing the visibility of cutting-edge, ideologically diverse, and methodologically varied life course studies at ASA conferences.



Catherine Garcia

Present Position: Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science, Syracuse University

Personal Statement: As a former SALC student representative (2019-2021), I had the opportunity to get to know and understand the needs of our student membership. One of the most critical needs identified was to center community, so our team created a series of open meets, research, and professional development (virtual) events to bridge that gap. I want to continue to develop our community by centering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and prioritizing short-term and long-term community-based practices to ensure everyone is included and engaged. For example, SALC council representatives have the influence to shape the discourses on aging research by how the roundtables are organized for the annual ASA meeting. This is an avenue where we can ensure that our members have fair access to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive as a learner, educator, and researcher. Our community is a journey, and I want to be part of it.



Christine Mair

Present Position: Associate Professor of Sociology; Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health; University of Maryland Baltimore County

Personal Statement: I have been an active SALC participant for approximately 15 years. SALC has been a meaningful and inspirational part of my ASA experience since graduate school. In the past, I was a member of the Outstanding Publication Award Committee, ran the SALC Book Raffle for several years, and have attended the SALC Mentoring Dinner (or event) almost every year since 2007 (my first ASA as a graduate student!). I am a family sociologist and socio-cultural gerontologist whose research examines the presence or absence of family and non-family ties and seeks to document how social integration and support (or lack thereof) shape mental health, physical health, end-of-life experiences, and other aspects of well-being especially cross-nationally. I am motivated to volunteer for SALC service opportunities to participate in the cycle of mentorship, support, and leadership that was so valuable to me as a junior scholar!



Jeffrey E. Stokes

Present Position: Assistant Professor of Gerontology & Undergraduate Program Director in Aging Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

Personal Statement: As a Sociologist housed in a Department of Gerontology, I believe I am in a unique position to assess ASA overall and SALC in particular, including both its strengths and weaknesses. I have long considered SALC to be my "intellectual home", yet it faces competition for many scholars in our field. I have been an ASA and SALC member for 10 years now, and would like to become more integrally involved with both section itself and ASA in general. Looking forward to the next 10 years of my career, and towards the future of ASA and SALC, I feel drawn to contributing in a service role such as Council Member, and am excited to help shape the future of ASA and SALC. I hope to make as many scholars – new and returning – find their intellectual home here as well.

Nominees for SALC Student Representative



Elinore Avni

Present Position: PhD student, Department of Sociology, Boston University

Personal Statement: I am a graduate student in the department of Sociology at Boston University, currently in the third year of the PhD program. I am working on a research project that compares attitudes toward eldercare and childcare across different countries. This research focuses on the issue of intergenerational relationships, an issue that has meaningful implications for the demographic changes that are taking place nowadays, as the western industrial world is experiencing a major increase in the size of the population of older adults together with a shrinkage in the size of the population of children. I hope that by looking at how attitudes toward care are shaped across different national contexts, I would be able to reveal how these demographic changes impact intergenerational changes. My research experience also includes taking part in various academic projects as a research assistant. Through these projects, I have learned how to manage my work, as I can maintain focus on my individual tasks, with full knowledge of how they contribute to the overall research goals.

In addition to these research endeavors, I prioritize my service roles, as I view myself as a contributing member of the communities in which I am embedded: I serve as a teaching fellow in my department, where I hold discussion sections for the course on the Sociology of Healthcare. I also serve as a mentor in the Undergraduate mentoring Program: These roles allow me to work closely with Undergraduate students, as I am able to assist them in their academic and personal development. I also serve as a representative in the Graduate student Organization at BU, where I represent my fellow students. As a scholar who is interested in aging and the life course, I am also involved in the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), as I serve as a member of the Annual Scientific Meeting Workgroup, as part of the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO). These roles reflect my commitment to academia, as well as my commitment to my colleagues.

Serving as a SALC student representative would allow me to further develop this diverse and vibrant community of emerging scholars who study aging. This would be a great opportunity to facilitate a professional network of scholars who support and promote one another, in a cooperative environment.

I am honored to be considered for the role of student representative in the section. Thank you very much for this exciting opportunity.



Ayrlia Welch

Present Position: PhD Student at University at Buffalo, SUNY

Personal Statement: I am a doctoral student in Sociology at the University at Buffalo and my interest in aging and the life course sparked when I took an undergraduate class on death and dying. This led to an opportunity to pursue research focusing on older adults, specifically college-age students'/young adults' perceptions of older adults and how these views have changed over time. My current research is situated in death and dying and focuses on how we define "good" vs. "bad" deaths. I am interested in serving as the SALC's student representative to foster growth and engagement among other student members and those interested in our field. It would be my honor to serve in this role and work closely with the section council to continue supporting students, and the section, in these endeavors.

Emerging Scholar



Stuti Das

PhD Candidate

Department of Sociology, Boston University

E-mail: stuti@bu.edu

Website: <https://www.bu.edu/sociology/profile/stuti-das/>

I am a PhD candidate in Sociology at Boston University. Broadly, my academic interests include international migration, medical sociology, aging and the life course, population health, and health policy.

I am currently working on my dissertation prospectus which I will be defending in Spring 2023. Using data from nationally representative longitudinal datasets from the USA (Health and Retirement Study), the UK (English Longitudinal Study of Ageing), and Germany (Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe), my dissertation will investigate the ways in which healthcare systems interact with welfare regimes in order to shape health disparities between immigrant and native-born adults in later life. My advisors are Professors Deborah Carr, Nazli Kibria, and Joseph Harris.

Additionally, I am working on three projects centered respectively around the themes of immigrants' mental health, experiences of institutional and interpersonal discrimination among persons with disability, and the impact of perceived occupational status hierarchies on effective communication among surgeons and anesthesiologists.

The first project, based on an analysis of the 2019 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data, attempts to understand the relationship between household-level food insecurity and depressive symptoms among U.S.-born and immigrant adults. The goal is to assess differences in the prevalence of household-level food insecurity based on migrant status (U.S.-born/immigrant), and to determine the strength of the association between household food insecurity and the prevalence of depressive symptoms separately by migrant status, while accounting for sociodemographic, socioeconomic, and health characteristics. I also explore heterogeneity within the immigrant population based on time since arrival to the U.S. and naturalization status. Significant findings from this study can have potential implications for food assistance and nutrition programs in the U.S., social welfare policy and other federal funding, as well as for the development of culturally-specific mental health screening and prevention strategies.

A second project, in collaboration with Professor Deborah Carr, uses data from the Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS) survey to evaluate whether disability, defined as difficulty with daily physical activities, intensifies or mitigates against interpersonal and institutional discrimination experienced by obese persons. Understanding the ways that obesity and disability may intersect to affect experiences of interpersonal and institutional discrimination has potentially important implications for public health and social policy. Workplace discrimination, including being fired or passed over for promotion, may further undermine the economic precarity experienced by persons with obesity and/or disability. Further, demoralizing or unsupportive encounters with healthcare professionals and the emotional strains imposed by daily microaggressions may further exacerbate well-documented health disparities on the basis of body weight and physical functioning. Identifying the ways that ageism and sizeism intersect to undermine personal well-being may help to inform interventions and policy.

Along with Dr. Heather Edwards and Dr. Nicole Spence at Boston Medical Center, I am the co-investigator on a third project which aims to explore differences in surgeons' and anesthesiologists' perceptions regarding perioperative communication. We examine the extent to which any differences in their respective perceptions of perioperative communication and the resultant barriers to effective communication reflect the presence of a power dynamic resulting from the perceived occupational status hierarchies between these two groups. One of the overarching goals of this project is to characterize the communication between surgeons and anesthesiologists in order to recognize and bridge the underlying discrepancies between surgical and anesthesia communications to improve patient care. Based on our findings, we plan to develop an intervention to pilot that seeks to improve the quality of communication events among surgeons and anesthesiologists both within and outside the operating room.

Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to:
Stefanie Mollborn, SALC Chair
mollborn@sociology.su.se

Five Questions for Emma Zang



Emma Zang

Hometown? I was born in Zibo, Shandong Province in China. It is a northern Chinese city with a rich history: it was the center of the ancient State of Qi during the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods. Because of this history, Zibo is relatively well-known among historians although it is not particularly well-known to others. When I first arrived at Yale, I attended a reception where I had a chance to chat with three historians who are interested in China. I was surprised that they all knew Zibo quite well and have visited Linzi!

Proudest Accomplishment? Coming from a relatively low-income family in China, I tried to get all the scholarships I can get to fund my high school, college, master's, and Ph.D. education growing up (education before high school is free in China). I'm very proud that I managed to get all my education fully funded and did not create much financial pressure on my parents. And I'm very proud that I end up being a researcher studying inequality!

Your first-ever job? My first internship was at the Shanghai Media Group in the summer of 2009. I was an intern journalist at one of their TV stations. My first full-time job is at Yale University Sociology department, where I have been an Assistant Professor since 2019.

A surprising fact about yourself? When I was in college, I had four internships and three of them were related to media and fashion. My old friends back then are all surprised that I ended up in academia and has become such a big nerd.

Best piece of professional advice you've ever received? Rather than simply "protecting your time" by saying no, maybe a better strategy is to get things done more efficiently. Some opportunities may never come back, and junior scholars are sometimes not sure what we are missing out on.

Journal Showcase

Frontiers in Public Health: Life-Course Epidemiology and Social Inequalities in Health



Part of a multidisciplinary journal, this section welcomes manuscripts concerning life-course epidemiology and social inequalities. Research articles combining multiple exposures (social, socio-economic, psychological, psychosocial, gender, economic, demographic etc.) and novel approaches to measuring health, such as social-to-biological approaches, will be of particular interest in this section.

Impact Factor:
6.461

Call for Announcements

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

Announcements for the Summer newsletter should be emailed by **June 2023** to co-editors
Stephanie Ureña
(stephanie.urena.s@gmail.com)
& 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 & 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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