

# ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



## News From The Chair



Dear SALC colleagues,  
I hope this summer has been refreshing for all of you as we gear up to see each other at ASA in the beautiful city of Montreal! Our section day is scheduled for Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>, a day full of SALC presentations and events, capped off by the Mentoring Dessert Reception at 7:30PM to which **all** are invited. Also note, we do have one session the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. The full schedule can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. These activities include two paper sessions, one roundtable session, and the Matilda White Riley lecture (delivered by our 2023 awardee Rick Settersten), after which the

SALC business meeting will be held. Please be aware that the Mentoring Dessert Reception (7:30-9pm) is free and made possible through the generous support of our section members. To support SALC's mentorship programs, you can donate online through the member portal's unique [link](#). A description of the reception and the website for making contributions are provided on page 3.

The July 31 deadline for gifting a student membership is almost here. Gifting one or more memberships 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 Gift Memberships. Once you check out, you will receive an email receipt with a redemption code that you will provide to students. An additional benefit of gifting student membership is that it safeguards our member threshold, which will ensure we maintain our paper and roundtable sessions at the 2025 meeting.

As always, I'd like to thank the section leadership for their hard work this year. Our past chair, Stefanie Möllborn, chaired the nominations committee and generated an outstanding slate of candidates for election which yielded some great new leadership. I want to thank outgoing Council members André Christie-Mizell and Anna Muraco, outgoing student representative Kagan Mellencamp, and outgoing web manager Julia Wolf for their generous and outstanding service to the Section. I also want to congratulate and welcome our newly elected Council members Patricia Homan and Adriana Reyes and newly elected Student Representative Mallory Bell. At ASA I will be pleased to pass the torch to our incoming chair Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson and announce chair-elect Patricia Thomas. We will also honor those receiving the Outstanding Publication Award, Graduate Student Paper Award, Outstanding Mentor Award, Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, and BIPOC Junior Scholar Travel Grants. 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 Mentoring Committee, led by Janet Wilmoth, which organized the mentoring reception.

As always, I am honored to be part of a vibrant section that also prioritizes warmth, inclusivity, and mentoring the next generation of scholars. It truly takes a village to have such an 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 soon in Montreal or, if you are not attending ASA, at a future meeting.

Miles G. Taylor

2023-24 Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course

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119TH ASA ANNUAL MEETING

## Intersectional Solidarities: Building Communities of Hope, Justice, and Joy

AUGUST 9-13, 2024  
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

### 2024 Annual Meeting SALC Program Section Day: Saturday, August 10

#### Council Meeting

7:00 - 7:45 AM (Room 511E)

#### Open Session: LGBTQ+ Aging

Organized by: Tara McKay, Vanderbilt University

8:00—9:30 AM (511E)

#### Matilda White Riley Lecture

2:00 - 3:00 PM (Room 511E)

#### "The Footprints of History in the Life Course: Observations from the Last Century—and Today"

Delivered by **Dr. Rick Settersten** (Oregon State University),  
recipient of the 2023 Matilda White Riley Award



#### SALC Section Business Meeting

3:00 - 3:30 PM (Room 511E)

#### Refereed Roundtables and Research Working Groups

Organized by: Catherine Garcia, Syracuse University & Christine A. Mair, University of Maryland-Baltimore County

4:00 - 5:30 PM (Room 517B)

#### Mentoring Dessert Reception (see page 3 for details)

7:30 - 9:00 PM (Room 517B)

#### Open Session: Risk and Resilience Across the Life Course

Organized by: Cleothia Frazier, Pennsylvania State University

\*Sunday, August 11, 8:00 - 9:30 AM (Room 511B)

All events take place on Palais des Congrès Level 5.  
Specific room numbers are posted above.

## SALC Mentoring Dessert Reception

When: Saturday, August 10, from 7:30—9:00 pm

Where: Palais des Congrès, Floor: Level 5, 517B

Please join us for this year's SALC mentoring event where scholars will mix in a relaxed setting for the purpose of discussing substantive areas of the field and addressing professional development topics. Topics include work/life integration, turning your dissertation into a book, publishing in journals, being successful on the job market, applying for grants and fellowships, and doing public sociology.

**You do not need to be a current SALC member to attend!**

## Donations to Fund SALC Mentorship Efforts!

Mentoring is a priority for ASA's Section on Aging and the Life Course. To support our mentorship efforts, **we are requesting donations from willing members to help fund our mentorship efforts** in two main areas: (1) the mentoring dessert reception at ASA which aims to provide a relaxed setting where emerging and established scholars will be able to discuss substantive areas in the field and address professional development questions and (2) travel grants for junior scholars (graduate students and postdocs) who belong to racial/ethnic minoritized groups or identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC).

Both efforts are made possible through the generous support of members of our session. **We are incredibly thankful to the members who have already given to support these efforts!** If you have not had an opportunity to give yet and would like to support our section in providing these two mentorship programs, you can donate online through the member portal via credit card: <https://my.asanet.org/cv5/cgi-bin/memberdll.dll/info?wpr=donationnew.htm&selDon=ASASC182AMR>. This is a unique link that will take you directly to our section's donation page. Note that ASA has redesigned their donation process and if you need to reset your password, you can do so at <https://my.asanet.org/>. (Your username is now your email address you use for your ASA profile). If you need assistance or would like to donate by check, contact me at [mthomeer@uab.edu](mailto:mthomeer@uab.edu).

**If you also would like to learn more about a donation from an institution (such as your department), please contact Mieke Thomeer ([mthomeer@uab.edu](mailto:mthomeer@uab.edu)) for details.** Also contact Mieke if you need any assistance with donating or would like to donate by check.

Donations beyond the cost of these two programs (dessert reception and travel grants) will be saved and applied to future SALC mentoring programs. Your contribution will enhance SALC's mentoring activities and is greatly appreciated. The ASA is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax preparer for details.

If you have any questions about these programs, you can contact the section secretary/treasurer (Mieke Thomeer, [mthomeer@uab.edu](mailto:mthomeer@uab.edu)) or Miles Taylor ([mtaylor3@fsu.edu](mailto:mtaylor3@fsu.edu)).



## Five Questions for Patricia Drentea

### Patricia Drentea



Professor  
Department of Sociology  
The University of Alabama at  
Birmingham

### Hometown?

I have lived many places, but call Minneapolis, MN my hometown. I still miss ice skating, cross-country skiing, snow, and walking around "The Lakes" near downtown. I went to college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and then again moved back to Minneapolis.

### Proudest Accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment without a doubt is raising two daughters who have become young women in this complicated world. I have been married for almost 30 years and we get along well. Professionally, I am most proud of my book *Families & Aging* published by Rowman & Littlefield.

### Your first-ever job?

My first-ever job was working at a drug store. I worked front register and cosmetics, and then eventually did the bookkeeping. I was still in high school(!) and handled all the

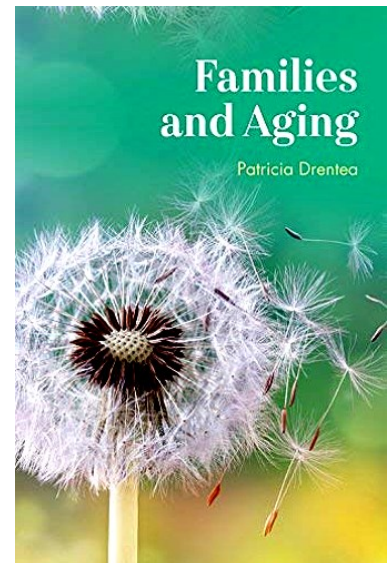
money etc. I don't think this would happen these days. My first professional full-time job was working as an editorial and photo assistant at a children's book publishing company in Minneapolis.

### A surprising fact about yourself?

A surprising fact about myself is that I am artistic. I have a creative side that comes out in different ways. I like to paint and garden, and work on our old house.

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

There have been several great pieces of advice, but the one that most comes to mind is when Catherine Ross, my advisor for my dissertation, was advising me on an unfair situation. She basically said, and I'm paraphrasing: "sometimes you just take the loss and don't fight it [because of politics]." I have drawn upon these words several times in my career.



## Journal Showcase



*Age and Ageing* is a leading international clinical geriatric medicine journal. *Age and Ageing* is an international journal publishing refereed original research, review articles and editorial pieces on geriatric medicine and clinical gerontology. Its scope includes applied and clinical research on human ageing and clinical, epidemiological and psychological aspects of later life, medical education and service improvement. We place particular emphasis on material which will be of immediate interest to clinicians.

*Age and Ageing* is the journal of the [British Geriatrics Society](https://www.bsgsociety.org/), improving healthcare for older people.

## Emerging Scholar



### Catherine García

Assistant Professor  
Syracuse University  
Email: cgarci24@syr.edu

I am an assistant professor in the department of Human Development and Family Science at Syracuse University located in Central New York, USA. Additionally, I hold a secondary appointment in the department of Sociology and hold affiliations with the Aging Studies Institute, the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and Population Health, and the Program on Latin America and the Caribbean. Recently, I was appointed to oversee the

undergraduate minor in Gerontology, allowing me the opportunity to shape academic pathways for students interested in aging and life course studies.

My research primarily uses large, population-based survey data to examine and understand the dynamics of the aging process in Latina/o/x populations in the United States and Puerto Rico. Specifically, my research combines critical and relational theories of race/ethnicity, social stratification, the life course perspective, and a variety of social demographic techniques to:

1. promote data disaggregation within the Latina/o/x population;
2. investigate risk accumulation and resource activation that shape inequities in health across the lifespan; and
3. examine historical and contextual determinants that shape population health disparities.

My core research question is: "How do social conditions and statuses within the Latina/o/x population become biologically embedded and influence age-related diseases, conditions, and outcomes?"

This question stems from decades of observing personal, family, and community-based experiences in California, Florida, New York, and Puerto Rico. I have and continue to leverage longitudinal studies to study how various social conditions and statuses among Latina/o/x populations – such as ethnic heritage, race, birthplace, sex/gender, education, and neighborhoods – influence biological processes, chronic disease, and mortality. My latest research is using biological markers to explain why certain subgroups of Latina/o/xs are at greater risk for early-onset and severity of aging-related diseases.

As an educator, I have taught classes in midlife development and gerontology, aging across the lifespan, research methods, and am currently developing my department's first course on diversity in aging. My main goal across these courses is to provide a transformative and holistic learning experience that encourages students to engage their hearts and minds in pursuing knowledge and improving social conditions. I approach my role as an educator as a collaborative and dynamic partnership, recognizing and celebrating the intersection of each student's personal experiences, aspirations, and background. I am hoping to recruit a PhD student in the near future that wants to focus on Latina/o/x aging.

Outside of academia, you can find me chasing after my active 5-year-old, reading literature, creating art, and working on my fitness.

## Emerging Scholar



### **Cleothia Frazier**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology and Criminology  
The Pennsylvania State University  
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Website: <https://cgfrazier.scholar.st/>

I am an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Demography at Pennsylvania State University in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Prior to arriving at Penn State, I obtained my Ph.D. in Sociology at Vanderbilt University, followed by postdoctoral training at Duke University's Duke Aging Center. I also hold master's degrees in Anthropology and Public Health.

Utilizing interdisciplinary perspectives (from sociology, anthropology, and public health), my research investigates heterogeneity in health and aging processes across the life course, especially among older adults. I have several areas of research, including but not limited to, aging and life course, medical sociology, sleep health, race/ethnicity, mental health, and the social determinants of health. Several theoretical frameworks guide my research including social integration, cumulative disadvantage, stress theory, the life course perspective, intersectionality, and role theory. I am currently developing three areas of inquiry.

In the first area of research, I examine how the social determinants of sleep contribute to sleep health disparities in the United States. While much is known about sleep from a biological perspective, my work aims to elucidate the sociological underpinnings of sleep. Specifically, I investigate how sleep is shaped by the social context of life. As such, research in this area focuses on social roles, family, work-related factors, and the neighborhood environment. I am currently conducting research that examines intersectional differences in the effects of retirement on sleep.

Building on the first line of research, my second area of inquiry examines how the neighborhood environment is a chronic stressor for older adults. My goal is to investigate how neighborhoods are key sites for examining the interrelationship among race, aging, and health because adults can experience an accumulation of risk exposures from living in residentially segregated and/or disadvantaged communities. I am currently working on a project funded by the Population Research Institute (PRI) at Penn State, where I examine the effects of residential segregation and other neighborhood factors on older Black Americans' sleep and mental health.

The last area of research examines how stress exposure differentially affects mental and physical health across the life course (e.g., young adulthood, midlife, and later life). Currently, I am working on two separate projects that examine how early life stress exposure affects sleep and cognition among older Black Americans. In addition, recognizing heterogeneity within this population, I also investigate intersectional differences with regards to gender, class, and education. These two projects are supported and funded by the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) and the Network on Education, Biosocial Pathways, and Dementia across Diverse Populations (EdDem), respectively.

Considering my interdisciplinary background, I am also committed to engaging with community participatory based methodologies as well as implementation science to help develop interventions and policy to improve the aging process for older adults and subsequent generations that follow. When I am not working, I enjoy reading science fiction novels, puzzles, knitting, and walking.

**Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to:**  
Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson, *Incoming SALC Chair*  
[monicakj@wsu.edu](mailto:monicakj@wsu.edu)

## News & Announcements

### SALC Seeks Newsletter Editor

SALC is looking for a new Newsletter Editor. Responsibilities include assembling and distributing newsletter three times a year to the section membership, drafting a yearly report to Council for the Annual Meeting, and coordinating with the SALC Chair and the rest of the SALC Communications Officers.

This is a great way to get involved in SALC leadership and—especially for advanced graduate students or pre-tenure faculty members—to cultivate network ties. If you're interested or have questions, send an email to SALC Incoming Chair Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson ([monicakj@wsu.edu](mailto:monicakj@wsu.edu)).

### Section Member Publications

**Elena G. Van Stee** (University of Pennsylvania)

**van Stee, Elena G.**, Arielle Kuperberg, and Joan Maya Mazelis. 2024. "Activating Family Safety Nets: Understanding Undergraduates' Pandemic Housing Transitions." *Socius* 10. doi:10.1177/23780231241259625.

### Call for Papers



**The Fourth Global Carework Summit**  
**"Histories and Futures of Care"**  
**5-7 June 2025**  
**Duke University, Durham, North Carolina**

The Carework Network is taking this opportunity of its 25th anniversary to reflect on the histories and futures of carework research and the study of care more broadly during a bilingual (Spanish and English) three-day conference bringing together researchers and advocates from around the world. The conference will explore how conversations about care have developed during this period and what factors have informed notable inflection points — not only discrete events such as the 2008 financial crisis and the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic but also more sustained dynamics such as environmental crises, pervasive neoliberal policies, the ongoing importance of migrant careworkers, the changing role of technologies and infrastructures, and renewed global reckonings with the effects of racism and colonialism. We invite submissions that allow us to explore these histories together as well as their implications for the futures of care and care studies. We welcome proposals for the following submission types:

1. **Individual paper proposals** should include an abstract of 300 words and a brief (five entries) bibliography of work that has informed your research or with which you are in conversation.
2. **Fully constituted panel proposals** should describe the topic and relationship between papers in no more than 300 words. Additionally, include 300-word abstracts for each paper. Panels should have 3-5 papers. We encourage panels that bring together participants from different perspectives, disciplines, geographies, methodologies and/or that connect scholarly knowledge to public conversations.

**All submissions should include title, name, contact information for author(s), institutional affiliation (if applicable), and occupational status (student, faculty, advocate, practitioner etc.).** All submissions should include objectives or research questions; methodology, geographical or sectoral context, main findings and conclusions, and 4-5 keywords describing the research.

We welcome submissions in English or Spanish, from all academic disciplines, independent researchers, advocacy or non-profit organizations, and public and private sector organizations. We also encourage participation by undergraduate and graduate students. The Carework Network is an international organization of scholars and advocates who focus on the caring work of individuals, families, communities, paid and unpaid caregivers, social service agencies and state bureaucracies. Authors and panel organizers should submit a proposal for a paper or panel to [careworknetwork2025@gmail.com](mailto:careworknetwork2025@gmail.com) (by e-mail only) no later than **September 1, 2024**. If selected, you will be notified in October and expected to submit a full paper by April 1, 2025. **Questions about the Global Summit may be directed to:** [careworknetwork2025@gmail.com](mailto:careworknetwork2025@gmail.com)



## 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 2024** to Stephanie Ureña (stephanie.urena.s@gmail.com) & Shannon Shen (shen@hope.edu).

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

<http://asasalc.org/>

## We are on Social Media!

Follow us to engage with the SALC community and be notified of the latest research, events, and job opportunities related to our section.



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