

# ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



## News From The Chair



Dear SALC Colleagues:

Greetings! Plans for our 2026 annual meeting in New York City are well underway! We are in the 47th year that SALC has been a Section at ASA, and we continue to be a vibrant, welcoming section, with a great emphasis on mentoring. Sara Moorman will continue organizing our mentoring reception this year, which many raved about last year! At past meetings, the mentoring reception has been a special feature of our Section and a highlight of

the meeting for many Section members. We have some exciting sessions at ASA this year, including an invited flash session of scholars discussing social factors and health spanning all across the life course, a session on “Family Ties Across the Life Course and Across the Globe” (organized by Nekehia Quashie), two open sessions with topics that will be determined based on submissions (organized by Haowei Wang), and our roundtables session (organized by Courtney Boen and Rachel Donnelly). We also have an exciting session co-sponsored with the Medical Sociology Section on “Disrupting Health Inequities across the Life Course” (organized by Sarah Mustillo and Wen Fan).

**SALC section day** for the 2026 conference is **Monday, August 10th**. We will send a detailed announcement later this spring with the final program and a list of papers and presenters. Note that since ASA changed the allocation of sessions to sections, SALC will have more sessions this year than in the past, so our sessions might end up on more than one day, but typically our business meeting/Matilda White Riley award winner lecture, our roundtables session, and our reception are on our section day.

I want to thank you for your membership in the Section and encourage you to recruit new members to our ranks. Please don't forget to renew your ASA and SALC membership! The size of our section as of July 31 is used by ASA to determine the number of session slots allocated for the 2027 ASA conference. Consider purchasing student gift memberships—you can change a student's life by enhancing their professional development as a SALC member! Melanie Plasencia is our new membership chair and is running a competition - the SALC member who recruits the most new members or re-registrations by July 31, 2026, will receive a custom 20-oz Stanley tumbler.

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An important mission of our Section is to reward excellence in research, mentoring, and career accomplishments by issuing awards to our most distinguished members. Thanks to those who made nominations for the Outstanding Mentor Award, Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, Outstanding Publication Award, and Graduate Student Paper Award. We will celebrate award winners at the SALC business meeting, along with a talk by last year's Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award winner, Neal Krause.

Please keep an eye out for elections for ASA and SALC officers, which will take place later this spring. I extend my thanks to Past SALC Chair Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson and the Nominations Committee members Fenian Chen, Shawn Bauldry, and Rick Settersten for their work generating an outstanding slate of candidates.

Finally, I want to thank our newsletter editors, Nik Lampe and Jason Wong, for the wonderful job they did putting together this document, as well as our listserv editor (Adam Roth), our social media managers (Jeffrey Lentz and Josh Lewis), our award committee chairs (Lindsay Wilkinson, Scott Landes, Joseph Larisy, Marc Garcia, Ken Ferraro, and Susan Brown) and members, without whose dedication SALC would not be the dynamic Section it is today.

All my best,  
**Patti Thomas**  
*Chair, Section on Aging and the Life Course*

## Journal Showcase



**Ageing & Society** is an interdisciplinary and international journal devoted to advancing the understanding of ageing and the circumstances of older people in their socio-economic and cultural contexts. The journal is committed to publishing original and high-quality research papers that substantially contribute to ongoing debates in social gerontology. Ageing & Society welcomes submissions using different theoretical and methodological approaches as long as they aim to advance research, policy and practice and encourage the exchange of ideas across the broad audience of multidisciplinary academics and practitioners working in the field of ageing.

## Donations to Fund SALC Mentorship Efforts

Dear SALC Member,

I am writing to you as the Chair of ASA's Section on Aging and the Life Course to ask for your support for our annual mentoring event. This event at ASA, which is for all section members, is especially organized with graduate student members in mind. We typically have approximately 100 people join us for the festivities each year. We have had mentoring roundtables for the past few years, which have been very well received, and we will continue this tradition at ASA in New York this year.

**The funds will be used for two purposes: (1) to supplement the cost of our mentoring dessert reception at ASA and (2) to provide travel funds for a selection of ASA SALC students to attend ASA in 2026.**

The mentoring dessert reception focuses on mentoring junior scholars. The student travel funds will be provided to up to 5 students who will be presenting research related to aging and/or the life course with respect to structural inequality. To apply, eligible students will send their CV, conference submission, and list of sessions to which paper/abstract was submitted (watch the newsletter and listserv for more information).

Funds will be collected online, through ASA. Below is the link that should take you directly to the donation form. Please make sure that "Aging in the Life Course" is specified (it should already be there):

<https://my.asanet.org/cv5/cgi-bin/memberdll.dll/info?wpr=donationnew.htm&selDon=ASASC183AMO>

Please note: Though unlikely, if donated funds are not spent by August 31, 2026, they will remain in the ASA SALC account and roll over to be used for the same purposes in 2027.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Thomas, PhD  
Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course  
Purdue University

and

Patricia Drentea, PhD  
Secretary and Treasurer, ASA Section on Aging and  
the Life Course  
University of Alabama at Birmingham



121ST ASA ANNUAL MEETING

# DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

PUTTING SOCIOLOGY TO WORK FOR A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY



AUGUST 7-11, 2026 | NEW YORK CITY



## 2026 ASA SALC Program Section Day: August 10, 2026

### 2026 ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course Programming

*Program Committee: Patti Thomas, Nekehia Quashie, Haowei Wang,  
Courtney Boen, and Rachel Donnelly.*

### Business Meeting and Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Lecture

SALC Business Meeting (30 minutes) and then 2025 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award winner, Neal Krause, will present his award lecture, "Religion, Aging, and Health: Reflections on 40 Years of Gerontological Research."

### Flash Talks: Social Factors and Health Across the Life Course

Join us as the Life Course flashes before our eyes - with a panel of flash talks exploring the impact of social factors influencing health all across the life course.

*Organized by Patti Thomas, Purdue University.*

### Family Ties Across the Life Course and Across the Globe

This session welcomes studies that explore the dynamic nature of family ties across the life course and in diverse social and welfare contexts to elucidate differences and commonalities in family structures, social support expectations, and their implications for health and well-being at different life course stages. We encourage studies that are attentive to the role of major demographic and cultural shifts that may (re)shape family relations including, but not limited to, migration, gender norms, family support norms, and changes in family formation (e.g. delayed or forgone marriage and parenthood). Studies may focus on a single country context or examine cross-national comparisons.

*Organized by Nekehia Quashie, University of Rhode Island.*

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**Open Sessions (2) for Section on Aging and the Life Course**

"Contextual Influences on Well-Being Across the Life Course."

"Implications of Critical Events/Periods Across the Life Course."

*Organized by Haowei Wang, Syracuse University.*

**Section on Aging and the Life Course Roundtables**

Open submissions for roundtable presentations.

*Organized by Courtney Boen, Brown University, and Rachel Donnelly, Vanderbilt University.*

**Co-Sponsored Session with Medical Sociology Section*****Disrupting Health Inequities across the Life Course***

This co-sponsored session examines how structural inequalities shape health and well-being from early life through older adulthood. Drawing on diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, the session highlights research that investigates how health inequalities emerge, accumulate, and persist or are disrupted across the life course, as well as how aging processes intersect with gender, sexuality, race-ethnicity, class, and other dimensions of inequality. By situating health inequalities within a life course framework, this session directly engages the 2026 ASA theme, "Disrupting the Status Quo: Putting Sociology to Work for a More Equitable Society." The session emphasizes work that documents patterns of inequality and identifies mechanisms of disruption—whether through policy, institutions, communities, or individual agency—that can advance health equality across the life span.

*Organized by Sarah Mustillo, University of Notre Dame, and Wen Fan, Boston College.*

**ASA SALC Mentoring Reception****Monday, August 10, 2026, 7:30-9:00 pm, Room TBD**

Please save the date for the SALC mentoring reception at the ASA meeting in NYC! Scholars at all levels, and especially students, are welcome. The evening will feature a selection of yummy desserts and a round-robin format with thematic tables hosted by SALC members. You may direct any questions to the Mentoring Committee Chair, Sara Moorman, at [moormans@bc.edu](mailto:moormans@bc.edu).

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# 121ST ASA ANNUAL MEETING

# DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

PUTTING SOCIOLOGY TO WORK FOR A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY



AUGUST 7-11, 2026 | NEW YORK CITY



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## **Invited Flash Talks: Social Factors and Health Across the Life Course**

Join us as the Life Course flashes before our eyes - with a panel of short flash talks exploring the impact of a variety of social factors influencing health and well-being at different stages of the life course (from infancy to late life).

### **Session Organizer: Patti Thomas, Purdue University**

Presenters:

**Patricia Homan**, Florida State University

"Maternal and Infant Health"

**Lawrence Stacey**, Vanderbilt University

"The Long Arm of Adversity: Intergenerational Associations between Maternal Adverse Childhood Experiences and Children's Well-Being."

**Stephanie L. Canizales**, Berkley University

"Migrant Youth Coming of Age in the US"

**Brandon Jackson**, University of Illinois

"Forging Bonds: How Black Men's Friendships Shape the Journey to Adulthood"

**Christy L. Erving**, University of Texas at Austin

"Stressors, Coping, and Black Women's Life Course Health"

**Jessica Kelley**, Case Western Reserve University

"Where Did the Middle (Life) Go? Reinvigorating Inquiry about Midlife in the Life Course Perspective"

**Marc Garcia**, Syracuse University

"Beyond the Latino Paradox Advantage: Reimagining Latino Aging as Structural Vulnerability"

**Jenjira Yahirun**, Bowling Green State University

"Offspring Education and Parental Health: What We Know and Challenges that Remain"

**Deborah Carr**, Boston University

"A Good Death: What is It, and Who Attains It"

## Candidates for 2026 SALC Officers Chair-Elect (1-year term begins in 2026)



### Janet Wilmoth

#### Present Position:

Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Aging Studies Institute Director, Syracuse University, 2025-present

#### Education:

PhD, Sociology and Demography with a Minor in Gerontology, The Pennsylvania State University, 1995

#### Personal Statement

I have had the pleasure of being involved in the Section on Aging and the Life Course (SALC) for over thirty years. As the SALC Secretary/Treasurer, I collaborated with various members and ASA staff to ensure the section ran smoothly. I established procedures for fundraising and digitized the SALC archive. I understand the section officers' roles, the way the section works, and the structure of ASA. Given my longstanding involvement in the SALC Mentoring and Professional Development Committee, I am particularly committed to engaging emerging scholars and planning activities such as the mentoring event that has become a tradition on our section day at the annual meeting. If I have the honor of serving as Chair-Elect, I will work to maintain the vibrancy of our section and strive to build upon the rich legacy established by our section's previous leaders.



### Markus Schafer

#### Present Position:

Professor of Sociology and Graduate Program Director, Baylor University, 2024-present

#### Education:

PhD in Sociology, Purdue University, 2011

#### Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated for Chair-Elect of SALC, my intellectual home since graduate school in the late 2000s. I have had the privilege of serving on multiple section committees, and seeing up close the diversity and intellectual breadth of SALC activities has always been rewarding. To me, SALC stands for two primary reasons. First, aging and the life course constitute some of the most consequential—if sometimes under-the-radar—areas of our discipline. Demographic change, population health, family transformation, inequality, and social policy all converge in our work. I would welcome opportunities to explore new connections between SALC and other dynamic ASA sections, given the ubiquity of our topics across the many substantive areas of our discipline. Second, mentorship and support of junior scholars in SALC are truly distinctive. I would work to continue creating opportunities for collaborative, supportive relationships within and across generations of scholars.

## Council Member Candidates (3-year term begins in 2026)



### Nik Lampe

**Present Position:** Assistant Professor of Behavioral Health Science & Practice, Affiliated Faculty of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, and Affiliated Faculty of Aging Studies, University of South Florida, 2023-Present

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated as a Council Representative of SALC. SALC has been my intellectual home and primary ASA section membership since graduate school, and I have been grateful to serve as SALC Newsletter Editor (2024–present), on the Mentoring Award Committee (2022–23), and on the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee (2023–24). My scholarship examines the structural drivers of health and healthcare disparities faced by LGBTQ+, Black, and Latino older adults, as well as people living with dementia and their caregivers. As an early-career sociologist at a Florida R1 public university, my experiences have provided meaningful insight into the sociopolitical barriers confronting marginalized scholars and those navigating the Ph.D. job market. As a SALC Council Representative, I will prioritize enhanced programming that supports diverse career paths, fosters strong mentoring relationships, and strengthens the Section’s commitment to equity and inclusion.



### Collin Mueller

**Present Position:** Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, University of Maryland, 2020-Present

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be considered for a Council position through the Section on Aging and the Life Course. I am a mixed-methods sociologist working to identify mechanisms that shape gendered racial/ethnic

inequalities in organizational and health outcomes across the life course. I have gained valuable experiences collaborating with students and publishing in and reviewing for a range of sociology journals as well as interdisciplinary outlets in public health and gerontology. If elected, I will work to advance efforts to amplify sociological research in the public sphere and strengthen collaborative approaches between sociologists and other disciplines working to improve the lives of aging populations.



### Patricia Morton

**Present Position:** Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Wayne State University, 2024-Present

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated for the SALC Council. My research explores how individual experiences and social conditions influence health and aging over the life course.

SALC has been instrumental in my development as a life course scholar by providing a vibrant and inclusive academic space to share research and engage meaningfully with life course sociologists. I welcome the opportunity to help cultivate meaningful connections for the SALC community, especially for students and early-career scholars interested in aging and the life course. I am committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment by prioritizing accessibility and equity in my role as a council member. If elected, I will work with my fellow council members to help sustain and grow the SALC section, promote the contributions of our members to both the discipline and the public, and continue to support SALC’s long-held traditions of innovative research, professional development, and community engagement.



### Ignacio Cabib

**Present Position:** Associate Professor (January 2023–Present), Institute of Sociology and School of Public Health, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Personal Statement:** As a candidate for SALC Council,

I expect to contribute to the collective management of the Section’s operations, governance, and annual-meeting programming. Trained in life-course sociology (PhD, Université de Lausanne) and based at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, my research centers on how gendered employment and family trajectories, pension institutions, and health stratification shape retirement pathways and extended working lives. I have published widely on these processes, including cross-national work and a recent book on retirement avoidance in Chile, and I serve on the editorial board of *Work, Aging & Retirement*. Through international leadership in the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies and ISA RC11, I bring experience building scholarly networks. On Council I would prioritize high-quality sessions that link theory and methods, mentoring that supports early-career scholars, and sustained attention to global and intersectional inequalities in aging.

## Student Representative Candidates (2-year term begins in 2026)



**Anna  
Catherine De  
La Paz**

**Present Position:**  
Ph.D. Candidate  
and Research  
Assistant Syracuse  
University,  
Department of

Sociology & Center for Policy Research  
August 2024 – Present

### **Personal Statement**

My research examines aging, care work, and food insecurity through the lens of social policy and inequality. My work on aging includes coauthoring the Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief titled “Why Is Food Insecurity High Among U.S. Grandparents Who Are Caring for Grandchildren?” and contributing editorially to the book *Food for Thought* by Colleen Heflin and Madonna Harrington Meyer. In addition to my research, I currently serve as Vice Chair of the ASA Student Forum Advisory Board (2025–2027 term), where I help coordinate graduate student engagement and professional development initiatives. I will use this experience to strengthen graduate student inclusion in SALC, foster mentorship, and build connections between early-career scholars and established section members.



**Yue Qin**

**Present Position:**  
PhD Candidate,  
Department of  
Sociology,  
University of  
Wisconsin-  
Madison, 2024-  
Present.

### **Personal Statement**

I am seeking election as Student Representative to give back to the SALC community, which has been invaluable to my professional development and growth as a scholar. I hope to contribute to SALC’s role in advancing research, fostering the exchange of ideas, supporting the professional development of student members, and promoting a vibrant, inclusive community. I bring relevant qualifications, including research experience on aging and the life course, engagement in professional development activities, and collaborative problem-solving skills, which equip me to understand and advocate for the needs of student members.

## SALC's Donor Spotlight Series with Janet M. Wilmoth, Ph.D.



### About Janet M. Wilmoth

Janet M. Wilmoth is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University. She serves as Director of the Aging Studies Institute (ASI) and Dissemination Core Lead for the Center for Aging and Policy Studies. Dr. Wilmoth has played numerous important roles in SALC and is the recipient of the 2023 SALC Mentoring Award. Dr. Wilmoth, alongside other scholars at Syracuse University, has been a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of SALC. We are thrilled to feature Dr. Wilmoth in this SALC donor series celebrating Syracuse University Department of Sociology.

### Interview

**Wong:** We are pleased to have Janet Wilmoth, Distinguished Professor in Sociology at Syracuse University, here today. Dr. Wilmoth, let's begin by sharing a bit more about Syracuse's Sociology Department and the Aging Studies Institute (ASI), and talk about its relationship with SALC.

**Wilmoth:** Sure. The Syracuse Sociology Department is focused on a range of issues related to globalization, immigration, transnationalism, health, aging, and the life course, as well as family, education, work and power, capital and culture. We have faculty working across a variety of subfields in sociology, with expertise in both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The faculty who are in health, aging, and life course are very closely tied to the SALC. We've played numerous roles in the section over the years. In addition to my involvement as secretary-treasurer and in the Mentoring and Professional Development Committee, Merril Silverstein served as the SALC chair and was the mentoring committee chair one year. Madonna Harrington Meyer and Andrew London also chaired the mentoring committee. Jennifer Karas Montez has played almost every role there is to play in the section. She was a student representative, a council member, and served as SALC chair. Marc Garcia has been on SALC Council, and Scott Landes and Haowei Wang are active in the section.

Seven of the Sociology faculty are ASI associates. ASI is an all-university research center, which I direct, that includes faculty not only from Sociology and the Maxwell School, but also from Arts

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**Interviewed by Jason Wong, M.Phil.**

## Interview with Janet M. Wilmoth, Ph.D.

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and Sciences, Engineering, the Design School, the Law School and the School of Education. Therefore, the Sociology faculty are tied to colleagues across campus more broadly through ASI.



In addition, the Center for Aging and Policy Studies, directed by Jennifer Karas Montez, is administratively housed in ASI. CAPS is a consortium of faculty in demography and economics of aging at Syracuse University, Cornell University and the University of Albany, SUNY. All of these connections help to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among the Sociology faculty.

**Wong:** That's fascinating to hear! I think fostering interdisciplinary discussions is very important, especially for graduate students, because engaging with people from different disciplines helps us connect ideas, share perspectives, and inspire new research. There are so many new opportunities that can arise from talking with people from different disciplines.

**Wilmoth:** Yes. I've always thought that the questions we're interested in as aging scholars transcend any given discipline. How and why is the population aging? What are the implications for families? How does the body and mind change with age? How can governments meet the needs of older adults and their families through policies and programs? All of those big gerontological questions, I think, require people coming at them from different disciplinary perspectives. Having centers that span a full university can be advantageous because you get people in a room talking to each other who normally wouldn't otherwise be doing that.

**Wong:** Totally! I know that the Sociology Department at Syracuse University is housed within the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. I'm wondering how being part of a public policy school shapes the opportunities and overall atmosphere for students and faculty doing aging and life course research.

**Wilmoth:** Absolutely. Being in the Maxwell School definitely shapes the research faculty and students are doing. For example, ASI has faculty associates from the Maxwell School who are in Economics, Public Administration and International Affairs, and Public Health. That means there are numerous people who are policy experts. Having these faculty as ASI associates, sitting in an office down the hall or right next door to sociologists, enables faculty to develop collaborative relationships.

In addition to the public administration and social science departments, the Maxwell School has a lot of research centers like ASI. On any given hall in the Maxwell School, there are faculty from multiple disciplines whose offices are next to each other. I think that's part of the magic of Maxwell - that we're physically housed in a way that encourages cross-disciplinary conversations among scholars.

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## Interview with Janet M. Wilmoth, Ph.D.

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**Wong:** It's just excellent to hear about how interdisciplinary Syracuse University is. I think that really speaks to the core values of college education. We've just talked about the relationship between the Syracuse sociology department and the SALC section. Why do you think there is such a strong connection with SALC?

**Wilmoth:** That commitment to aging and life course scholarship has long defined both the Sociology Department and ASI, which is why we've been so active in SALC over the years. And as director of ASI, I am very committed to making sure we support SALC as well.



The personal and institutional donations SALC receives support the section's efforts to cultivate the next generation of scholars. I recognize what SALC did for me and my colleagues as we were moving through the ranks, and I want to make sure

those same opportunities were available to younger scholars coming up behind us.

**Wong:** I really appreciate how Syracuse Sociology and the ASI have supported SALC in organizing mentorship events during the ASA meetings. The SALC reception is honestly one of the best I've ever attended. It's always such a great experience.

**Wilmoth:** I'm glad you like it. Several years ago, around COVID, when we had to shift away from the dinner, we started the reception with thematic round-robin tables. It seems like it's going well, but it's good to hear student input on that.

I think those kinds of opportunities really matter. When I was a graduate student, there were a couple of senior people in the field whom I got to know by going to ASA and interacting with them at section events. Those people were very important to my professional development. It is incredibly valuable to have access to a variety of people in the field, people you can connect with to discuss substantive interests or professional issues. I hope that SALC continues to provide a space, at the annual meeting and ideally throughout the year as well, where people can build those kinds of relationships, because I think they're so crucial to professional success.

**Wong:** Absolutely. The good thing is that you can just go to another table when the time's up and choose a couple of sessions you're interested in, whether they're about professionalization, publishing papers, or any other kind of advice you'd like to seek. So I think it's really great. I really like it. My final question is, can you share any advice for students, researchers, or early-career scholars going into aging and life course research?

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## Interview with Janet M. Wilmoth, Ph.D.

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**Wilmoth:** The great thing about the SALC mentoring event is being able to go to different tables and meet different people. I would encourage students to come every year, even as you transition out of graduate school. You might meet somebody for five or 10 minutes at one meeting, then next year you might have another quick conversation with them, and in subsequent years the relationship just builds. Before you know it, SALC becomes your professional home and you have a wonderful network of colleagues from across the country and the world.

It's the sustained interaction with the section and its activities that is most beneficial. I think you can get something out of coming to one mentoring reception. But if you engage in the section - come to the roundtables, come to the sessions and online events, submit papers, volunteer to serve, and really stay involved - you get to know people over time. And the members are the real gem of the section.

So, my main advice to students would be: ENGAGE, ENGAGE, ENGAGE! You don't have to do it all in one meeting. Just recognize that you're in it for the long haul, and those relationships will develop naturally over time.

**Wong:** Fantastic advice. Dr. Wilmoth, any final words?

**Wilmoth:** I would like to acknowledge that we're in a particular historical and political moment right now, which is tough for social scientists and particularly tough for sociologists. It is crucial that we not get discouraged, and that we continue to do the work that is necessary to understand aging issues.

It's more important than ever that we stay in touch with our colleagues and engage in our professional associations. I think we're all feeling some of the same things right now. There's a sense of uncertainty. It's not clear how people are going to support their research, teaching sociology in higher education is under fire, and AI is fundamentally changing the way we do our work.

Given all of this, ASA in general, and SALC in particular, has an even more important role to play now than in the past, because we really need that community to keep ourselves going in the work we're doing. The work is still important, so we need to keep doing it.

**Wong:** That's an excellent concluding remark. Thank you so much Dr. Wilmoth for talking with me today. Wishing you all the best in your research and beyond!

**Wilmoth:** Thank you for having me today. I wish you the best too!

**We thank Dr. Wilmoth for her leadership and invaluable contributions to the SALC Section!**

## SALC Emerging Scholar



### **Tianyao Qu, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow

The Irsay Research Institute  
Indiana University Bloomington

Email: [tqu@iu.edu](mailto:tqu@iu.edu)

Twitter/X: [windyqu1](https://twitter.com/windyqu1)

Website: <https://windyqu.github.io/>

I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology and the Irsay Institute at Indiana University Bloomington. I earned my Ph.D. in Sociology from Cornell University in August 2024. My research and teaching interests are at the intersection of social inequality, sociology of health and illness, aging and the life course, social networks, gender, and economic sociology. Within general areas, my projects focus on three lines.

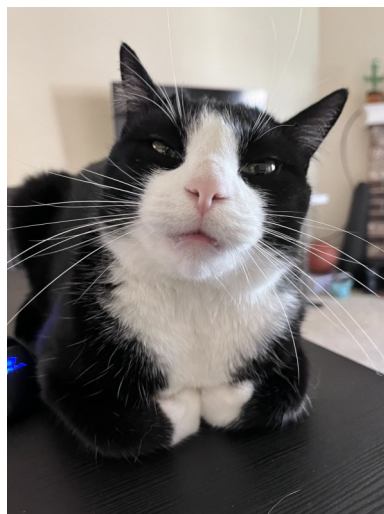
My first line of work demonstrates how social ties—close personal relationships and social networks—serve as both resources and stressors that reproduce inequality in later-life health. I insert an explicit focus on change in and structure of social ties, an understudied dimension of stratification processes that influence later-life health disparities. Much of this work uses data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), a longitudinal study of older adults, where I contextualize social networks' influence on various health outcomes over time in terms of the roles that close relationships may represent across later-life stages. This line of work adds to the nexus of social network analysis and social gerontology, demonstrating that as people age and face health challenges, their family structures and close ties may experience an endogenous process and become increasingly concentrated around a smaller set of relationships, compromising their access to resources and independence. It also emphasizes how advantages and disadvantages embedded in close relationships (social support, strain, and regulation) intersect with broader processes of stratification in shaping health inequalities at different life stages of later life.

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My second line of research demonstrates how temporal regularity and stability not only reflect broader inequalities but also actively reproduce them, underscoring the temporal organization of daily life as a micro-level mechanism of stratification in health and well-being. Using American Time Use Survey diaries and ecological momentary assessment (EMA) data, I show that structured routines confer health and cognitive benefits, while fragmented schedules intensify cognitive effort and stress, especially for women and non-white older adults. In this work, I propose and highlight that temporal embeddedness—alignment with widely shared rhythms—protects well-being. It also underscores a temporal dimension to understand the evolving health disparity in the highly structured nature of everyday behaviors, as small differences in daily organization accumulate into long-term health consequences.

Lastly, I am also interested in exploring how gender shapes daily interactions and emergent forms of inequality in the emerging markets of intimacy and well-being. For example, several ongoing projects tap into the disproportionate cognitive toll taken by women in managing everyday interactions and how everyday gendered role expectations accumulate into unequal cognitive outcomes and reveal cognitive aging as a gendered-stratified process. Additionally, in one qualitative work, I developed the “earmarking of emotions” framework to conceptualize the construction and exchange of emotional value in the affective economy of China’s livestreaming industry. Taken together, this line of work expands the study of social determinants of well-being beyond household and health domains to include market behaviors and labor processes, illuminating nontraditional contexts where gendered and classed health disparities emerge and revealing new sites where social and structural inequalities are reproduced.



Hello! I'm Husky,  
and my task is to  
monitor Tianyao's  
work. :)

## Five Questions for Robert J. Sampson Ph.D.



**Hometown?**

I grew up in the upstate New York city of Utica. It experienced all the classic struggles of urban decline from deindustrialization and depopulation, though interestingly of late it has stabilized through immigration from places like Bosnia and Thailand, which no one saw coming.

**Proudest Accomplishment?**

That’s tough, though I would say I look back on 30 years of involvement in the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods as a highlight. My last two books, “Great American City” and “Marked by Time,” are rooted in that project.

**Your first-ever job?**

You bring up bad memories! All around the same time I worked in a furniture store cleaning up, selling newspapers, and (the worst) working in a shoe store putting on shoes for people with smelly feet. Thom McAn Shoes – only someone of my generation will recognize that name.

**A surprising fact about yourself?**

Perhaps that I am a preacher’s kid who was true to all the stereotypes. I never really got serious about intellectual ideas until graduate school.

**Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received?**

From my dissertation advisor—focus on the ideas first and foremost, and don’t be afraid to take intellectual risks. I try to instill that in all my students.

## Five Questions for Sara Moorman Ph.D.

**Hometown?**

State College, PA.

**Proudest Accomplishment?**

Being awarded NIH grants. Those applications require one's very best work, and the project has to be convincing to peer reviewers across disciplines.

**Your first-ever job?**

In high school I worked at the public library, checking books in and out and shelving them. I loved it and I still have dreams that take place in the library. My position was called "page," and I was about 40 years old before it dawned on me that was a pun.

**A surprising fact about yourself?**

I am an avid flower gardener. The New York Times says that a garden should have a theme. The theme of my garden is "Plants that bunnies haven't eaten yet." My husband calls my garden The Sun Buffet.



**Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received?**

When I don't know how to do something hard, I pretend that I'm someone who does. Among SALC members, Debby Carr is a great model. I don't know how to reject someone's paper and leave them feeling good about it, but Debby does, so I do my best Debby impression. It really works.

## News & Announcements

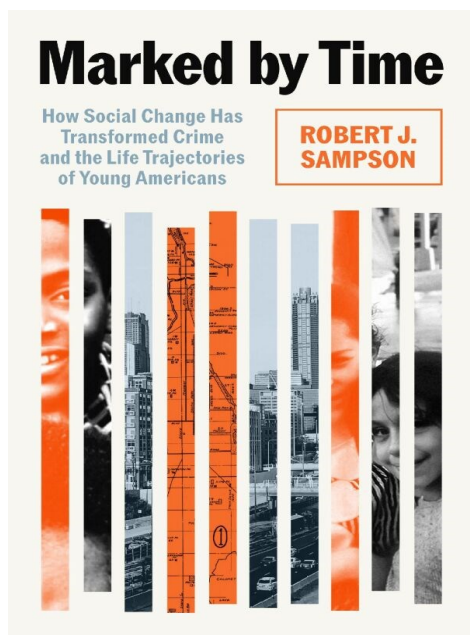
### SALC Member Publications

- Huang, R.,** Li, Y., Grol-Prokopczyk, H., Zimmer, Z., & Toan, T. K. (2026). Early-life war exposure and later-life chronic pain in Vietnam: Risk, resilience, and timing. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 00221465251401249. doi: [10.1177/00221465251401249](https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465251401249).
- Lampe, N. M.,** & Sumerau, J. E. (2025). Aging amidst anti-trans legislation: Strategies for safeguarding the mental health of transgender older adults. *American Journal of Public Health*, 115(10), 1616-1620. doi: [10.2105/AJPH.2025.308186](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2025.308186).
- Brown, S. L., Lin, I. F., Marino, F. A.,** & Mellencamp, K. A. (2026). Kinlessness, sole family survivorship, and the mental and physical health of US older adults. *Social Science & Medicine*, 118996. doi: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.118996](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.118996).
- Li, Y.** (2026). Brothers, sisters, and the legacy of sibship: Childhood coresiding siblings and late-life cognitive decline in the United States. *Demographic Research*, 54, 215-262. doi: [10.4054/DemRes.2026.54.8](https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2026.54.8).
- Li, M., Li, Y., & Engelman, M.** (2025). Gender differences in associations between spousal cognitive decline and marital strain: Evidence from the US older couples. *Social Science & Medicine*, 118772. doi: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118772](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118772).
- Li, Y., Wong, J., & Waite, L. J.** (2026). Yours, mine, and ours: Childhood disadvantage and late-life social connectedness in marital dyads. *Social Science Research*, 134, 103301. doi: [10.1016/j.ssresearch.2025.103301](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2025.103301).
- Mont'Alvao, A., & **Mortimer, J. T.** (2025). Diminishing returns to psychological resources in the attainment process? A study of educational plans across generations. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 88(4), 496-508. doi: [10.1177/01902725251394032](https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725251394032).
- Thomas, P. A.,** Teas, E., **Friedman, E.,** Barnes, L. L., **Sauerteig-Rolston, M. R.,** & **Ferraro, K. F.** (2026). Early-life parental affection, social relationships in adulthood, and later-life cognitive function. *Journal of aging and health*, 38(1-2), 19-30. doi: [10.1177/08982643241303589](https://doi.org/10.1177/08982643241303589)
- Wang, X.,** Zhang, X., & **Zang, E.** (2026). Beyond lifelong marriage and spousal coresidence: A research note on racial and ethnic differences in late-life family and living arrangements. *Demography*, 12458349. doi: [10.1215/00703370-12458349](https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-12458349).
- Wright, M. R., Brown, S. L., Manning, W. D.,** Flowers, M., & Ward, J. M. (2026). A brief report comparing younger and older cohabitators. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 88(1), 258-270. doi: [10.1111/jomf.13128](https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.13128).
- Wright, M. R.,** Zugarek, G., **Brown, S. L.,** & **Manning, W. D.** (2025). A cohort comparison of relationship quality among cohabitators. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 44 (59). doi: [10.1007/s11113-025-09982-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-025-09982-y)

**Do you want to share publication, award, promotion, and other scholarly updates or nominate yourself for a spotlight post?**

Send updates to: [nlampe@usf.edu](mailto:nlampe@usf.edu) and [jasonyuehei.wong@yale.edu](mailto:jasonyuehei.wong@yale.edu)

## New Book Spotlight



### **Marked by Time: How Social Change Has Transformed Crime and the Life Trajectories of Young Americans**

Harvard University Press

Robert J. Sampson

#### **A Brief Overview:**

A leading sociologist's groundbreaking three-decade study challenges outdated views of crime and character, revealing that traditional risk factors alone poorly predict children's futures.

Between 1970 and 2020, the United States experienced a dramatic rise in crime and incarceration, followed by an unexpected decline. Along with plummeting violence came reductions in substance use, car accidents, child poverty, and lead exposure. By 2020, incarceration rates hit a twenty-five-year low, with African Americans benefiting the most. Yet these positive shifts have not registered in public discourse or policies, which continue to rely on outdated studies and reductive narratives of moral character and personal responsibility.

A major reason for this oversight is how social scientists study youth development—typically through single-birth-cohort approaches that fail to capture generational change. In a pioneering three-decade study of over one thousand Chicago children across multiple cohorts, Robert J. Sampson challenges this convention. He finds that children with similar self-control and family backgrounds, born just a decade apart, experienced dramatically different life paths. Strikingly, children born in the mid-1980s faced twice the likelihood of arrest by their mid-twenties than those born ten years later.

This research reframes deeply ingrained assumptions about ongoing social decline and the importance of individual fortitude. Sampson spotlights the role of shifting social conditions and structural change in driving measurable improvements in youth trajectories, along with new risks that threaten these gains.

The era into which a child is born shapes their future as profoundly as race, upbringing, or neighborhood. To rethink progress, inequality, and policy, we must first acknowledge how time itself leaves a transformative mark on individual lives.

Order here: <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/books/9780674987548>

## New Book Spotlight

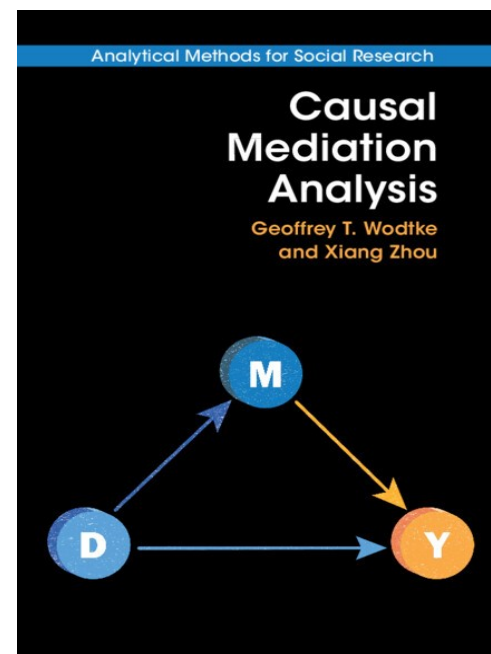
### Causal Mediation Analysis

Cambridge University Press

Geoffrey T. Wodtke and Xiang Zhou

#### A Brief Overview:

This book offers a comprehensive yet accessible guide to causal mediation analysis for social scientists. It explores why an exposure affects an outcome by quantifying the processes and mechanisms through which a causal effect operates.

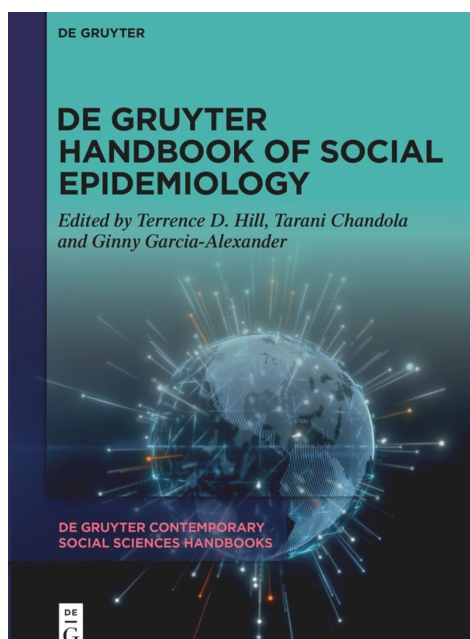


Covering everything from traditional methods through machine learning techniques and experimental designs for analyzing mediation, the authors make these methods broadly accessible through clear explanations, practical examples, and the inclusion of extensive Stata and R code, allowing readers to replicate all the empirical illustrations and apply the methods directly to their own data. Rich in examples from across the social sciences, including sociology, psychology, political science, and economics, the authors demonstrate the application of cutting-edge methods to real-world empirical research, providing practical tools and examples for rigorous empirical research across disciplines.

The release of the book is accompanied by an extensive suite of software. The `cmed` module for Stata and the `cmedR` package for R enable users to estimate natural, controlled, interventional, and path-specific effects using a range of approaches, including regression, weighting, simulation, multiply robust methods, and debiased machine learning.

These resources, along with additional materials, are available at the book's website: <https://causalmedanalysis.github.io/>.

## New Book Spotlight



### De Gruyter Handbook of Social Epidemiology

De Gruyter Brill

Terrence D. Hill, Tarani Chandola, and  
Ginny Garcia-Alexander

#### A Brief Overview:

Although interest in social epidemiology has grown exponentially over the past three decades, there is a glaring need for an edited handbook that provides a contemporary, comprehensive, and state-of-the-art interdisciplinary survey of established and emerging areas of study to better support the training and research activity of scholars and students.

The *De Gruyter Handbook of Social Epidemiology* (2026) is an indispensable reference work that brings together the contributions of leading social epidemiologists from around the world. Our interdisciplinary approach represents a range of approaches to social epidemiology, including anthropology, demography, gerontology, medicine, psychology, public health, social work, and sociology. By highlighting established and emerging areas within the field of social epidemiology, this volume offers an invaluable resource for scholars and students who are interested in the ways in which population health intersects with aging, socioeconomic determinants, race and ethnicity, migration, sex and gender, sexual orientation, social relationships, religion, neighborhood context, environmental ecology, area income inequality, and political determinants.

Order here: [https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783111349510/html?lang=en&srsltid=AfmBOorvdMdxh0oG2Rt5FcMVkZPwS9927KjX1UbKd0kIMK0j\\_TC DMO91](https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783111349510/html?lang=en&srsltid=AfmBOorvdMdxh0oG2Rt5FcMVkZPwS9927KjX1UbKd0kIMK0j_TC DMO91)

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order online

### 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 15, 2026** to SALC newsletter editors Nik Lampe (nlampe@usf.edu) & Jason Wong (jasonyuehei.wong@yale.edu).

You can review previous newsletters, read about your membership benefits, and more on the SALC section website:

<http://asasalc.org/>

### We are on Social Media!

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



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