

VERITAS VINCIT

Fall 2014

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Message from the Chair

Dr. Raymond Russell

Since the last issue of this Newsletter appeared, UCR's Department of Sociology has said farewell to many old friends, welcomed many new members, and taken pride in the accomplishments of many of our students and faculty.

The department held its annual Celebration of Achievements on May 29. Among undergraduates who were honored on that occasion, Catherine Cheon was honored as the Outstanding Graduate in Sociology/Administrative Studies, Jacqueline Maciel was the Outstanding Graduate in Sociology/Administrative Studies, and Chanelle Castracion was recognized as the Overall Outstanding Graduate in Sociology. We are especially proud of Judith Osorio, who received this year's Rivera Award given by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Judith earned this award by leading an effort to provide more services for parents who care for young children while attending UCR.

Among graduate students receiving recognition, Ninochka McTaggart and Jason Struna are the department's TAs of the Year, while Christopher Vito was the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award. The award for Outstanding Paper went to Matt Grindal for "An Examination of Ethnic Identity and In-Group/Out-Group Attitudes: Assessing the Roles of Perceived Threat, Achievement, and Centrality." Four advanced graduate students received fellowships or grants from the Graduate Dean to support work on dissertations: Jacob Apkarian, Edwin Elias, Jason Struna, and Ryan Trettevik. Two second-year graduate students were awarded fellowships that will help them prepare for the dissertations that they will write in the future: Cynthia Carr received a Graduate Research Mentorship Program award from the Graduate Dean and Julisa McCoy has been awarded a multi-year fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Among honors earned by our faculty in 2013-2014, Associate Professor Karen Pyke is the recipient of this year's Innovative Teaching Award. Professor Jan Stets has begun a three-year term as Co-Editor of the journal *Social Psychology Quarterly*. Professor Nash Parker is now President-Elect of the Pacific Sociological Association. Professor Christopher Chase-Dunn is the current President of the California Sociological Association. Chris was also honored at this year's Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, when the ASA's section on the Political Economy of the World System presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

On June 5 the department paid tribute to the career of Professor Austin Turk, who passed away unexpectedly on February 1. Speakers included three former PhD students (Kate Auerhahn, Jim LaValle, and Cory LePage), two current UCR graduate students (Jesse Drucker and Dinur Blum), UCR Professor Emeritus Edgar Butler, and former co-author Professor Dilip Das.

REMINDERS

- STUDENTS' FORUM
- Welcome 2014 Cohort
- Future Conferences
- Alumni News
- GIVING to SOCIOLOGY
- Call for Articles
- Editorial Board

VERITAS VINCIT

On June 13 the department said farewell to Professor Peter Burke, who was retiring, and to nine graduate students who had just completed or were close to finishing work on their PhDs: Matthew Grindal, Sooji Hahn, James Love, Kevin McCaffrey, Kerry Mulligan, Jennifer Simmers, Daniel Suh, Michael Walker, and Erin Wolbeck. Although Professor Burke has retired from teaching scheduled classes, he continues to be involved in research taking place at UCR. In July, Professors Burke, Stets, and Savage were notified by the National Science Foundation that it is awarding a grant to them that will support their collaborative research for another two years.

Over the summer, the department also said good-bye to two staff members who had worked tirelessly on behalf of students and faculty in Sociology at UCR for many years. Richard Munoz was for more than five years the human face of the department. Rich opened our office every day, helped student employees and faculty get paid, arranged for examinations and course syllabi to be photocopied, and generally solved our problems. Monica Kayes was for eight years part of our small but dedicated team of advisers to undergraduate students. Monica left us to take a similar job closer to her home at her alma mater, Cal Poly Pomona. Filling the vacancies created by the departure of Monica Kayes in 2014 and the retirement of Terry DeAnda in 2013 are two new but well qualified student advisers, Holly Easley and Kim Etzweiler.

Dr. Sharon Oselin became the newest member of UCR's Sociology faculty on July 1, 2014. The department has also begun searches for two new faculty positions to start in 2015. One new position will be for a researcher who studies inequalities in the incidence of disease, medical care, and/or health. This is a topic of growing interest both in the Department of Sociology and in UCR's new School of Medicine. The other new position will be in social psychology, which has long been recognized as one of the department's major strengths.

Among the improvements that the department is currently making in its undergraduate program, the most important is a new series of undergraduate seminars, which will be limited to about 20 students per class, and will be open to undergraduates only after they have taken our required classes in theory and methods. We are planning to offer three of these new seminars in 2014-2015, and at least double that number in 2015-2016.

Last spring's issue of this Newsletter was the first to be circulated to as many alumni as the University had email addresses for. Reaching out to so many people produced warm responses from many former students. Some alumni came back to see us; some sent emails filled with news and memories; some made generous gifts to the department, a total of more than a thousand dollars in new gifts just since last spring. Beginning in 2014-2015, the department will use these funds to help undergraduate and graduate students to attend and make presentations at conferences and to defray costs associated with their research. We are grateful to the alumni and friends of the Department of Sociology whose gifts have helped to make possible this support.

Raymond Russell

Chair, Department of Sociology, UCR



Fall 2014 Undergraduate News

Ellen Reese, Sociology Undergraduate Adviser

Welcome new Sociology undergraduates! Welcome back continuing Sociology undergraduates! I hope that your summer was truly wonderful and look forward to serving as your faculty Undergraduate Adviser during the 2014-15 academic year. In this role, I supervise the students enrolled in our internship and senior honors thesis courses (Soc 198-I and Soc 199H). In addition, I oversee the development of curriculum changes for our majors and minors, help to nominate eligible undergraduate majors for awards, and serve as the faculty adviser for the Sociology Honors Club and Undergraduate Sociological Association. If you seek advice regarding your coursework or progress towards your degree, please see one of our Student Advisers, Holly Easley or Kimberly Etzweiler in the Anthropology/Sociology student advising office (in Watkins Hall 1141).

Update on Student Advising Staff: This summer, Monica Kays, who has advised our students for many years, left UCR for another position closer to home. She will be greatly missed by students, staff, and faculty alike! The Department has requested a replacement position and hopes to hire a new student adviser this fall. In the meantime, our undergraduate students will be advised by our current student advisers, Holly Easley and Kimberly Etzweiler. Both Holly and Kimberly have been working for the Department since January 2014. Holly has a MA degree in Education and Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas, Lawrence and has previously worked in admissions and taught and advised multicultural and first generation students through the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Kansas. Kimberly Etzweiler has a MA degree in Behavioral Science Negotiation and Conflict Resolution from CSU Dominguez Hills. Before joining our Department, she worked as a student adviser for the Psychology Department at UC-Riverside for the past seven years. We greatly appreciate all of the hard work of our current student advisers, who together advise about 1,000 Sociology, Sociology/Administrative Studies, and Sociology/Law & Society majors along with about 500 Anthropology majors.

Capstone Seminar Development: In June 2014, the Sociology Department received a grant to develop its upper-division capstone seminars. We are currently using this grant to improve and evaluate our existing upper-division capstone courses, including **Soc 198-I** (Individual Internship), **Soc 195** (Senior Thesis), **Soc 199H** (Sociology Honors Research), and our new small undergraduate seminars offered through our newly approved **Soc 186** series. In addition, we are exploring best practices regarding capstone seminars at other campuses and developing a series of new small, undergraduate seminars that we hope to offer in future years. Edwin Elias, a Sociology Ph.D. candidate, has been hired as a Graduate Student Researcher to help us on this project.

Sociology Honors Club & Undergraduate Sociological Association: The Sociology Honors Club is open to any Sociology junior or senior with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above. The Undergraduate Sociological Association (USA) is open to any undergraduate student interested in sociology. For more information about USA, see <https://highlanderlink.ucr.edu/organization/usa> or <https://www.facebook.com/undergraduate.sociological.association.ucr>

You can also contact USA's President for 2014-15, Teh-Lei Liu at tliu015@ucr.edu.

I look forward to working with both of these organizations in the coming year!

Interested in graduate or professional school? If you are an undergraduate student or alum interested in graduate or professional school, you are encouraged to consult with Sociology faculty and Teaching Assistants during their office hours. Much of the information regarding graduate and professional programs, application deadlines, and the application process can be obtained through their websites, but it is often useful to obtain additional information and feedback from Sociology faculty and Teaching Assistants. Many PhD programs offer fellowships, scholarships, and employment opportunities such as Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant positions to help finance your graduate education. Both PhD programs and other professional schools can also offer you financial aid to help finance your education. The information below also provides information on various professional experiences that can help to prepare you for graduate or professional school and improve your chances for admission.

Sociology majors can obtain course credit for both research internships and internships in the community. **Sociology 197: Research Internship (1-4 units; S/NC)** is a directed research course open to upper-division undergraduate students through which you assist a faculty member with their research. You enroll through a paper form with consent of a ladder-ranked faculty (those listed on the Sociology department website). **Sociology 198-I: Individual Internship (4 units)** is a course through which you can obtain professional experience by volunteering for a local organization, such as a local non-profit organization, a business, service center, or labor union. Up to 15 upper division students in Sociology who have earned a C grade or better in Soc 1 (or Soc 1H), Soc 4, and have completed at least 12 units of upper division sociology course work are eligible to enroll in this course.

In addition, eligible undergraduates can apply for summer research internships. The **Summer Mentoring Research Internship Program** is an 8-week paid summer research internship program for rising juniors, seniors, and first-year Masters students at UCR from educationally and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, interested in entering a graduate program, and with a 3.0 or above GPA. For more information, see: <http://graduate.ucr.edu/msrip.html>. The **Medical Scholars Program** provides mentorship, workshops, speakers, and research opportunities (including an 8-week paid summer research internship) for students of all majors interested in entering medical and/or another professional or graduate program. Students who are first-generation college students and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged and/or demonstrate commitment to underserved communities are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, see: <http://msp.ucr.edu/>

Sociology undergraduates seeking to obtain additional professional experience are strongly encouraged to participate in programs carried out by the **Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity Office**. This office supervises research grants, fellowships, and an annual symposium for undergraduates. Their website (ugr.ucr.edu) provides information about the following opportunities:

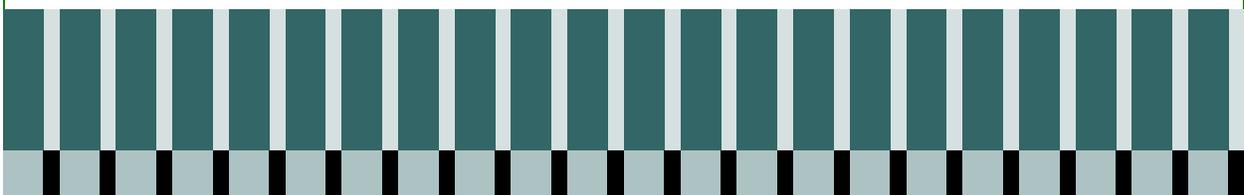
-**Symposium:** a conference for undergraduates to present their research; applications during spring quarter. For more info, see the 'Symposium' link at ugr.ucr.edu

-**Undergraduate Research Journal:** an opportunity to publish your research (12 pages max). For more info, see "Paper Guidelines" and "Submission" links at: <http://ugr.ucr.edu/journal.html>

-**Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Mini-Grants:** Up to \$1,000 for research supplies and/or travel for a research project. These are offered every quarter for students with 3.0 or above GPA. For more information, see the 'Call for Proposals' at: http://ugr.ucr.edu/grants/students/student_grant.html

-**Chancellors Fellowship:** Provides awards up to \$5,000 for undergraduate student engagement in a faculty mentored research project for use in July 2014-June 2015. Unless enrolled in HNPG 150 or 151, applicants *must* attend a required workshop & have a 3.0 or above GPA. For more info, see http://ugr.ucr.edu/chancellor_fellowship/

Sociology seniors can complete a senior thesis project on a topic of their choice through **Sociology 195: Senior Thesis**. Students must identify a senior thesis adviser who is an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor of Sociology in order to enroll in this course and to supervise their project. Sociology seniors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above are eligible to complete a senior honors thesis through concurrent enrollment for 3 consecutive quarters in **Sociology 199H: Senior Honors Research** and **Sociology 195: Senior Thesis**. For more information, students should contact the Sociology Undergraduate Adviser, Ellen Reese (ellen.reese@ucr.edu). A total of 9 Sociology undergraduates successfully completed senior thesis projects this 2013-14 academic year. We are currently in the process of enrolling thesis students for this coming academic year.



Reflections on a War Centenary Year

Augustine J. Kposowa

This year marks the Centenary of the First World War. Although the immediate cause of war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Countess Sophia Chotek in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914, actual combat in the Great War did not start until August 1914, following Britain's declaration of war on Germany. It was described at the time as the War to end All Wars, but global events since 1918 have shown that this designation was too optimistic. Instead, a lasting lesson from the Great War remains a modification of Hegel's dictum: "We learn from history that man never learns from history." The world did not become less, but more violent after the guns fell silent in 1918. The War never ended any wars; the burning desire to punish Germany consumed the 'Victors' gathered at Versailles who were oblivious to the fact that they were sowing the seeds of the next war as they dictated the terms of the Peace Treaty. The Germans were never consulted, and their humiliation at Versailles would have consequences for the world barely twenty years later.

This Centenary Year has been quite extraordinary in terms of the display of humans' inhumanity to their fellow humans. The violence, suffering, and misery to which some of the world's citizens have been subjected by brute force of arms, tanks, missiles, bombs and other instruments of war and coercion are perplexing.

A resurgent Russia surprised many by engaging in bizarre maneuvers aimed at destabilizing Ukraine. Although President Putin dislikes the idea of being compared to Hitler, his hybrid war posture nevertheless resembles the Trojan Horse tactics employed by the Nazi leader in the years leading to the Second World War. At the time, ethnic Germans living outside the Reich were considered part of the German fatherland, and had to be protected. This was the justification used to effect the Anschluss (union with Austria) in March 1938, although Austria had not persecuted any German. Mr. Putin may do well to reflect upon Germany's reoccupation of the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland (7 March 1936), the cession of the Sudetenland (29 September 1938), Nazi demands for Danzig and return of the Polish Corridor—events that led to that fateful day, 1 September 1939 when German troops invaded Poland, followed by Britain and France declaring war on Germany (3 September 1939), ushering in the Second World War. The forceful Russian annexation of Crimea in March, arming of pro Russian separatists, the sending of convoys ostensibly carrying Russian humanitarian aid, but followed quickly by substantial territorial gains by pro Russian rebels—all carried out in the name of protecting ethnic Russians in Ukraine are ominously similar to events preceding the Second World War. Russia may well end up creating a frozen war in Ukraine, leaving that country in a permanent state of territorial dispute and instability. Pro-Russian separatists have shown no credible commitment to honoring the recent ceasefire, and ongoing violations of the same show that Russia is likely to have its buffer state (against possible NATO eastward expansion) and ultimately achieve Putin's dream of a 'novorossiia.'

Boko Haram, which was founded in Maiduguri in 2002 initially claimed to be opposed to what it termed 'Western Education.' In 2009, however, the insurgents launched military operations aimed at creating an Islamic state in northern Nigeria. Decades of corruption in Nigeria, especially within the officer corps, coupled with gross human rights abuses of civilians during internal peace keeping missions had eroded professionalism in the ranks, and rendered the Nigerian army an ineffective fighting force. Thus, throughout spring and summer the army found itself outflanked, outgunned, and outmaneuvered in encounters with the insurgency, and Boko Haram captured many major towns and villages in Borno state. The state capital, Maiduguri remains vulnerable, and its fall could pose an existential threat to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Never since the civil war (1967-1970) has the nation been so much at risk of breakup, for if the Nigerian armed forces cannot halt Boko Haram from taking over Maiduguri, it is unlikely that they will be able to prevent the group from going all the way to Abuja. The fate of over 200 boarding school girls abducted earlier in the summer still remains a mystery; the Nigerian armed services have yet to rescue them.

This Centenary Year also witnessed Israel launch military campaigns in Gaza on 8 July that led to needless deaths. Peace Research Institute Oslo* puts the number of Palestinian casualties, mainly civilians at 2,100, and Israeli deaths, mainly soldiers at 73. Peace has been elusive in the Holy Land for nearly sixty-six years. It is likely that without sincere goodwill (shown in deeds, not rhetoric) and political courage for uncomfortable compromises by both parties in the broader dispute, the next Centenary may yet find an uneasy status quo.

There were many conflicts in 2014, but the coming of a self styled Islamic State (IS), perhaps a blowback to the 2003 ill-fated US invasion of Iraq was especially frightening. The US trained Iraqi army quickly disintegrated in early June in the wake of the insurgency, with IS fighters seizing a sizable portion of territory in Iraq and Syria. Emergence of IS was perhaps not a surprise to many who warned back in 2003 that the invasion of Iraq was a huge strategic blunder; more shocking was the speed at which the Iraqi army collapsed.

In early September, winds of war blew from Washington to the Middle East. Wars are often easier to start than to end, and victory can be hard to define. Despite atrocities that the Islamic State had committed, few citizens asked whether war was the only answer. What are long-term consequences of another US military adventure in the Middle East? Yes, there are Arab 'coalition partners' all of which are Sunni dominated states. However, these same nations have for decades been under autocratic regimes (Saudi Arabia uses beheading as a form of execution, though lethal injections ought not be celebrated as progress). Gauging anti-IS support in those countries is hard, let alone count new foes that US bombs may be creating.

The United States risks remaining on a permanent war footing in more or less the same way it has been since the attacks on New York and Washington on 11 September 2001. It is legitimate to ask whether the economic, social and other costs can be sustained indefinitely, especially in view of rising income and wealth inequality, degradation of transport infrastructure, the student debt crisis, increases in number of the working poor, persistent racism (as evident, for example, in callous White police shootings of unarmed Black men), and the emergence of what increasingly looks like a 'national security state.'

Great Britain has been marking the Centenary of the First World War in various ways. A memorable manifestation of festivities was in the moat around the Tower of London, where ceramic poppies were unveiled in August in the shape of blood flowing from openings in the building as a poignant reminder of the horrors of war, while paying tribute to service men and women who fell during the Great War.

In war, there are often no winners (except weapons manufacturers), but only losers in the long run, and perhaps the greatest enemy is war itself. This sentiment was perhaps best captured by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae in his celebrated poem, *In Flanders Fields* about trench war experiences during the First World War:



*In Flanders fields where poppies grow. Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky That larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw the
torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall
not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields row on row.*

As we approach the end of this Centenary Year, and in memory of The Glorious Dead—all those who made the great sacrifice in the First World War—may Nature's God grant peace in our time!

*<http://www.prio.org/Events/>

New Faculty Profile: Sharon Oselin, PhD



by Amanda Admire

As of Fall 2014, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Sharon Oselin to our UCR Sociology faculty! Dr. Oselin received her Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University before beginning her graduate career at the University of California, Irvine where she earned her Master's and Ph.D. in Sociology. She has been on the faculty at California State University, Los Angeles for the past six years where she excelled in both her research and teaching. I was fortunate enough to chat with Dr. Oselin and learn more about her research, expertise, and teaching. I hope you will join me in getting to know and welcoming Dr. Oselin. You can also check out her newly published book, *Leaving Prostitution: Getting out and staying out of sex work* (2014).

Me: How did you become interested in studying sex workers?

Oselin: When I was an undergrad...I was an interdisciplinary/humanities major so sociology, women's studies and English...the cool thing about that was that I got to take a variety of classes, not just sociology and one of the classes I took was a history class...and one of the books we read was on sex work...and I just thought it was really interesting because I was already interested in gender but it was fascinating to look at issues of class, race gender and sexuality - all came into play when studying sex workers....And then when I went to graduate school a couple of years later...I had to quickly decide what I wanted to do for my thesis so I thought "well, I can try to research sex workers in some capacity." And then I found that there was a program located in L.A that I was able to access....that provides resources and services to women engaged in prostitution and so, luckily they let me come there and be an intern, and that's sort of how I first got into it...Once I went to that first site I just knew that was the topic that was fascinating to me...and then I decided to do my dissertation on it. And then, 10 years later, I'm still on the same topic...But I think I am going to branch out a little more now.

Me: What do you think you are going to branch out on to?

Oselin: I research social movements and...I really am drawn to, and find fascinating, the peace movement in particular or the anti-war movement and so both of my papers have been on that. And then I would like to maybe, in the future, revisit the peace movement and look at how gender is relevant and so I plan to do that at some future point.

Me: How do you see your skills and expertise fitting into the sociology department at UCR?

Oselin: I think I am a nice fit because I can definitely add to the crime/deviance area...but I also think I fit nicely with the gender component as well and I think that both of those areas I am pretty strong in, and most of my work speaks to. I also could bring in the social movement stuff and teach on that and mentor students in that. Even though that's not a big area at Riverside, a lot of students are interested in social movements in some respect and I think that's also a nice contribution to the department...I think I can help in that way - mentoring students and teaching classes. I would ideally like to, at some point in the future, design a class on sex work and teach students that, either at the graduate level or the undergraduate level. I taught a class on sex work when I was at UCR Irvine...and it was a pretty fun class to teach so I hopefully will be able to do that sometime at Riverside in the future as well.

Me: Other than the course on sex work, do you have any favorite classes that you like to teach?

Oselin: I always really like teaching deviance, and crime, and gender – those are my three I teach regularly and all three of those I find are really fun – I am obviously biased because that's what I study (haha) but I think they are also good because you can have interesting discussions with students; it's not super dry...there's lots of personal examples you can talk about or ways it affects you directly. And crime and deviance is just kind of inherently interesting to most people anyways...So those are kind of the three classes I really enjoy teaching and teach frequently. But I have also taught social movements before and I think that's pretty fun...The other class that I really enjoy is qualitative methods, and I will be teaching that in the fall for graduate students. That is really fun because I get to talk about my work, but seeing students go out there and try to do a little bit of it, and get their feet wet, is kind of fun. And it's not only fun but it's really rewarding because I think that many times they realize it's a lot more challenging than they initially thought and...I think that has a little bit more of an applied component to it that is useful to anyone regardless of the particular type of research they do – I think it's just good to have a foundation in both qualitative and quantitative, and so that's another class I look forward to teaching at Riverside.

Me: Do you have any advice for the younger generations of sociology scholars?

Oselin: I think one of the things that is really important for budding scholars in sociology is to really pick a topic that you find very interesting, because regardless of what the topic is you're going to get sick of it – because you're going to work on this topic for years for your dissertation. And if you pick a topic that is really interesting to you, you'll still get sick of it, but it won't be as bad as if you pick a topic that...you don't find that interesting or your just doing it because you are trying to be strategic or something and I would kind of advise against that. I think it's good to be strategic and think about what kind of jobs are out there, I think that's important to consider, but you don't want to force yourself to do something that's not really what you want to do and get sucked into that because it will suck the fun out of the job, and in terms of setting yourself up for long term success I think it will be harder to have that if you're not researching what you find inherently interesting and compelling to you that you can dedicate a good chunk of years to.

And, of course, it is always nice to remember that professors are people too.

Me: What do you do when you aren't working? Do you have any hobbies?

Oselin: I love to travel so I try to travel as much as I can. I read; I am in a book club – so I love reading non-academic books (haha). I like to do wine tasting, so I like to drink good wine and I like to go to new restaurants and eat good food. That's what I do when I have time off and when I am taking time off from work and I also like to exercise – I like yoga, I like to go hiking, and camping when I can – so outdoors things as well I find pretty relaxing.

Identity Conference 2014

November 14th and 15th, 2014

Co-Sponsored by

University of California, Riverside and Kent State University

This conference begins to build an infrastructure on the science of identities both within the sub-areas of the discipline of sociology and on a national level, and over time, across disciplines as well as on an international level. The conference will help identify shared concepts and common interests among sociological scholars that can serve as the springboard for collaborative research across the sub-areas in the discipline. Given the diffusion and adoption of the study of identities across the social sciences is rapidly growing, the group of participants will be expanded after this initial conference to include individuals from different disciplines and internationally, especially in Europe and Australia where identity research is prominent.

The conference will focus on how future work can develop the science of identity theoretically, methodologically, and substantively. This means developing innovative ways of measuring theoretical concepts and processes and exploring new areas of inquiry. The intent is to bring scholars in identity theory together to meet more regularly to share their work and the various challenges they encounter. The Identity Conference will be held every two years. Identity Conference 2016 will be held at Kent State University.

Each participant will present original research including theoretical refinement or advances, empirical research, and/or methodological innovations within identity theory. Participants' papers will be available to everyone electronically before the conference. At the conference, participants will briefly present their work, and a more detailed discussion by all audience members will follow. There also will be four "seminars" in which a younger scholar's work will be discussed in more depth. The papers from the Identity Conference will be published in an edited volume tentatively entitled: *Advances in Identity Theory and Research Volume II*.

Overall, the goals of the conference and the impact of the conference on the broader discipline can be summarized as follows:

- Increase the breadth and pace of the development of theory and research on identities in sociology
- Enhance the substantive and programmatic connections among a wide range of scholars in sociology to include promoting cross-boundary research so that concepts, theories, and methods are shared and useful across many sub-areas in the discipline.
- Build scientific infrastructure that will facilitate the advancement of theory and research on identities within the discipline, outside of the discipline, nationally, and internationally.
- Identify the most pressing and important theoretical, methodological, and substantive issues for the future within sociology and connate disciplines.

The participants and attendees for the conference are 40 scholars from around the country. These include graduate students, assistant professors, associate professors, and full professors whose ongoing research uses identity theory. The conference will take place on the UCR campus and is co-organized by Jan E. Stets (UCR) and Richard T. Serpe (Kent State). Participants from UCR include faculty members Peter J. Burke and Scott Savage and graduate students Stanton Gagel, Matt Grindal, Zachary Sommer, and Ryan Trettevik. Also in attendance will be graduate students Phoenicia Fares, Kevin McCaffree, and Joe Moss.

A Preconference will be held Nov. 13th, 2014. It is co-sponsored by the University of California, Riverside and the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California. This preconference is designed to discuss the counter-normative identity of the “spiritual but not religious.” Aside from empirical and theoretical issues that can be raised with examining counter normative identities, questions arise such as: how do counter normative identities emerge; what is (are) the source(s) of this emergence; how are they maintained; and depending upon the counter normative identity, who is more likely to adopt them and why? How do individuals cope with these identities cognitively and emotionally? Do they join or organize groups that provide some integration for themselves then they otherwise wouldn’t experience? What impact do these identities have for current relationships, organizations, and the larger social order? There are many other questions that could be raised; these are just a sampling of some of them.

In order to understand counter normative identities more broadly, we need to begin to examine any one such instance up close. One can glean general principles that seem to be operating from the “test site,” and then see the degree to which they are applicable across a variety of counter normative identities. We begin with a site that is substantively interesting: a variant of the religious identity i.e. the spiritual but not religious.

The participants and attendees for the conference are a dozen scholars from around the country whose ongoing research involves a study of this counter-normative identity. The conference will take place on the UCR campus and is co-organized by Jan E. Stets (UCR) and Gary Adler (USC).

Both the Preconference and the Identity Conference are open to the public during the three-day period (11/13/14 – 11/15/14). Both conferences will be held on the UCR campus in Room INTS 1113. For further information on these conferences, feel free to contact Jan Stets at jan.stets@ucr.edu.

Social Psychology Quarterly comes to UCR

by Augustine Kposowa

Social Psychology Quarterly, one of the official journals of the American Sociological Association has two new Co-Editors. They are **Jan E. Stets** (Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside) and **Richard T. Serpe** (Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Kent State University).

In their new role as co-editors of *SPQ*, Jan and Richard will help advance the journal in three significant ways. First, they will work to solicit a wider range of scholarship beyond current practices so that the journal is: (a) inviting to an even broader range of researchers, and (b) contains content that will be of interest to more people, thereby increasing the readership of *SPQ*. Second, they will focus on improving the review process by disseminating information to reviewers about best practices in reviewing. According to the outgoing *SPQ* editors, this is becoming a problem, so Jan and Richard intend to resolve it in an efficient and effective way.



Third, they plan advancing *SPQ* by keeping the journal technologically present. This entails working to make sure *SPQ* is visible on such sites as Facebook and Twitter, and encouraging more authors to do podcasts. Related to this, the editors plan to investigate posting Skype interviews on an author’s research.

Jan and Richard see the journal as a good teaching and learning device in the classroom, so they will encourage the development of more articles for Snaps. To accomplish this goal, they will ask authors to find media material such as short films, YouTube clips (such as Ted Talks), websites, and/or class exercises that will supplement their ideas and enhance an understanding of their research for undergraduates and for the lay audience, more generally.

Message from New SGSA President

Julisa McCoy

As president of our 2014-2015 Sociology Graduate Student Association, I want to welcome everyone into the new academic year! I hope everyone was able to get (almost) as much work completed as had hoped at the start of the summer, and enjoyed some much-needed and well-deserved breaks here and there. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new cohort. I think I speak for all of us when I say we wish all of you the best of luck on your first quarter and year. And to our recent alumni – Congratulations to you all! We wish you well and nothing but the best.

A few changes occurred over the summer that I would like to share with everyone. First, the graduate student lounge underwent a serious “home makeover,” and wow, does that room look great! A very special thanks to Becky Campbell, Cynthia Carr, Amanda Admire, Michaela Curran, Alessandro Morosin, and Ronald Kwon for their help in making this happen. The second order of events is our new SGSA officers and representatives (see list below). We have an eager and eclectic group of students serving on SGSA this year who hope to have a positive impact in our department and graduate student community.

As a graduate community, it is important to acknowledge our incoming SGSA members and their forthcoming efforts; however, it also is particularly important to recognize the value in student participation as well. I know all too well how many of us feel that we do not have the time to participate in our local graduate affairs. Between course work and publications or prospectuses and dissertations, on top of lecturing and grading, it seems as though there just is not enough time or energy left for getting involved. But I want to sincerely remind everyone: you are not alone. We are all swamped, and—at the risk of envisioning a dystopian future—we will always be swamped; but if it wasn't for this department and the home that we've been granted within it, we would not be where and who we are today. So with this understanding and perspective, I encourage everyone, from the oldest cohort down to the youngest, to stop by some of our SGSA meetings and stay up to date on the latest news, improvements, and opportunities—not to mention enjoy a free lunch (not just pizza), and perhaps make some new friends along the way! Meetings will be held once a month in Watkins 1126. *(Dates and times are to be determined. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.)*

I am looking forward to working alongside our officers and representatives, as well as members of the entire department!

The 2014-2015 SGSA Membership:

Officers:

President - Julisa McCoy (3rd year)

Vice President - Logan Marg (1st year)

Secretary - Amy Perry (3rd year)

Committee Representatives:

Graduate Affairs - Elizabeth Hughes (4th year); Amy Perry

Undergraduate Affairs/Honors - Chris Vito (4th year)

Alumni/Development – Michaela Curran and Cynthia Carr (4th and 3rd years respectively)

Colloquium - Cynthia Carr (3rd year)

Computer/Infrastructure - Michaela Curran (4th year)

Recruitment - Amanda Admire (4th year)

Newsletter - Sarah Bannister (1st year)

Paying Tribute to a Remarkable Career by Scott V. Savage



Peter is seen here on Cape Cod this past summer, with his granddaughter, Katie (middle), and his daughter, Debbie (on the right)

On November 14th and 15th, the University of California, Riverside will be hosting a conference on identity theory and research. This event, co-sponsored by our department and the Department of Sociology at Kent State, is an opportunity for identity theorists from all over the country to gather and share their work. It is also an opportunity for us to recognize the remarkable career of our very own Peter J. Burke who retired in June.

He received his BA degree in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1961, his MA from Yale University in 1964 and his PhD from Yale University in 1965. He began his academic career at Indiana University, Bloomington in 1965 where he went from Assistant Professor to Professor and served as Department Chair from 1978 through 1982. In 1988, he moved to Washington State University as Professor and Research Scientist, and in 2002 he moved to the University of California, Riverside, where he was Chair from 2003 to 2005.

One of the originators of identity theory, Professor Burke has authored over 80 articles (many of which appear in sociology's top journals), chapters, and books. Considering the relative impact of his work only makes this stat more impressive. According to Google Scholar, Professor Burke's work has been cited well-over 11,000 times and has an *h*-index of 45, meaning that 45 of his publications have been cited at least 45 times. It is not surprising, therefore, that in 2003 the American Sociology Association's (ASA) Social Psychology Section awarded him the prestigious Cooley-Mead award for his career contributions to social psychology.

Professor Burke's value as a sociologist, however, extends well beyond his accomplishments as a researcher. He has worked tirelessly as a steward of the profession, serving as editor of multiple journals, chairing two departments, and chairing various sections of the ASA.

He also has mentored a small army of students and young scholars. I know this because I have experienced it firsthand. While Professor Burke's tutelage is usually directed at his graduate students, on more than one occasion I, as an assistant professor, have benefited from his expertise and unquestionably have become a better scholar as a result of working with him.

Thus, to say that Professor Burke's retirement has been well-earned is a bit of an understatement, and while I could go on (and on) listing his many achievements and accolades, I will refrain from doing so. Instead, I will simply point out how lucky we are that Professor Burke's plan for retirement includes continued involvement with our department and the Social Psychology Research Laboratory (SPYRL). So, although we do not have to say good bye, I hope you all will join me in wishing Professor Burke a happy retirement!

Doctorates Conferred

Matthew Grindal (2014). *A Theoretical Development of the Relationship between Ethnic Identity and Psychological Well-Being*.

James Love (2014). *Research and Racial Hierarchy Creation: A Return to Scientific Racism*.

Kevin McCaffree (2014). *Faith, Christianity and Non-Affiliation in the United States*.

Kerry Mulligan (2014). *Ideological Resilience and Disruption: Reproducing and Resisting Gender and Racial Inequality in Cases of Teacher Sexual Misconduct*. Assistant Professor, Sage College of Albany.

Daniel Suh (2014). *The Effect of Non-Affiliation With Religion on Religiosity and Pro-Social Ties*. Assistant Professor, Pierce College.

Michael Walker (2014). *Punishment and Coping in 'Golden County': An Ethnography of Jail Living*. Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska—Omaha, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Erin Wolbeck (2014). *A Spatial Examination of Residency Restriction Legislation: the Impact on Social Disorganization and Service Providers*.

Welcoming the 2014 Cohort

The Department joyfully welcomes the following members of the incoming cohort of future sociologists:

John Aldecoa,	BA, CSU San Bernardino
Sarah Bannister,	BA, Queens University, Canada
Phoenicia Fares,	BA, Texas A & M; MA, University of Houston, Texas
Karin Johnson,	BA, Texas State University, San Marcos; MA, American Univ. of Paris
Logan Marg,	BA, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Jessica Moronez,	BA, Cal Poly, Pomona; MA, CSU Fullerton
Joe Moss,	BA, UC San Diego; MBA, University of Phoenix, Arizona
Roberto Rivera,	BA, CSU San Marcos
Lori Walkington,	BA, CSU San Marcos; MA, CSU San Marcos

Awards and Honors

Christopher Chase-Dunn (2014) received The Distinguished Career Award from the Political Economy Section of the American Sociological Association "For his exceptional contribution to the intellectual project of world-systems analysis, and to the development and continuity of PEWS." PEWS is the acronym for the Section.

Matthew Grindal (2014) obtained the 2014 Graduate Student Paper Award from the Department of Sociology at UCR for "An Examination of Ethnic Identity and Ingroup/Outgroup Attitudes: Assessing the Roles of Perceived Threat, Achievement, and Centrality."

Christine Muñoz, (incoming third year Sociology major) received the 2014 Summer/Fall Undergraduate Research Mini-Grant. The Mini-Grant is awarded to motivate undergraduate students to pursue research. The award is meant to help students start and conduct their own research. Christine received the award on 1 July 2014 from the University of California Riverside Undergraduate Education Research/Creative Activity Mini-Grant.

Tanya Nieri was honored with the Leadership and Empowerment Award, by Sisters in Strength, (a UCR student organization), in May 2014.

Karen Pyke received the 2014 Innovative Teaching Award at UCR.

Karen Pyke has been nominated to run for President of the Pacific Sociological Association.

Anthony Roberts & Erin Wolbeck received the third place Gene Carte Award for the "Best Student Paper" from American Society of Criminology for their paper titled: "Revisiting Deprivation and Homicide: A Cross-National Analysis of Age- and Gender-Specific Victimization."

Jan E. Stets, Scott Savage, & Peter J. Burke were awarded a National Science Foundation Grant for 2014-2016.

Leah Rosario (Senior Honors Student) received a Chancellor's Fellowship grant for 2014-15 to support her research on transgender rights activism among college students. Her thesis is entitled: "A Study of the Transgender Movement on College Campuses."

Kerry Mulligan received the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award from the Division on Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Anthony Roberts received the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award from the Section on Political Economy of the World System of the American Sociological Association.

Kerry Mulligan received the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies Graduate Student Research Fellowship for spring, 2014, which provided one quarter of full funding.

Jake Apkarian has received a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation.

Conference Presentations

Christopher Chase-Dunn, Hiroko Inoue, Alexis Alvarez, Rebecca Alvarez, Eugene N. Anderson, Christian Jaworski, Micah Carlson, & Mengxian Li (2014) *Largest Settlements and Polities in World Regions Since the Late Bronze Age*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 17, 2014

Augustine J. Kposowa & Chanelle D. Castracion (2014). *Recency of Unemployment and Homicide Victimization*. Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, Oregon, 29 March.

Nieri, T. (2014). *Together alone: How women Experience freedom in Zumba*. Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR, March.

Turner, Jonathan. (2014) *The Sociology and Neurology of Religion*. Presented at the Robert Bellah Conference, September, 2014 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Maryanski, Alexandra. (2014) *The Threshold of Religion*. Presented at the Robert Bellah Conference, September 2014 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark

Sociologists In the News

Karen Pyke's research presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association was covered by Science Daily on August 22, 2014 "Unequal Demands on Women for University Service Harm Careers" Link to article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/08/140822083626.htm>



Some Recent Publications

Christopher Chase-Dunn, Hiroko Inoue, Alexis Alvarez, Rebecca Alvarez, Eugene N. Anderson, Christian Jaworski, Micah Carlson & Mengxian Li (2014) IROWS Working Paper #85 available at <http://irows.ucr.edu/papers/irows85/irows85.htm>

Christian Suter & **Christopher Chase-Dunn** (eds) (2014): Structures of the World Political Economy and the Future Global Conflict and Cooperation (World Society Studies Volume 2014). Berlin/Münster/Wien/Zurich/London: Lit. (ISBN 978-3-643-80184-5) <http://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-643-80184-5>

C. Chase-Dunn (2014). Continuities and transformations in the evolution of world-systems *Journal of Globalization Studies* 5,1: 11-31

Hiroko Inoue, Alexis Álvarez, Eugene N. Anderson, Andrew Owen, Rebecca Álvarez, Kirk Lawrence & **Christopher Chase-Dunn** (2015) Urban scale shifts since the Bronze Age: upsweeps, collapses and semiperipheral development *Social Science History*, 39(2), (forthcoming)

C. Chase-Dunn & Nico Pascal (2014). Articulation in the Web of Transnational Social Movements *Global-e: a global studies journal*, 8 (3) <http://global-ejournal.org/2014/04/30/vol8iss3/>

Christopher Chase-Dunn, Alessandro Morosin & Alexis Álvarez (2014). Social Movements and Progressive Regimes in Latin America: World Revolutions and Semi-peripheral Development, in Paul Almeida & Allen Cordero Ulate (eds.) *Handbook of Social Movements across Latin America*. New York: Springer

Michaela Curran, Elizabeth A. G. Schwarz & C Chase-Dunn (2014). The Occupy Movement in California, in Todd A. Comer (ed.) *What Comes After Occupy?: The Regional Politics of Resistance*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. <http://irows.ucr.edu/papers/irows74/irows74.htm>

Augustine J. Kposowa (2015) Race/Ethnicity and Income Disparities in US Adult Mortality *British Journal of Medicine & Medical Research*, 5(2):191-202 (forthcoming)

James P. McElvain & **Augustine J. Kposowa** (2014) Latino Officers and their Involvement in Police Shootings. *Journal of Criminology*, ArticleID:726492, 10 pages <http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/726492>

Augustine J. Kposowa (2014). Relative Deprivation, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV and AIDS Mortality: A Multilevel Analysis *American Journal of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology*, 2(3):55-62 doi: 10.12691/ajidm-2-3-4

Alexandra Maryanski. (2014) The Birth of the Gods: Robertson Smith and Emile Durkheim's Turn to Religion as the Basis of Social Integration. *Sociological Theory* (Forthcoming Dec.)

J. Turner & **A. Maryanski** (2015) Evolutionary Sociology: A Cross-species Strategy for Discovering Human Nature." In *Handbook of Evolution and Society: Toward an Evolutionary Social Science*. J. H. Turner, R. Machalek, & A. R. Maryanski (Eds.), Boulder, CO: Paradigm (in press)

Tanya Nieri, Matthew Grindal, Michelle A. Adams, Jeffrey Cookston, William Fabricius, Ross Parke, & Delia Saenz (2014). "Deconstructing the 'acculturation gap' in Mexican-American Families and its Effects on Youth Problem Behavior." *Journal of Family Issues* (forthcoming)

Nieri, T., Apkarian, J., Marsiglia, F.F., & Kulis, S.S. (2014). Effects of a youth substance use prevention program on stealing, fighting, and weapon use. *Journal of Primary Prevention*, (forthcoming)

Nieri, T., & Bermudez-Parsai, M. (2014). Gap or overlap? Parent-child acculturation differences in Mexican immigrant families. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, (forthcoming)

Karen Pyke (2014) "Immigrant Families in the U.S. and the Shifting Color Line." Pp. 194-213 in Jacqueline L. Scott, Judith Treas, & Martin P.M. Richards (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of the Family*. New York: Blackwell Publishers.

Jan E. Stets & Jonathan H. Turner. (2014) *Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions*, Volume II. (Editors). New York: Springer

David Swanson, Farhat Yusuf & Jo Martins (2014) *Methods of Demographic Analysis* New York: Springer

David Swanson, Stanley K. Smith, & Jeff Tayman (2013). *A Practitioner's Guide to State and Local Population Projections* Heidelberg: Springer

Jonathan Turner (2014). *Sociology: A Concise Introduction to Twelve Theoretical Orientations* CA: Sage.

J. Turner (2014). *Revolt from the Middle: Emotional Stratification and Change in Post-Industrial Societies*. NJ: Transaction Press.

D. Franks & **J Turner** (2014) *Handbook of Neurosociology* N.Y. Springer.

J. Turner, R. Machalek & **A. Maryanski** (2015). *Handbook of Evolution and Society: Toward an Evolutionary Social Science* Boulder, CO: Paradigm Press, in press

STUDENTS' FORUM

Caught with Your Pants Down: American and French Reactions to Presidential Infidelity

By Karin A.C. Johnson



I just returned from living in France for two years and many people have the same question, “What was France like?” or “What are French people like?” I was also asked about the differences between Americans and French public opinion on politician’s infidelity.

Cases of infidelity may make us think of former-President Clinton’s affair with Ms. Lewinsky or the Anthony Weiner sexting scandal. In France, we may think of the infamous Dominique Strauss-Kahn affair or the more recent headline involving current President François Hollande when, after cheating on his girlfriend, he left her for the other woman. If we restrict the cases to compare French and American reactions to presidential infidelity (Clinton and Hollande), we see a difference between the public’s expectations of a president’s accountability for his personal life.

Infidelity in general is not acceptable in Western cultures like the U.S. and France, but it seems the reaction in the U.S. and France to their president’s infidelity was very different. Media portrayed Americans’ reactions to Clinton’s infidelity as severe, even going so far as to some groups calling for his impeachment. Yet France was portrayed as seeming blasé about not only his infidelity but also the fact that the president had never been married to any of his partners, although he had four children with one longtime girlfriend. I believe the most straightforward explanation of these differences is a unique blend of secularism and culture in each country.

The U.S. today is conservative with some liberal tendencies and there is an ongoing debate over the role of religion in government and vice versa. As much as one says that the church is separate from the state in the U.S., it largely is not. This inherently influences the way Americans react to presidential behavior. Americans expect our president to be upstanding, Christian, and married. Americans also expect to know what is going on in the personal life of the president—from his marriage, to his children, to his dog, to what he likes to do to keep fit. Americans feel it is our right to know what the man who is leading our country is doing, because, hey, if he is getting some hanky-panky on the side, what else could he possibly be doing on the side for our country?

In contrast, *laïcité* (French secularism) means that French government and religion should not mix and both types of groups customarily abide by this rule. It is perceived that there is no role for one in the other and both should function autonomously. Like the U.S., in France today there is a dominant conservative slant in politics. The French also expect their president to be honorable and committed, and the question of his religion or personal life should be negated by *laïcité*; it does not matter if he is married. In fact, to the French, it is none of their business getting involved in other people’s personal lives, much less the personal life of their president. The French simply nod, “Yes, *Monsieur le Président* is having sex, but what is he doing with our country?”

The difference in reactions is that Americans can mix church with state and personal with business, and they expect the president to uphold a clean bill of conduct in all categories. French attempt to separate church from state and personal from political, and primarily expect their president to run the country well. Both nationalities react to and criticize infidelity, so are Americans and French so different in their attitudes towards condoning or censuring public officials’ infidelity? The answer is no.

I'm Not the Enemy: Explaining America's Increasing Police Racial Abuse

By *Roberto Rivera*



During my 18 year career as a police officer, I occasionally questioned the structure of policing and decision-making process of fellow officers when excessive force was used. The recent incident in Ferguson, Missouri raises two aspects of policing that are worthy of academic investigation: hyper-militarization of local police departments; and the excessive use of force in racial minority communities. The Ferguson incident raises questions regarding whether or not an intersection exists between police officers that have military backgrounds and the excessive use of force in communities of color. To answer these questions, I believe a thorough background review of law enforcement agents with prior military service should be critically examined.

The recent death of Michael Brown in Ferguson raises questions regarding the motives and background of Officer Darren Wilson. Brown's dead, bloodied body lay on the ground without being covered for approximately four hours. The subsequent media image was that of "another African American male unarmed and killed by police." The insensitivity, disrespect, and lack of empathy displayed reminds me of the bodies of African Americans left throughout the city of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

I have no information on whether or not Officer Wilson has a military background, but the other pieces are still there: Wilson being a white officer working in a primarily African American community. The media images of the Ferguson Police Department have also raised many questions on police accountability in regards to possible misuse of force in officer involved shootings (OIS). I strongly believe this is an area that needs to be explored and critically examined.

In August, in New York, unarmed Eric Garner, an African American, had a choke hold applied to him for allegedly selling illegal cigarettes. More locally, Marlene Pinnock was punched fifteen times in the face by a Los Angeles CHP officer for crossing the freeway. Video captured in all three of these incidents exemplify a national outcry for people of color whose crime may only be the color of their skin.

It appears evident that more African Americans are being killed or injured without having weapons or partaking in felonious acts. These examples create a troubling trend for law enforcement agencies. I heard a commentary on CNN that officers were going to battle in Ferguson. Did we have a war in Ferguson and if so who was the enemy? Ferguson has shed light on the question of whether military experience creates a higher use of excessive force, in particular police shootings.

We currently see a para-military transition in which those who have served in the military seek out police employment. During my tenure of employment (1993-2011), I observed a steady increase in the intersection of local policing and the military, including the employing of more military tactics, high-tech equipment, uniform clothing, and training. Many agencies give preference points to those who have served in the armed forces, and those who actively served in the Marine Corps are highly sought-out.



If we are to correct what appears to be a phenomenon of officer involved shootings of people of color, we need to examine the entire structure and hiring practices of police departments. For those who have served and trained in the military, threat levels for the use of lethal force changes when they are later hired by local police departments. The military employs “shoot to kill” in its training of recruits. Law enforcement academies train in the use of deadly force as a rationale to “shoot to stop the threat.” However, there is no de-escalation training provided for former military personnel as they transition from military to local civilian law enforcement.

Once hired and assigned to a police academy, recruits are subject to a para-military stress academy where they are emotionally broken-down. In the police academy, a para-military adversarial attitude of “Us versus them” arises where those who are perceived to be the enemy become the enemy. The model is further expressed when citizens are perceived as the enemy as I saw during my employment.

It was recently reported that a possible six to ten shots including two shots to the head mortally wounded Michael Brown. In police academy training this is called a “double tap” and it is the firing of two successive shots to the head or to the upper torso. Two head shots are considered ‘kill shots’ and represents an increased death threat to the police officer. This perceived threat is escalated to “shoot to kill” rather than “shoot to stop the threat” that police departments use as policy procedure. The media coverage of witness accounts challenges the Ferguson Police Department’s original statement by their police chief that “Brown was shot a couple of times.”

In an “Us versus Them” environment, an agent of the law can construe the slightest observed threat as rationale to use deadly force. In many occurrences with no known threat, the rationale to use deadly force is used by agents with the expressed reason, “they were reaching for an unknown object in their pockets, and I feared he had a weapon.” This rationale for the use of deadly force is often used by officers who have not seen a visible weapon.

Furthermore, I found it quite common to hear officers speaking of working “where the action is.” I noticed many of the most aggressive recruits migrated to law enforcement stations where there was a higher concentration of people of color. These areas tend to have a higher incidence of crime and officer involved shootings. Therefore, mention of the migration of zealous recruits to areas of lower economic status, and areas with higher proportions of ethnic minorities led to increased police vigilance and consequent conflict.

It is plausible that due to the high volume of media coverage, Ferguson, Missouri could be the ‘Rodney King moment’ for police departments in 2014 and the public recognition of police excessive use of force. It is an event that could impact and affect the hiring practices of police officers across our nation, officers hired to mirror the demographics of the city they serve. Perhaps we can then move away from a racial divide where citizens of color are not seen as the enemy.



‘Protecting and Serving’ Ferguson, MO, USA, 13 August 2014

Photo Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/police-militarization-draws-bipartisan-senate-scrutiny>

The 110th Annual Meeting of **American Sociological Association** will take place August 22-25, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois at the Hilton Chicago and Hilton Palmer House. Call for papers will be published in October 2014 at the organization's website. Please contact www.asanet.org for program information and paper submission deadlines.

The 86th Annual Meeting of the **Pacific Sociological Association** will be held in Long Beach, California, from April 1-4, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. Visit <http://pacificsoc.typepad.com/psa2015/> for further information, including paper submission guidelines, deadlines, and travel. PSA provides competitive travel grants for graduate and undergraduate students.

The **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)** will hold its 2015 (65th) Annual Conference from August 21-23 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. For further information, consult the meeting website at http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/605/2015_Annual_Meeting/.

The **American Society of Criminology (ASC)** holds its 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC from November 18-21. Membership, registration, and related information are available at the ASC website <http://www.asc41.com/>.

The **American Public Health Association** will hold its 142nd annual meeting and exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana on the 15th to 19th November 2014. Further information is available elsewhere: <http://www.apha.org/>

The **American Political Science Association** holds its 111th Annual Meeting and Exposition, September 3-6, 2015 in San Francisco, California. For more on the APSA and the conference, see <http://www.apsanet.org/>

The **Population Association of America** holds its annual conference in at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront from April 30 to May 2 in San Diego, California. The call for papers is available at <http://paa2015.princeton.edu/>. Details on membership, conference registration, jobs, and various announcements are available at the PAA website <http://www.populationassociation.org/>.

The 40th Annual Conference of the **Mid-South Sociological Association** will be in Mobile, Alabama from November 5-8, 2014. Meetings will be held at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. Student membership of the MSSA is \$20 per year, and it includes subscription to *Sociological Spectrum*, the official journal of the association. Further details are available at the associations website <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/conference/2014-annual-conference/>

The 2015 annual meetings of the **Canadian Population Society** will be held at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa (in the nation's capital). For more on the society, visit their website at <http://www.canpopsoc.ca/>

Join the **North Central Sociological Association** for their 90th Annual Conference, April 9-12, 2015 in Hyatt at the Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio. Visit the NCSA at <http://www.ncsanet.org/2015-annual-meeting>

The 12th conference of the **European Sociological Association** takes place from 25 to 28 August, 2015 in Prague, the Czech Republic. Call for papers and other details at available at the ESA website: <http://www.europeansociology.org/>

The **California Sociological Association** will hold its 25th annual meeting at the Mission Inn, Riverside from November 7 to 8, 2014. For related information, please visit the CSA website at <http://www.cal-soc.org/> Contact Dr. Christopher Chase-Dunn at Christopher.Chase-Dunn@ucr.edu.

Adam Messinger (PhD, 2010)

Recent news: My wife (Marina Messinger) and I were very fortunate to have our first child, Daniel Simon Messinger, born 2-24-2014!

2011-2012: Post-doctoral position with University of Illinois at Chicago's Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence

2012-present: Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Justice Studies Dept. at Northeastern Illinois University (in Chicago)

Research focus: LGBTQ intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, sexual violence, child abuse, youth violence interventions

Recent awards: NEIU Summer Research Stipend (2013); NEIU Research Communities Grant (2014); NEIU Research Excellence Award (2014)

Recent publications:

Messinger, A.M. (2014). Marking 35 Years of Same-sex Intimate Partner Violence Research: Lessons and Future Directions. In Peterson, D. and V.R. Panfil (Eds.) *The Handbook of LGBT Communities, Crime, and Justice*, pp. 65-85. Springer Science + Business Media Publishing.

Messinger, A.M. (2012). Teaching Content Analysis through Harry Potter. *Teaching Sociology*, 40(4), 360-367.

Messinger, A.M. (2011). Invisible Victims: Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence in the National Violence Against Women Survey. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(11), 2228-2243.

Messinger, A.M., Davidson, L., & V. Rickert. (2011). IPV Among Adolescent Reproductive Health Clinic Patients: The Role of Relationship Communication. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(9), 1851-1867.

Messinger, A.M., Fry, D.A., Rickert, V., Catalozzi, M., & L.L. Davidson. (2014). Extending Johnson's Intimate Partner Violence Typology: Lessons from an Adolescent Sample. *Violence Against Women*. DOI: 10.1177/1077801214546907.

Messinger, A.M., Nieri, T., Villar, P., & Luengo, M.A. (2012). Acculturation Stress and Bullying Among Immigrant Youths in Spain. *Journal of School Violence*, 9(4), 306-322.

Messinger, A.M., Rickert, V.L., Fry, D.A., Lessel, H., & Davidson, L.L. (2012). Revisiting the Role of Communication in Adolescent Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 27(14), 2851-2866.

Risser, H.J., **Messinger, A.M.**, Fry, D.A., Davidson, L.L., & P.A. Schewe. (2013). Do maternal and paternal mental illness and substance abuse predict treatment outcomes for children exposed to violence? *Child Care in Practice*, 19(3), 221-236.

Schewe, P., Risser, H., & **A.M. Messinger**. (2013). Safe from the Start: Evaluating Interventions for Children Exposed to Violence. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 22(1), 67-86.

The Department invites our many alumni to send us their news and other stories, including any transitions. We are interested in hearing from you, and knowing what has happened since graduation from UCR. Please send information to Dr. Alexandra Maryanski (Alumni Affairs) using the following email address: Alexandra.maryanski@ucr.edu

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