

# VERITAS VINCIT

May 23rd, 2018

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## Message from the Chairs

*Jan E. Stets and Augustine J. Kposowa*

As you will see in the pages that follow this issue of *Veritas Vincit*, a lot has happened in the department over the past year. There have been many successes by our undergraduate and graduate students, and our faculty continue to shine with their excellent research. We thank Victoria Reyes and Bruce Link for putting together a wonderful and comprehensive issue on the variety of activities and successes of members of the UCR Sociology Community.

We have enjoyed this past year getting to know our newest colleagues, Dr. Richard Carpiano, Dr. San Juanita Garcia, Dr. Chioun Lee, and Dr. Victoria Reyes. Each of them has brought new ideas and contributions to the department. We look forward to many more years with them. And, we look ahead to our newest addition to the department who will be joining us beginning July 1, 2018. They include Dr. Randol Contreras (*University of Toronto*) and Dr. Rengin Firat (*Georgia State University*). Randol will contribute to our criminology specialization, and Rengin will add to our social psychology specialization. Each of them will bring to the department unique methodological and theoretical skills as well as substantive interests that will broaden and strengthen our existing departmental emphases. Unfortunately, with additions to our department comes losses. Dr. David Swanson has decided to retire at the end of this academic year. David made important contributions to the department in the areas of demography and population research. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement. Finally, we have enjoyed having Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Susila Gurusami with us this past year under the mentorship of Dr. Ellen Reese. She has been working hard on her research and will begin her new post as Assistant Professor at the *University of Toronto* in the fall.

As the year ends, we want to thank the faculty for all their hard work over the past year including recruitment of our newest faculty, helping in the revision and strengthening of the graduate program, and continuing to do stellar research, teaching, and service that brings acclaim to the department. As graduation approaches and achievements are celebrated, we feel blessed to be in a community of intellectuals whose interests and approaches, while diverse, make sustained efforts to seek common ground and work for the greater good. It is for this reason we want to recognize our faculty and students and thank them for a year well-done!

We hope that our alumni enjoy all the news in this issue, and that you contact us and let us know how you are doing. Moreover, we hope that you come and visit, even give a talk to stay connected with us. We were especially pleased that Emeritus Dr. Robert Hanneman returned this past spring to teach a Social Networks course to our graduate students. We know the students have been very appreciative of this as Bob is an expert in this area. So, please, stop by the department. We would love to hear from you!

With summer just around the corner, we hope that it is relaxing and enjoyable time for you, whatever you do. May your travels be safe wherever you go. We look forward to connecting with you in the fall.

## Message from the Editors

*Bruce Link and Victoria Reyes*

Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of Veritas Vincit! We want to provide a very brief introduction to this the 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue of Volume 5 of our Department's Newsletter. But first allow us an excursion into the name of our newsletter – Veritas Vincit.

It turns out that even after having read several volumes of the Newsletter and having edited one issue of it, one of us (Link) had not stopped to figure out what the Latin words meant. To find out Link went back to the first issue of the Newsletter (Volume 1, Issue 1, September 2013) where founding editor Augustine Kposowa provided an answer. “Veritas” means “truth” and “vincit” means “prevails, conquers, or lasts.” Kposowa provided the name as a hopeful guide to anyone who might wish to contribute to the Newsletter.

But the combination of concepts also reminded us that in the broader context of our lives truth is under attack. And that made us wonder whether the hard work sociologists do might not be particularly important right now. We do many things and we do them in many ways but what we often seek is to use the cannons and rigor of our discipline to “tell it like it is.” In that sense we might say that our hard work aims to reveal the truth and, in keeping with the name of our Newsletter, help the truth prevail in these difficult times.

This issue brings many interesting contributions. It includes, of course, an accounting of the awards, honors, publications and grants of students and faculty but also goes beyond those items to engage multiple interesting aspects of the sociology department here at UCR. As the year is coming to an end we asked our hard working and effective graduate (Tanya Nieri) and undergraduate (Sharon Oselin) advisors to look back over the year, sum up and give reflections on the year that is about to end. We profile our newest specialization, medical sociology and we also decided to spotlight one of our very hardworking staff, Tiara Caldwell. Please be sure to see that feature. Another, interview by Jessica Moronez queries Susila Gurusami who was a Chancellor's fellow here at UCR under the mentorship of Ellen Reese about her time with us and her plans for the future. We also had the idea that bits of wisdom are often transmitted from one cohort of graduate students to another and engaged Chris Vito to reflect on his recent dissertation defense and Min Yoo on her recent thesis defense. Finally, Karla Hernandez writes a commentary about UCR's *Inaugural Oaxacan Philharmonic Bands Audition* and Juanita Garcia contributes a commentary about an interdisciplinary group she helped develop that also includes Tanya Nieri and Bruce Link from sociology. The group focuses on immigrant health and staged a highly successful conference (jointly sponsored by sociology) on that topic here at UCR in March. Have a look at her reflections on interdisciplinary work.

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter but whether you do or not be sure to work hard and help truth conquer – Veritas Vincit.

Victoria Reyes and Bruce Link, Co Editors

## Reflections from the Undergraduate Advisor

*Sharon Oselin*

Greetings Colleagues:

It has been a busy year for me in my role as Undergraduate Advisor. As I have learned more about what our sociology undergraduates are doing across campus and beyond, I have a greater appreciation for their engagement in and commitment to their educational enhancement and goals.

During the past year our Undergraduate Sociological Association (USA) has been quite active. This organization works hard to plan and organize events that benefit our undergraduate students. For example, in the fall quarter they held a highly successful Graduate/Professional school workshop that was attended by over 30 students. A panel of former sociology undergraduates – Kristy Coy, Anh Le, and Asbeidy Solano – spoke about their experiences applying to graduate or professional schools and provided important tips for success to prospective students. In addition, current graduate students from our department – Ron Kwon, Logan Marg, and Jessica Moronez – described their experiences in graduate school and the challenges they faced. Overall, the event was a great success! The USA also organized a workshop where a librarian instructed students about proper ASA citation formatting, held a “meet and greet” for faculty, graduate students and undergraduates, and continues to hold regular meetings. The 2017-2018 officers include: Maritza Salazar (President), Yadira Soto (Vice President), Edgar Murillo (Secretary), and Mariela Madrid (Treasurer).

A number of our sociology undergraduates are presenting at this year’s 2018 Undergraduate Research Symposium, an event that showcases UCR Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities. It took place on May 7-8 at the HUB. These students include:

Karla Hernandez, “UCDC: Voto Latino and the Impact on Millennial Voters”

Mariela Villalba Madrid, “Foreigners and Fascism: Collective Identities and Social Movements”

Rubyd Olvera, “Dreams Attained: The impact of Undocumented Student Resources at UC Campuses”

Maritza Salazar, “From Barrios to Bars: The School-to-Prison Pipeline and Its Impact on Four-Year College Enrollment Rates for Latino Youth”

Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza, “A Family of Unequals: The Lived Experiences and Consciousness of Farmworkers in the Coachella Valley”

Kimberly Gonzalez Arce, “Academic Counselors and their Relationship to Graduation Rates in LAUSD Public High Schools”

# VERITAS VINCIT

We are fortunate to have a few sociology students who are Mellon Mays recipients for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years. Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza is currently mentored by Dr. Ellen Reese, who also oversees her senior thesis project. Her ethnographic research project focuses on farmworkers in Coachella Valley in order to examine current labor and employment practices used by corporate agriculture, farm workers' consciousness as working class Latina/os, and how they are divided by ethnicity and immigrant status. Although not a sociology major, another Mellon Mays UCR student, Tevin Bui, is currently mentored by Dr. Steve Brint on a project that is sociological in nature. Building off the work of William Gamson, his research examines four social movements -- two that succeeded and two that failed -- that occurred at UCR in order to tease out social movement success. Finally, starting next year, Andres Downey, also mentored by Dr. Steve Brint, will investigate how fraternity members view diversity in their selection process of new members to assess racial disparities.

Outside of UCR, we had a number of our undergraduate sociology students who presented their research at the spring 2018 Pacific Sociological Association's annual meeting in Long Beach. They include:

Viraji Weerasena, "The Structural Sources of Violent Crimes in Post-Civil War Sri Lanka."

Jennifer Rodriguez-Trujillo, "Status and Psychological Health: An Identity Theory Analysis."

Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza, "A Family of Unequals: The Lived Experiences and Consciousness of Farmworkers"

Rubyd Olvera, "Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How the Leticia A. Network Led to Assembly Bill AB540."

Kimberly Gonzalez Arce, "Academic Counselors and their Relationship to Graduation Rates in LAUSD Public High Schools."

Keyvan Golizadeh, "The Second Secular Cycle and U.S. Hegemonic Decline: Measuring Political Instability from 1780-2017."

Congratulations to all for contributing to the larger sociology community and for sharing their work!

Best wishes for continued success to all our students!

--Sharon Oselin, Sociology Undergraduate Advisor

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Congratulations to our undergraduates who have achieved so much this year!

**Maritza Salazar** received the **Tomás Rivera Award** for CHASS, an award that recognizes undergraduate students with outstanding academic and/or creative achievement and demonstrated commitment to community service

**Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza** received an **Academic Excellence Award** for CHASS, an award that recognizes students, one from each undergraduate program, who are selected by their faculty for achieving excellence in their academics, and research or creative activity

**Ingris Aparcio-Rios** received the **Dean Loda Mae Davis Award**. Established in 1964 by the Prytanean Women's Honor Society, this award is given in memory of UCR's first Dean of Women, This award recognizes a graduating woman for her outstanding participation in extracurricular campus activities, leadership in campus organizations and academic achievement.

The following students received a **Dean's Academic Distinction Award**, which received a Dean's Academic Distinction Award, which recognizes undergraduate students maintaining a GPA of 3.90 or above by awarding a pin each year that the GPA is maintained. In their graduating year, the award includes a medallion on which their pins may be placed. The decorated medallion may be worn over their graduation gown during Commencement Ceremonies:

**Alejandra Nuevo**

**Deja Marie Goodwin**

**Diana Yejin Whang**

**Karen Elizabeth Maestas**

**Shyam Brihan Rajan**

**Jacqueline Grimaldo**

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

**UCR Undergraduate Sociological Association:** student-run organization that informs prospective and current undergraduate Sociology majors about graduate school, research, and sociological perspectives through community service, guest speakers, debates, and seminars.

**Sociology Honors Program and Sociology Peer Mentoring Program:** contact the Sociology Department Undergraduate Advisor, Sharon Oselin, PhD, sharon.oselin@ucr.edu

**Social Science Information System:** SocioSite is designed to get access to information and resources which are relevant for sociologists and other social scientists. It has been designed from a global point of view – it gives access to the world wide scene of social sciences. <http://www.sociosite.net/>

**Everydaysociologyblog.com:** a site that features interesting, informative, and most of all entertaining commentary from sociologists around the United States.

**The Society Pages:** an online, multidisciplinary social science project that brings measured social science to broader visibility and influence: <http://thesocietypages.org/>

**Sociological Images:** sociology presented in pictures (also available on Facebook): <http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/>

**21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology, Second Edition:** A booklet designed to help undergraduates understand the skills that employers are seeking, and the ways a sociology major helps build those skills.

**American Sociological Association Honors Program:** Provides undergraduate sociology students an introduction to the professional life of the discipline by experiencing the ASA Annual Meetings first-hand.

### Opportunities for Conducting Research:

Write a **senior thesis** through SOC 195 or SOC 199H! Contact Sociology Advisor Kimberly Etzweiler: kim.etzweiler@ucr.edu

**Undergraduate research opportunities at UCR:** <http://ssp.ucr.edu/portal/>

**Undergraduate Research Journal** – publish your research! <http://ssp.ucr.edu/journal/>

**UCR Undergraduate Research Symposium** – present your research! <http://ssp.ucr.edu/symposium>

**UCR Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Minigrants** - [http://ssp.ucr.edu/student\\_grant\\_opportunities/](http://ssp.ucr.edu/student_grant_opportunities/)

**UCR Chancellor's Research Fellowship** - [http://ssp.ucr.edu/chancellor\\_fellowship/](http://ssp.ucr.edu/chancellor_fellowship/)

**UCR Mentoring Summer Research Internship Program:** <http://graduate.ucr.edu/msrip.html>

**Summer Research Opportunities** (not just for honors students!): <http://honors.ucr.edu/opportunities>

**UCR Labor Studies Internships:** <http://www.laborstudies.ucr.edu/internships/index.html>

**UCR Sociology Department:** Sociology Internships (SOC 198-I): contact the Sociology Undergraduate Advisor, Sharon Oselin, PhD, sharon.oselin@ucr.edu

**Public Policy Summer Internships:** <http://www.ppiaprogram.org/ppia/what-we-do/junior-summer-institutes/>

**Resources at UCR for preparing undergrads for graduate school:** [http://graduate.ucr.edu/undergrad\\_prep.html](http://graduate.ucr.edu/undergrad_prep.html)

**UCR Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program:** <https://mellonmays.ucr.edu/>

## UNDERGRADUATE EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP):** A gateway to graduate education at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. The program's goal is to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue graduate study and research careers. <https://www.btaa.org/students/srop/introduction>

**Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU):** The National Science Foundation funds a large number of research opportunities for undergraduate students through its REU Sites program. [https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list\\_result.jsp?unitid=5054](https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=5054)

**The Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) Phillips Academy:** This program addresses the lack of diversity in the nation's teaching faculties by recruiting outstanding students of color and other scholars committed to diversity, counseling them through the graduate school application process, and advocating for sufficient funding for advanced study. <https://www.andover.edu/about/outreach/irt>

### Scholarship Opportunities and Programs



**Gates Cambridge Scholar** Scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge. Scholars are selected based on outstanding intellectual ability, leadership potential, a commitment to improving the lives of others, a good fit between the applicant's qualifications and aspirations, and the post-graduate programme at Cambridge for which they are applying.



**Donald A. Strauss Foundation Scholars** This scholarship funds \$10,000 to student led public service and education projects. Strauss Scholars tend to have an extensive record of community and public service.



**CORO Fellows** This fellowship trains ethical, diverse civic leaders nationwide. Coro fellows engage in government, business, labor and not-for-profit community organizations; and participate in special community and political problem solving processes.



**Undergraduate Fulbright Scholars (Research and English Teaching Award)** The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is a national award that provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs in over 160 countries.

More information on scholarships: <http://ssp.ucr.edu/scholarships/>

## Reflections from the Graduate Advisor

*Tanya Nieri*

As Graduate Advisor, I have enjoyed working with students and faculty to administer our doctoral program. We have achieved a lot this year. First, our graduate students have been highly productive and successful. In addition to moving through our program in a timely manner, they have been busy conducting significant research and receiving recognition for it. The number of awards and grants that our students have applied for and received has increased. Examples of these successes are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Students have also been active in sharing their research at professional conferences. The recent Sociology Graduate Student Research Forum showcased the important and impressive work of many of our students. Finally, we have students actively engaged in the profession, whether through committee membership in professional associations or as session organizers for professional conferences. The Sociology Student Graduate Association, in addition to providing student representation on our departmental committees, has actively supported and advocated for our graduate students, such as through the care packages distributed in students' department mailboxes.

Second, the graduate program has improved. We have updated our Graduate Manual (see online). Among other additions is the guidelines for mentoring, designed to improve faculty-student mentoring relationships. We have created a student tracking database that enables us to monitor over time students' progress and outcomes as well as faculty members' advising load. We have enhanced our end-of-year student evaluations with a new form that allows for in-depth input from both students and their faculty mentors on both past performance and future goals. The form also allows the program to quantitatively assess its learning outcomes as part of our program accreditation. The developments allow the department to engage in data-driven decision making. For example, at the end of this year's evaluation cycle, we will be able to compare to last year's aggregated results, the first year of the enhanced year-end evaluation, to identify progress and areas for improvement. The Sociology Graduate Community on iLearn was launched. It contains extensive resources for students on mentoring, research funding, award opportunities, publishing, and job searching. In addition, I initiated circulation via the graduate student email listserv the weekly digest of events, information, and opportunities. We have organized special professional development workshops for our graduate students, including sessions on identifying and applying for research grants, exploring non-academic jobs, and writing for fellowship applications. There have been several other improvements to our graduate program. We added Medical Sociology as a specialization, effective next year. The Colloquium Committee has organized a Brown Bag series to complement our colloquium events. The series allows department faculty and students to share their research, practice job talks, and obtain feedback on current projects in a supportive environment. The co-chairs have overseen various capital improvement projects, such as a renovated Graduate Lounge.

All in all, it has been a very good year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for all of your input on how to make our program better and our students more successful.

Tanya Nieri, PhD, Graduate Advisor



## GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

### Honors, Grants, and Awards:

**Sarah Bannister** received a **Presley Center Research Fellowship**. The Presley Center was established at the University of California, Riverside by an act of the legislature to conduct research on crime and violence, including: the causes and prevention of crime and violence; best practices for law enforcement and for youth and adult corrections; and the reduction of violence and recidivism in California's prisons, jails, and youth correctional facilities

**Michaela Curran** received a **UCR Healthy Campus Initiative research grant** for her project, Identifying accommodation and support services for students with invisible disabilities at UCR. UCR HCI is providing an opportunity for the UCR campus community to contribute and support projects related to HCI priority areas and support the Healthy Campus 2020 principles. The HCI seeks to fund creative, high quality, replicable and sustainable projects that make UCR a healthier campus community

**Liz Hughes** received a Diversity Pre-doctoral Fellowship at Penn State University, Abington College. This award is designed to provide support and mentorship for a promising scholar who is committed to diversity, with the goal of preparing the scholar for a tenure-track appointment at Penn State or elsewhere

**Karin Johnson** received a **Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship** from UCR Grad Division. The Graduate Research Mentoring Program (GRMP) award is intended to enhance the mentoring of domestic PhD students entering their 3rd, 4th, or 5th years of graduate school who are actively engaged in research

**Katherine Maldonado** received the **American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship**. The Minority Fellowship Program seeks to attract talented doctoral students to ensure a diverse and highly trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles in research that is relevant to today's global society

**Katherine Maldonado** received the **UCR Chicano/Latino Alumni Scholarship**. The Chicano Latino Alumni (CLA) established a scholarship program to recognize the academic and community achievements of students at UCR.

**Logan Marg** received a **UCR Healthy Campus Initiative research grant** for his project, College Men's Conceptualization, Communication, and Interpretation of Sexual Consent. UCR HCI is providing an opportunity for the UCR campus community to contribute and support projects related to HCI priority areas and support the Healthy Campus 2020 principles. The HCI seeks to fund creative, high quality, replicable and sustainable projects that make UCR a healthier campus community

**Logan Marg** obtained a **User Experience Research Internship at Facebook**, to begin June 25, 2018.

**Allison Monterrosa** received a **Presley Center Research Fellowship**. The Presley Center was established at the University of California, Riverside by an act of the legislature to conduct research on crime and violence, including: the causes and prevention of crime and violence; best practices for law enforcement and for youth and adult corrections; and the reduction of violence and recidivism in California's prisons, jails, and youth correctional facilities

**Alessandro Morosin** received the **UCR Alumni Graduate Research Travel Award**, to help fund conference travel

**Evelyn Pruneda** was accepted to be a participant in the **Fall 2018 Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies Seminar: Contested Histories: How to Write History**. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, awardees receive a GSR appointment to release them from TA or employment obligations during the seminar quarter. This seminar focuses on questions of historical scholarship as well as on still under-examined historical events and experiences as they affect contemporary intercultural relations in the United States.

**Bobby Rivera** was accepted to attend the **Center for Ethnography intensive workshop** at UC Berkeley for a week in July. The Center for Ethnographic Research (CER) Intensive Ethnography Workshop provides mentorship, hands-on field experience, and advanced training in designing and executing a project using participant observation. Participants will be coached through all the components of a research project

**Bobby Rivera** won a **Fulbright Scholar Award** to research restorative justice policing practices in Jamaica. The Fulbright Scholar Program offers U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals grants to lecture, conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, or to participate in seminars. The Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries

### Transitions:

**Matt Dunn** accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California

**Logan Marg** successfully defended the dissertation prospectus and advanced to candidacy.

**Kevin McCaffree** accepted a tenure-track position at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas

## FELLOWSHIPS AND RESOURCES

### Fellowships:

**Ford Foundation** funds Predoctoral, Dissertation, and Postdoctoral Fellowships. The Ford Foundation is committed to strengthening the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. For more information: <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm>

Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Deadline: December 14, 2017 (5:00 PM EST)

Ford Foundation Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowship Deadline: December 7, 2017 (5:00 PM EST)

Supplementary Materials Due: January 9, 2018 (5:00 PM EST)

**American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program** supports the development and training of sociologists of color in any sub-area or specialty in the discipline. For more information: <http://www.asanet.org/career-center/grants-and-fellowships/minority-fellowship-program>

Deadline: January 31, 2018

**Boren Fellowships** an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded. For more information: <https://www.borenawards.org/fellowships/boren-fellowship-basics>

Deadline: February 8, 2018 (5:00 PM EST)

### Useful Resources:

**UCR GradSuccess** provides a variety of services to meet the needs of UCR's diverse graduate student population. Housed in Graduate Division, GradSuccess offers programs, workshops, seminars, and consultations by appointment and drop-in. GradSuccess supports graduate students at every stage of their study and is concerned with helping students become successful professionals. More information: <http://graduate.ucr.edu/success.html>

**National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity** is an independent professional development, training, and mentoring community for faculty members, postdocs, and graduate students. UCR is an institutional member so click "Become a Member" and then "Claim your institutional membership." More information: <https://www.facultydiversity.org/>

**The Crunk Feminist Collective** is a blog providing a space of support and camaraderie for hip hop generation feminists of color, queer and straight. Check out their Back-to-School Beatitudes: 10 Academic Survival Tips here: <http://www.crunkfeministcollective.com/2011/08/25/back-to-school-beatitudes-10-academic-survival-tips/>

**The Professor is In** provides useful information for thriving in graduate school, the job market, and offers one-on-one coaching. More information: <http://theprofessorisin.com/>

## Matthew Mahutga Recognized for Mentorship



The Newsletter lists many awards and honors received by our faculty. We highlight the Mentorship Award here because it is one given by our Department and because it signals excellence in guiding our students. This year's recipient, Associate Professor Matthew Mahutga was recommended by multiple nominators including several of his students. One of them captured his excellence as follows, "Matthew is a supportive, hardworking, and respectful mentor. He advocates for the wellbeing of his graduate students, provides them with extensive feedback on their work, and treats them with respect commensurate to his faculty colleagues." Richard Carpiano, Chair of the Awards Committee, reflected on Matthew's selection this way, "The letters that the awards committee received from Matthew's nominators highlighted many exemplary efforts and accomplishments commensurate with the spirit of the award. Among those, we particularly noted his efforts in publishing research with graduate students as well as helping them in publishing their own work." We all join in congratulating Matthew for this wonderful recognition.

## Introducing the Medical Sociology Specialization

This past Winter term, the sociology department faculty voted to make medical sociology an official specialization area of the department. This exciting news follows from the recent hiring of several faculty who conduct research in this area, including Juanita Garcia, Chioun Lee, Lucie Kalousova (set to arrive at UCR in Fall 2020), and myself; as well as UCR co-hosting (with Purdue University) the top medical sociology forum, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (an ASA publication). When you count us "new arrivals" alongside existing faculty studying health issues (Bruce Link, Tanya Nieri, and Augustine Kposowa), this sums to a substantial critical mass of faculty—making UCR now one of the largest medical sociology departments in the US, rivaling or surpassing the ranks of established, leading programs like Indiana, Purdue, Rutgers, Texas-Austin, UCSF, and Vanderbilt.

The significance of this new specialization, however, is much more than just faculty numbers. What distinguishes UCR from other medical sociology programs is the breadth of its medical sociology faculty's focal areas. Medical sociology is a very broad subarea, spanning numerous topics that include medical education; health care organizations; the social (and particularly scientific) construction of health, disease, and illness; social determinants of health and health disparities; and political economy of health and health policy (to name just a few). This work intersects with all areas of sociology, including other specialization areas here at UCR, while also engaging with health-related disciplines (medicine, nursing, public health), other social sciences (medical anthropology, psychology, economics), public policy, law and bioethics, and even natural sciences (immunology, genetics). Hence, it is unusual for any medical sociology program to have the blend of breadth and depth that is represented here at UCR (including methodological approaches). This situation presents fantastic training opportunities for graduate, undergraduate, and postdoctoral training. Furthermore, there is a broad range of academic (e.g., sociology, medical and public health programs) and non-academic jobs (think tanks, NGOs, public health departments) for which medical sociologists are highly qualified and in demand.

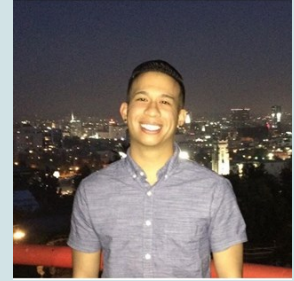
Coinciding with the approval of this specialization approved, several undergraduate and graduate courses have been or will be developed (to be phased into future course schedules) and graduate students will be able to complete a comprehensive examination in this area. Stay tuned!

Richard Carpiano



### *Reflections from an Alum*

Christopher Vito, PhD Sociology  
Assistant Professor, School of Arts,  
Communication & Social Sciences  
Southwestern College



I recently defended my dissertation, entitled "Just Say No to 360s: The Politics of Independent Hip-Hop," in the Spring of 2017 with chair Ellen Reese and committee members Adalberto Aguirre, Lan Duong, and Alfredo Mirandé. My dissertation attempts to address an age old topic: to what extent and how independent hip-hop challenges or reproduces U.S. mainstream hip-hop culture and U.S. culture more generally. Utilizing a content analysis of lyrics from independent hip-hop albums from 2000-2013 and interviews with members of the independent hip-hop community, I uncover the historical trajectory of independent hip-hop in the post golden era and how it has affected hip-hop today. I have since accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Southwestern College in my hometown of San Diego. I will be releasing a book later this year based on my dissertation.

Reflecting upon my experiences as a graduate student, I would encourage current graduate students to continuously think about how their current coursework, papers, qualifying exams, and research can improve their dissertation. I found my qualitative research course to be helpful in identifying my research interests, but I also found publishing an article outside of hip-hop on masculinity and violence with Amanda Admire and Elizabeth Hughes trained me to better understand how to engage in content analysis. In addition, I would tell current graduate students who are about to be on the market to reflect on what is important to them. I found that being close to my family, particularly my mother and my niece, was the single most important factor in my job search.



## *Graduate Student Reflection*

Min Yoo, PhD Candidate  
Department of Sociology  
University of California, Riverside



Hello, my name is Min Yoo, and I specialize in Race and Crim. I am currently a third-year graduate student at University of California, Riverside (UCR) in the Sociology Department. I completed and defended my thesis in Fall 2017. My thesis qualitatively examined how Asian-heritage people relieve cultural stressors at raves in Southern California.

Reflecting on the process leading up to the defense, I would like to share some advice for students who plan on completing their thesis. First and foremost, planning ahead is key! I would highly recommend students to utilize the required course (i.e., Research Design) to their advantage. In that class, start developing the research design for your Thesis, so that you will be able to receive feedback from various people (i.e., colleagues, Professors). Second, identifying your Chair/mentor is very important because he/she will give you the most feedback and guidance for your Thesis. I was very fortunate to have Dr. Nieri as my Chair and mentor. I asked her to be my Chair because her research areas are similar to mine. She helped me immensely in terms of developing a timeline for completing the written portion for the Thesis and preparing for the oral defense. Third, after identifying a Chair who is a good fit for your Thesis, start thinking of other members that could serve on your Committee. Professors are very busy throughout the year and may have already made different commitments to prior students. Therefore, it is very important to ask early on. The process of asking Professors if they are able and willing to participate in your Committee varies. In my experience, some Professors required a formal research proposal while others did not. This means that students must be prepared to have a polished research proposal at the minimum prior to asking Professors if they could serve on the Committee. Fourth, be prepared to do many revisions. Your Committee members will help you develop the best version of your Thesis that you could potentially publish. Fifth, I recommend students to attend Conferences to practice their oral defense for the Thesis. I presented a portion of my Thesis at Pacific Sociological Association (PSA). I received helpful feedback from scholars, which I incorporated for my oral defense. Most of all, use your Thesis as the time to start thinking about what research you are interested in and whether you want to further develop it for your dissertation.



## COMMENTARIES

**“Oaxaca lives en mi”**

**Karla Hernandez**

**4th year, graduating senior**

**Sociology undergraduate major**



*Padiuxh! Nak zu?* means “Hello! How are you?” in Zapoteco. I am a fourth year sociology major with proud Oaxacan roots. Oaxaca is located in Southwestern Mexico and it is well known for its population of indigenous people and culture. Oaxaca is also known for its rich cuisine such as *mole*, *quesillo*, and *mezcal* (a liquor made from agave), and it is home to the Guelaguetza festival. My family is from a small village named Santiago Zochila, which is part of the Villa Alta district of the Sierra Norte region. Here in the United States, my family resides in the city of Lynwood, south of Los Angeles. Los Angeles and California has been home to many Oaxacan families and is often referred to as *OaxaCalifornia*.

On January 27th, 2018, a historic event took place at UC Riverside, organized by Dr. Xóchitl C. Chávez, Assistant Professor from the Department of Music. *The Inaugural Oaxacan Philharmonic Bands Audition* was an event that brought together four Oaxacan philharmonic bands outside the performing arts building to play for students, families, and the broader Inland Empire community. This musical showcase brought over 140 indigenous Oaxacan musicians who currently reside in Los Angeles. These bands played a diverse repertoire of genres including *waltzes*, *marches*, *danzones*, *mazurkas*, and *paso dobles*, many times featuring Oaxacan composers. It was a great honor to be a part of this event not only as a musician but as a student volunteer under the coordination of Dr. Chavez. Even more so, it was with great pride to witness the Oaxacan community at my university, including the band I am a part of, *Banda Nueva Dinastía de Zochila*.

*Banda Nueva Dinastía de Zochila* was founded in 2001 by two brothers, my uncle Porfirio Hernandez and my father Moises Hernandez. Their goal was to invest in a community project that would teach the younger generations about the culture and traditions of Oaxaca while motivating them to pursue a higher education. Through music and their involvement with the band, my uncle and father protected the youth from the high delinquency rate that surrounded the Lynwood neighborhood. I was in the 7th grade when I first joined the band and I learned *solfeo* for a couple months before I moved on to learn how to play the clarinet.

As a first generation student, I have applied the sociological concepts I have learned in my classes to my own lived experiences. For instance, sociology has provided the tools to further understand and explore my intersectional identities as a female, my ethnic and racial background, coupled with my identity as a musician. First, my identity as a musician and cultural background go together because without music, I would never have had the opportunity to learn about the traditions of Oaxaca. In my community, music is always present within our customs and traditions where the band never fails to be present whether we are celebrating our patron saint, at family parties, or even in difficult times such as funerals. There’s even a saying that goes, “*un pueblo sin musica es un pueblo sin alma*” which means “a village without music is a village without a soul.”

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In the summer of 2016, I had the opportunity to travel with the band to my father's village of Santiago Zochila to participate in the annual festivities honoring the patron saint Santiago Apostol. Recently, the band announced a tour that will take place in 2020 where the band will also stop to perform in Mexico City and Oaxaca City before heading to Santiago Zochila.

Secondly, my identity as a female has shaped my perceptions in the way women are treated and the gender expectations that are imposed on them in Oaxaca compared to the United States. The times that I have visited Oaxaca, I immediately identify the gender differences that are implied specifically towards women. From what I have observed in Oaxaca, even more so in the villages, women do not receive support to pursue an education due to their expected role of becoming a housewife. Meanwhile, men have the breadwinner role and are allowed to hold positions in the village's council. In contrast, the generations of women who have migrated or were born in the United States have a greater opportunity of pursuing an education and advance their career because of the increase in representation. As times are changing women in the village and in my community are slowly becoming empowered to break the glass ceiling and pursue an education and career that will exceed the gender expectation.

My biggest take away from the event hosted at UC Riverside was that I never imagined Oaxaca would be represented at a larger scale such as a university setting, nevertheless have my band be part of this representation. Now, every time I walk past the Arts Building, I reminisce to the day where *sones y jarabes* were played to close the event and I think to myself, "I can't believe that four Oaxacan brass bands filled these halls, that my family got to see the campus where I will soon be graduating, and that my friends got a glimpse of my culture." This brings a smile to my face and I remain grateful for these memories. Lastly, not only was there a large representation of the *Oaxaqueño* communities, but this event was also broadcasted online for individuals who were not able to attend, and for families living in Oaxaca and other countries which was truly a transnational experience.

Being a part of *Banda Nueva Dinastia de Zochila* has allowed me to stay connected and learn about my Oaxacan culture. I proudly identify myself as a *Oaxaqueña* and believe that we should not be ashamed of our cultural backgrounds but instead value and promote our identities, despite the current political climate that negatively portrays Mexican and indigenous immigrant communities. If you have not had the chance, I hope that you visit Oaxaca and experience the culture and traditions for yourself. *Aysagshu!* Goodbye!





## COMMENTARIES

### Links highlighting the event

“¡Booming Bandas!” ¡Booming Bandas! Retrieved April 14, 2018 (<http://boomingbandas.com/>).

Lynwood Unified School District. “Oaxacan Philharmonic Band Unites Community Through Music and Education.” *Marketing Automation - Sell More Stuff*. Retrieved March 23, 2018(<https://mailchi.mp/vmacommunications/oaxacan-philharmonic-band-unites-community-through-music-and-education?e=bd588c8e1d>).

Press Enterprise. “Bands with Mexican Roots Perform at UC Riverside.” *Press Enterprise*. Retrieved April 14, 2018 (<https://www.pe.com/2018/01/27/bands-with-mexican-roots-perform-at-uc-riverside/>).

Univision. “Por Primera Vez Cuatro Bandas Oaxaqueñas Se Unen En Un Concierto En El Sur De California.” *Univision.com* Retrieved April 14, 2018 (<https://www.univision.com/los-angeles/kmex/noticias/interes-humano/por-primera-vez-cuatro-bandas-oaxaquetas-se-unen-en-un-concierto-en-el-sur-de-california-video>).



# COMMENTARIES

## The Formation of the UCR Immigrant Health Research Collaborative

*By: San Juanita García*



In the midst of dramatic increases in immigrant enforcement felt across the United States, a group of researchers at UCR came together to form the Immigrant Health Research Collaborative (IHRC). Unified by a commitment to study immigrant health from a structural inequality approach, our group began meeting in October 2017. Group members were drawn from across campus and include faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows from various academic disciplines including: Anthropology, Social Work, Political Science, Sociology, Public Health, and Public Policy. Our team evolved into a formal group known as the Immigrant Health Research Collaborative (IHRC). By describing the formation of IHRC, it is our goal to highlight the value of interdisciplinary collaboration. We hope to inspire others to create interdisciplinary collaborations at UCR and beyond and we want to share a memorable and transformative symposium that was held at UCR just last month.

### **Value of Interdisciplinary Collaborations: Reaching Beyond Academic Spaces**

My formal disciplinary training has been in Sociology, yet I regularly read other social science, humanities, and public health research to supplement my disciplinary expertise. Partly, this is because my research may be described as a burgeoning niche area. My sense is that sociology is quickly now catching up and asking critical questions related to how social inequities, like living a constant threat of deportation or being a part of a mixed-status household (including family members with different legal statuses), impact the mental health of immigrants and their families. While I have always been interested in reading beyond sociology, my postdoctoral training solidified my interdisciplinary interests and provided first-hand experience with multi-disciplinary team collaborations. It taught me the power behind cultivating interdisciplinary collaborative partnerships with academics, community members, practitioners, and community stakeholders. At UCR, I have been fortunate to meet other colleagues who share my vision for fostering interdisciplinary collaborations/partnerships, leading to the formation of the IHRC.

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Interdisciplinary research, or the integration, collaboration, and communication across academic disciplines, has been encouraged by university administrators, funding agencies, including federal agencies and private foundations. In fact, *Nature*, a leading scientific journal, has a [special issue](#) dedicated to interdisciplinary research, including a [quiz testing how interdisciplinary one is](#). However, their definition of interdisciplinary research focuses primarily on bridging how “hard” scientists and social scientists solve large societal ills such as climate, health, water, food, and energy. Some of the advantages of conducting interdisciplinary research are that it helps build bridges and overcomes divides leading to progress and innovation.

But how interdisciplinary is Sociology? According to Moody and Light (2006) after conducting a network analysis of citations, they found that sociology is broad in scope in comparison to our neighboring disciplines. Based on data from the National Science Foundation, Jacobs and Frickel (2009) find that sociology had 48.5 percent of references cited in journal articles outside sociology. This is indicative of how interdisciplinary sociology is in scope, especially in comparison to fields like economics. However, there are debates within Sociology concerning the value of interdisciplinary research. Critics of interdisciplinary research argue that it may lead to lower standards for each discipline involved. Others highlight how it may result in a lack of intellectual autonomy, given that most research projects do not arise from sociological gaps in the literature, but rather by community partners or by a larger goal of the interdisciplinary group. These critiques, they claim may produce little scientific impact to advancing sociological theory (Jacobs and Frickel 2009).

But how can one engage in interdisciplinary research, yet remain true to our beloved sociological traditions and discipline? Can we truly engage in interdisciplinary and collaborative research, yet contribute to sociology? I argue that interdisciplinary research can be done and that the gains we make by engaging in interdisciplinary activities also augment our own practice of sociology. We agree with Rebekah R. Brown, Ana Deletic, and Tony H.F. Wong (2015), who outline [five principals to catalyzing interdisciplinary collaborations](#), including: 1) forging a shared mission; 2) commitment to cultivating and contributing to each collaborators own discipline, yet be able to look beyond our respective academic disciplines; 3) nurturing constructive dialogue; 4) having academic institutional support; and 5) a commitment to bridging research, policy, and practice. While these five principles are easier said than actually implemented, we strongly feel that UCR is interested in fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. One specific example demonstrating UCR’s commitment is the newly Teaming Mini-Grant Program funded by the Office of the Provost.

## COMMENTARIES

Their interest in funding these teaming mini-grants is to “help inspire new lines of research and new interdisciplinary collaborations with the potential of solving important and challenging problems.” For a closer examination of interdisciplinary initiatives at universities please see: (Brint 2005).

The IHRC encompasses faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows from UCR’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Public Policy, and the School of Medicine. We are still in our early stages but we are confident we will continue to grow and produce critical and important research regarding some of the most pressing issues of our time like immigration and health. One example of this commitment can be seen through our first symposium.

### **Symposium on Immigrant Health: Structural Adversity, Resistance, and Resilience**

Our team was motivated to create a symposium to shed light on the study of immigrant health from a structural inequality approach especially in our current political climate. Taking into account how immigrant enforcement continues to take precedence, evidenced by the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and growing deportations, many undocumented immigrants, their families, and loved ones physical and mental health is negatively impacted. It is in these trying times that these communities face structural adversity, yet have resisted, and remain resilient. Motivated by these social realities the Immigrant Health Research Collaborative decided to create a symposium entitled: “[Immigrant Health: Structural Adversity, Resistance, and Resilience](#).” Co-coordinated by Cecilia Ayón, Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy and Tanya Nieri, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, along with other IHRC members, we met weekly for over five months to plan and finalize the symposium. After diligent collaborative work, the day of the symposium arrived.

On Friday, March 9, more than 20 academics and community organizers came together to participate in the inaugural symposium at UCR. Over 100 attendees convened to hear presentations from academics and community members. Among its attendees were various social science and public health faculty and students, practitioners, community members, and funding agencies.

## COMMENTARIES

The symposium included two keynote addresses presented by Dr. William Vega (Provost Professor of Social Work, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry, Family Medicine and Gerontology and Executive Director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging at the University of Southern California) and Dr. Margarita Alegría (Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Chief of the Disparities Research Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital). Other research presentations were given by emerging and leading academics on immigrant health and Riverside immigrant rights community members such as the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective, and The Children's Partnership. The symposium ended with poster presentations from students across the UC campuses, California State University schools, and even included students from Texas and Michigan.

### **Symposium Shed Light on a Range of Immigrant Health Topics**

In our preliminary planning conversations, IHRC members expressed the importance of including both academic and community members in each panel. We felt that doing so aligned with the spirit of community collaborative research which our members support. Our day began with breakfast and opening remarks by the Co-Coordinator Cecilia Ayón and Tanya Nieri. As symposium participants enjoyed their breakfast, our first keynote speaker William Vega delivered his keynote address shedding light on the growing Latino aging population. He spoke of the strengths and risks this population has moving forward and urged for the creation of a "culture of health." A culture of health is needed, he argued, in order to effectively create healthy lifestyles and to prepare, support, and sustain health interventions.

This was followed by a panel focusing on how hostile environments shape family health. Next, we had two concurrent panel presentations one focusing on the collateral consequences of anti-immigrant sentiment and detention and the other on structural and individual discrimination and health impacts. After these concurrent sessions, all participants reunited to have lunch and to hear the next keynote speaker, Margarita Alegría. Her presentation turned our attention to Latino children. She described the detrimental behavioral and mental health impacts associated with discrimination and an anti-immigrant context, which stigmatizes Latinos broadly. Stigma, exclusion, and social isolation are characteristic of the immigrant experience in the US and negatively impact our social positions in the US.

## COMMENTARIES

After lunch we had two concurrent sessions focusing on immigrant families and mental health and another on immigration status, health, and well-being. We reunited for one final presentation session focused on the future directions in immigrant health research. The symposium was closed by Bruce Link who shared an inspirational message recapitulating the entire day of talks and the vision for the IHRC team. We ended the symposium with poster presentations. First, we highlighted our poster presenters and invited all attendees to talk to our poster presenters.

### **Feedback from Symposium Attendees**

We conducted a follow-up survey to gather feedback, reactions, and critiques on the symposium attendees' symposium experiences. Our response rate was 48% and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive! When asked what they liked the most about the event, a vast majority responded they enjoyed the presenters, organization/structure, and the research topics covered. For example, one attendee said "Speakers were diverse, passionate, and extremely knowledgeable." In regards to the organization/structure of the event, an attendee responded "The organization was impeccable." In describing the research topics covered, one attendee said "I really liked that we had important conversations surrounding the health of immigrant communities." Another attendee stated: "I thought it was interesting to see different universities from different states talking about issues which affect the Latino community. Even though they were in different states, the issues and struggles are very similar across the country." Lastly, attendees noted the networking opportunities that were fostered at the symposium. For example, an attendee mentioned that they enjoyed the "opportunities to network with an incredible group of scholars across a range of institutions and relationships to academia."

The IHRC team unanimously felt that all our hard work paid off but we could not have accomplished this symposium without the amazing support of the School of Public Policy staff members. We are extremely grateful to Mark Manalang, Shayna Conaway, Donita McCants-Carter, John Batres, and Stephanie Ma for all the behind the scenes work that went into this symposium. We also thank Marlene Chavez, a junior Sociology major, who helped with the data analysis for the evaluations. Additionally, we could not have organized this symposium without the support of various generous co-sponsors including the: UCR Teaming Mini-Grant Program, Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty, School of Medicine, School of Public Policy, One Health Center, Center for Healthy Communities, Center for Social Innovation, Latin American Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, and the Department of Sociology. Thank you all for providing the generous financial support for this event to take place.

## COMMENTARIES

### IHRC: Moving Forward

The Immigrant Health Research Collaborative was created from a critical mass of faculty at UCR who do research on immigrant health and who value community collaborations. Harnessing this strength our goal is to shed light on a critical issue of our time. We believe that framing immigrant health from an interdisciplinary approach is useful especially given the nature of this topic, which garners interests from various academic disciplines, government agencies, and affects a myriad of communities in the United States and across the globe. While this is only the beginning, we remain excited to continue to foster our group identity, continue interdisciplinary collaborations, and develop new interdisciplinary collaborations as we expand and become a nationally recognized leading institution studying immigrant health from a structural inequality approach.

### References:

Brint, Steven. 2005. "Creating the Future: 'New directions' in American Research Universities." *Minerva* 43(1): 23-50.

Jacobs, Jerry A., and Scott Frickel. 2009. "Interdisciplinarity: A critical assessment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 43-65.

Moody, James, and Ryan Light. 2006. "A View from Above: The Evolving Sociological Landscape." *The American Sociologist* 37(2): 67-86.



## Postdoc Profile: Susila Gurusami, PhD



**By: Jessica Moronez**

We are pleased to have hosted Dr. Susila Gurusami in the UCR Sociology Department this 2017-2018 academic year, where she is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow mentored by Dr. Ellen Reese. Jessica Moronez spoke with her about her background, research, and tips for graduate students regarding the job market. Dr. Gurusami received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from University of Michigan before pursuing a Master's in Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2017, she received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and specialized in medical sociology and the sociology of gender. Her work has been published in *Social Problems*, *Gender & Society*, and *Punishment and Society*, among other outlets. This fall, she is joining the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor.

**Moronez:** What got you interested in Sociology?

**Gurusami:** I was an undergrad at the University of Michigan and I took a sociology class in my second semester and I was really captured by the idea that the discipline offered explanations or ways to think about how personal circumstances were a result of how inequality comes out of institutional arrangements. The idea that everyone has an equal opportunity is not actually the reality and challenged my previous education in the K-12 public school system. It offered a way to look at the world differently and was really powerful to me as a seventeen year old. It was clearly powerful to me so I've stayed on that pathway, trying to understand how inequality is produced by the arrangement of the structure. I think that's the draw of sociology for a lot of undergrads, particularly with the connection to justice. We've seen a resurgence of the work and people's lived realities returning to the discipline and the university, more broadly. It's an exciting time to be a sociologist now especially for undergrads living through the tyranny of Trump and ideologies ushered into the U.S. right now. Sociology is offering students a way to understand how things came to be and offers opportunities to think of what change might look like, as well.



**Moronez:** You mentioned you were interested in inequalities and justice. Were there particular identities related to race, class, and gender that drew you into sociology? Was it more intersectional?

**Gurusami:** I definitely took a more intersectional approach. As a woman of color, understanding that it's not just race, gender, or sexuality or these other social locations, its many things at once. I look at how intersectionality shapes our individual and collective pathways and interactions between groups and across groups was a big part that sustained me in trying to do my work.

**Moronez:** How did you start your project?

**Gurusami:** The process of looking at how formerly incarcerated Black women experience life after incarceration was an evolution; it's not where I started but ended up feeling like there was an urgency of those types of questions. Understanding and building this picture of the way carceral punishment particularly targets women of color is one of those things that I felt like there wasn't enough already said. It's one of those in which we can't say enough and there's aren't enough people doing the work. My hope is to help build that knowledge base. We need the combination of abolitionist commitments to research and activism to find out how we got to where we are and how we can change course.

**Moronez:** What themes are in your book? What are its aims?

**Gurusami:** I did a dramatic reimagining of the book. I'm still trying to articulate what I'm trying to argue both in the broader sense and in the individual chapters. Right now, the working title is "The United States of Terror: Matters of Carceral Punishment in Black Women's Lives." One of the things that came out of the Black Lives Matter movement, which was started by three Black women, was developing a language and building energy around articulating the ways the United States has terrorized Black people, but also articulating the way that happens to Black women and how that often gets lost in our broader conversations about carceral punishment and police violence. I had been reading a lot of Black feminist literature, Black feminist criminology, Black womanist studies, transnational feminist literature, indigenous feminist literature and they all point to this common experience of the United States acting as the body that terrorizes vulnerable people, but particularly women of color. Just in these past few weeks, I've been looking through that petition in August 2016 where people wanted to designate Black Lives Matter as a terrorist organization. The Whitehouse responded and said "we don't do this but we also need to remember that African Americans saying that they have a right to live and have been disenfranchised over centuries, that's hardly terrorism." There's a leaked memo from the FBI's counter-terrorism division that stated they developed a category of Black identity extremists which seems to be a direct response to the Black Lives Matter movement. I wanted to think that through. Coupled with Patrisse Khan-Cullors' memoir with Asha Bandele called "When They Call You a Terrorist," she talks about how her brother who was mentally ill had been incarcerated many times. He had verbally scared a white woman but actually got charged

with terrorism. What an irony that is. To be labeled a terrorists just for articulating that Black lives matter and making those connections to the current harassment and intimidation of BLM activists and Black people with our post-9/11 terrorism rhetoric. I'm really just thinking through what constitutes terrorism, who gets called a terrorist, and what does that actually mean lead me to think about what if we actually flipped some of these narratives. A lot of these Black feminist, indigenous feminist, and transnational feminist work already talk about the hypocrisy of the United States labelling any group a terrorist group and how people of color, particularly, women of color are terrorized by the government. I thought about actually flipping that and saying what happens when we actually label the U.S. as a terrorist organization or a collection of institutions dedicated to terrorizing vulnerable people. That's where the current direction of the book is going. In each chapter, I articulate a different mechanism of the ways that the state engages in this project of terrorizing Black women at the institutional level and historically and how that continues as a contemporary project, and the ways it unfolds in everyday life. That's the broad arch of the book.

**Moronez:** Do you work with organizations?

**Gurusami:** I've done some work with organizations. As I'm trying to figure out what direction I'm going into for my second project and how that connects to my current work, I'm thinking of the accountability of this book to particular people whose stories are the foundation for this book. As a sociologist, our methods training tends to be rigid so as part of the book, I'm trying to think of these practices of knowledge production and the book can actually use or build those relationships with activists who are on the ground every day in the building of this book to ensure I'm not misrepresenting things. I want to make sure there's a diversity of voices present and a real commitment to an abolitionist agenda comes through.

**Moronez:** You mentioned that you're heading to Toronto to start your assistant professorship. What advice would you give to students about the job market?

**Gurusami:** I think it depends on the types of jobs that graduate students want. A lot of the assumptions coming out of Ph.D. programs tends to be that everyone wants to join the professoriate at another R1 but I think that's not actually the case for a lot of graduate students. A lot of people get pushed down that pathway because the academy is not organized to mentor graduate students to follow these other career pathways. I can speak to a very particular experience because I'm going to a research intensive institution which for me, meant publishing out of graduate school. I didn't write my dissertation as something that would be the foundation of a book manuscript; I wrote my dissertation as a series of three articles. From the beginning of writing those, I targeted a particular journal. I wrote chapters as articles so that helped accelerate my publication process. Writing those articles served as a dual purpose of making sure I had a publishing pipeline that was visible before I went on the job market but that also trained me in the kinds of professional measurements that I knew were going to be important when pursuing tenure. Talking to your committee and being as transparent as possible about what your goals are and building up your network of support is important.

The job market really depends on not just the connections you have with your committee but also the network connections you have outside of your institution. Going to conferences and using that as an opportunity not just to meet with a professor and tell them that you're interested in their work or if they could help you with this article are too vague. Those are onerous types of commitments for other people so I think [you should] go to conferences and set up meetings with people who you have research overlap with and provide them with targeted questions. Building up your mentors and support in an intentional and diverse way and realizing that different mentors are going to serve different purposes are all helpful things when going on the job market. Regardless of what pathway you intend to follow, make sure you're looking at the research trajectories and CVs of people whose careers you would like yours to look like can be helpful because it will tell you the expectations. Also, talk with people who have been on the job market recently because the job market has changed a lot, even in the past five years.

**Moronez:** Any last tips for graduate students?

**Gurusami:** The other really important piece for graduate students is to build supportive communities. It can be really difficult to not have this mentality that you're competing with everybody. In some ways it's easy to think of graduate school process as a zero-sum game and build animosity between graduate students and people in the field rather than trying to find ways to support each other. I think that can be especially true for women of color and people of color in the academy because there are fewer of us so we are a lot more visible. Sometimes people tend to scrutinize whether or not women of color deserve the opportunities that we receive. Those types of things can build resentment which is not productive. For me, it was really essential to build a community of other women of color scholars and other people of color around me who supported me and gave me feedback and where I could feel valued within and provide value to. Building that community and being particularly conscious about the ways people of color are marginalized in the academy and can get burned by the lack of institutional support is important to recognize. Building a supportive network will help people survive and thrive through this system.

Susila's Grad Student Resources:

Karen Kelsky's Book-"The Professor Is in"

NCFDD Dissertation Success Curriculum- <https://www.facultydiversity.org/dissertation-success-public>

Tanya Golash-Boza's Blog- <http://getalifephd.blogspot.com/>

## Staff Spotlight



**Tiara Caldwell**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Anthropology/Sociology Administrative Unit**

*The Staff Spotlight is a new newsletter feature where we showcase and recognize the important work our staff do and how crucial they are to the running of the department.*

**Question:** How long have you been with the UCR sociology department?

**Caldwell:** I have been with the Sociology department for just over 3 years.

**Question:** Can you tell us a little bit about what brought you here?

**Caldwell:** I resigned from working with the State of California shortly after having my son. Once I decided to go back to work, I applied for a position in the Anthropology/Sociology Administrative Unit at UCR. With it being close to home and in the field that I enjoyed working in, I was extremely pleased to receive the call to have the opportunity to work for the Department and UCR campus.

**Question:** Can you tell us a bit about your responsibilities, including those you think most people might not know?

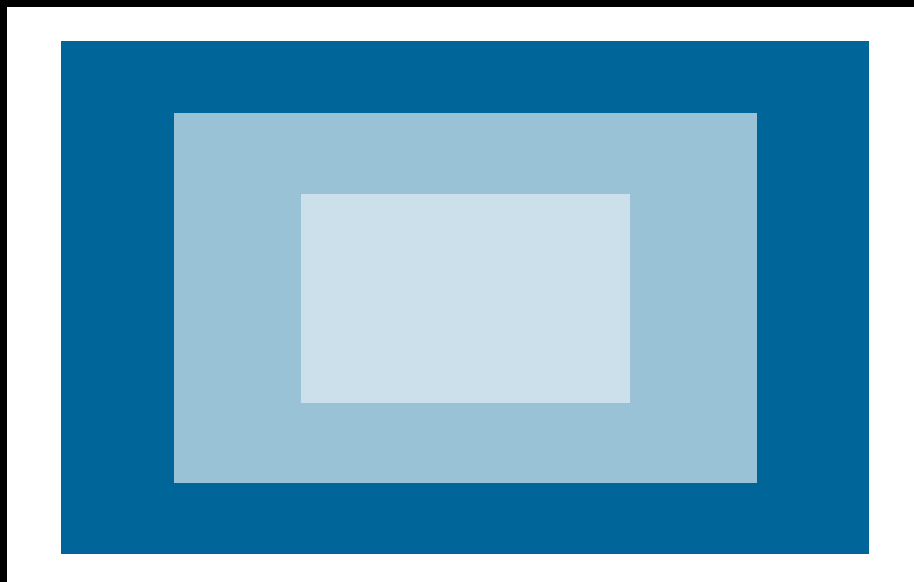
**Caldwell:** My primary responsibility was graduate and undergrad student payroll. With the implementation of UC Path, my job responsibilities have increased to ALL reimbursements, purchase orders, supply and facility work order, room reservation. I also assist with and arrange campus visits.

**Question:** What is your favorite part of your job and why?

**Caldwell:** My favorite part of the job are the people, faculty, staff and students (not in any particular order 😊). I'm exposed to so many cultures, beliefs, and strong intellectual minds. I enjoy learning and sharing with all.

**Question:** Anything else you'd like to share?

**Caldwell:** My door is always open in any way that



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- Brint, Steven.** "New Concepts, Expanding Audiences: What Highly Cited Texts Can Tell Us About the Future of Social Science." *Social Science Research* 84 (3): 658-88.
- Brint, Steven.** "The Scientific Research Output of U.S. Research Universities: Increasing Concentration, Continuing Dispersion, or Stable Inequality?" (with Cynthia E. Carr) *Minerva* 55(4): 435-57.
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- Brint, Steven.** *Two Cheers for Higher Education: Why American Universities Are Stronger than Ever -- and How to Meet the Challenges They Face*. Forthcoming. Princeton University Press.
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- Karin A. Johnson & **Augustine J. Kposowa** (2018). Gender Disparities in Educational Attainment in the 2010 Ghana Population Census. *International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies* (forthcoming).
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- Wang, Katie, **Bruce G. Link**, Patrick W. Corrigan, Larry Davidson, and Elizabeth Flanagan. "Perceived provider stigma as a predictor of mental health service users' internalized stigma and disempowerment." *Psychiatry research* 259 (2018): 526-531.
- Subica, Andrew M., Neha Agarwal, J. Greer Sullivan, and **Bruce G. Link**. "Obesity and Associated Health Disparities Among Understudied Multiracial, Pacific Islander, and American Indian Adults." *Obesity* 25, no. 12 (2017): 2128-2136.
- Schneeberger, Andres R., Christian G. Huber, Undine E. Lang, Kristina H. Muenzenmaier, Dorothy Castille, Matthias Jaeger, Azizi Seixas, Julia Sowislo, and **Bruce G. Link**. "Effects of assisted outpatient treatment and health care services on psychotic symptoms." *Social Science & Medicine* 175 (2017): 152-160.
- Pachankis, John E., Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, Katie Wang, Charles L. Burton, Forrest W. Crawford, Jo C. Phelan, and **Bruce G. Link**. "The Burden of Stigma on Health and Well-Being: A Taxonomy of Concealment, Course, Disruptiveness, Aesthetics, Origin, and Peril Across 93 Stigmas." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* (2017): 0146167217741313.
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**Mahutga, Matthew C.**, Michaela Curran and Anthony Roberts. "Job Tasks and the Comparative Structure of Income and Employment: Routine Task Intensity and Offshorability for the LIS." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Forthcoming

**Alfredo Mirandé**. "Muxes of Juchitán" (Forthcoming) *The Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*.

**Alfredo Mirandé** Editor. Dossier on Gringo Injustice Forthcoming in *Aztlán*, the premier journal of Chicano Studies in the Fall 2017 issue. The Dossier brings together insider perspectives on Chicanos and the Law, including those of law enforcement and previously gang affiliated persons. It includes essays not only by criminologist Robert Durán, Richard Alvarado, former Associate Warden at the Chino Prison, and Maritza Perez of MALDEF and UCR graduate students Katherine Maldonado, Roberto Rivera, and J. Stalin Plascencia-Castillo. Evelyn Pruneda provided editorial and technical assistance for the Dossier.

Drucker, Jesse, and **Tanya Nieri**. "Female Online Sex Workers' Perceptions of Exit from Sex Work." *Deviant Behavior* 39, no. 1 (2018): 1-19.

**Reyes, Victoria**. 2018. "Can Ships Help Cultivate Cross-Country Ties?" *Sociological Insights for Development Policy* 3(1): 1-2, [https://sociologyofdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/3\\_1\\_reyes.pdf](https://sociologyofdevelopment.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/3_1_reyes.pdf)

**Reyes, Victoria**. Forthcoming, 2018. "Culture and Globalization" In John R Hall, Laura Grindstaff and Ming-Cheng Lo (Eds) *Handbook of Cultural Sociology* (Routledge International Handbook Series), Abingdon, UK: Routledge

Savage, Scott V., **Jan E. Stets**, Peter J. Burke, and Zachary L. Sommer. 2017. "Identity and Power Use in Exchange Networks." *Sociological Perspectives* 60: 510-528.

**Stets, Jan E.** 2018. "Identity Theory." Pp. 81-111 in *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories, 2nd Edition*, edited by Peter J. Burke. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Jo Martins, Fei Guo and **David Swanson** eds. (Forthcoming) *Global Population in Transition*, Springer

In a sweeping review of human population past, present and future, the book deals with macro and micro aspects of population change and brings together material often scattered in a number of sources and disciplines that serves to better understand population change and its socio-economic determinants and consequences.

*The publications shown here do not reflect the full productivity of the graduate faculty*





## Faculty Awards, Grants & Honors

### Chase-Dunn, Chris

[I was named editor of a new book series from Springer Verlag](#), WORLD-SYSTEMS EVOLUTION AND GLOBAL FUTURES. Series Editors: Chase-Dunn, Christopher; University of California – Riverside, USA; Gills, Barry; University of Helsinki, Finland; Grinin, Leonid; National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia; Korotayev, Andrey; National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

### Garcia, San Juanita

Principal Investigator, Aging While Undocumented: A Binational Study of Mexican Undocumented Immigrants in the US and Deportees in Mexico. University of California, Riverside, Duration: 6/2018-8/2019, Amount: \$10,000

Co-Principal Investigator, Immigrant Health Team. Provost Teaming Mini-Grant, University of California, Riverside, Duration: 2018-2019, Amount: \$4,000

Selected Participant, Summer Institute in Migration Methods. University of California, Berkeley, Duration: June 17, 2018-June 28, 2018.

### Lee, Chioun

Principal Investigator, NIH Pathway to Independence Award, March 2018 – February 2021  
“Gender Differences in Early Life Adversity, Adult Obesity, and Cardiovascular Risk.”  
\$712,529.

### Link, Bruce

2018 Donald E. J. MacNamara Award for the Outstanding Publication by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences:  
Nathan W. Link, Francis T. Cullen, Robert Agnew, and Bruce G. Link. 2016. “Can General Strain Theory Help Us Understand Violent Behaviors Among People with Mental Illnesses?” *Justice Quarterly* 33 (No. 4):729-754

### Mahutga, Matthew

Mahutga, Matthew C and Jana Grittersova. 2018-2019. “Political Economy Seminar and Conference on Globalization and the rise of Right-Wing Populism.” Humanities Interdisciplinary Project and Conference Award, Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside.

2018 Sociology Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Award, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside.

“The letters that the awards committee received from Matthew's nominators highlighted many exemplary efforts and accomplishments commensurate with the spirit of the award. Among those, we particularly noted his efforts in publishing research with graduate students as well as helping them in publishing their own work.”

## Faculty Awards, Grants & Honors (CONT)

### **Mirande, Alfredo**

Alfredo Mirandé's book *Behind the Mask: Gender Hybridity in a Zapotec Community* is a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards in the category of LGBTQ Studies.

### **Reyes, Victoria**

2018 The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, American Sociological Association and the National Science Foundation, "The Racialized and Gendered Cultural Wealth of Subic Bay, Philippines," (\$8,000)

2018-2019, American Fellowship Publication Grant (Alternate), American Association of University Women

Summer, Fall 2018, Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty Faculty Research Seed Grant, University of California, Riverside, "Reading Subic Bay, Philippines: How Poverty, Wealth and Place are Differently Racialized and Gendered Depending on Audience" (\$10,994)

Fall 2018, Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside, "Writing the Histories of Subic and Clark, Philippines: Forgotten Stories in America's Global Empire" for participation in the "Contested Histories: How to Write History," Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies Seminar (\$6,500 for a course release, 1 of 4 faculty participants)

2017-2018, Undergraduate Education Teaching and Learning Grant, University of California, Riverside, "Using Named Public Places in Ethnographies to Teach Social Theories and Methods" (\$5,000)

2017, Travel Award (\$1,000), SocArXiv O3S: Open Scholarship for the Social Sciences Conference, University of Maryland, College Park (October)



## Faculty in the News

### **Brint, Steven**

"Not Covered in Ivy: The Educational Backgrounds of American Business and Political Leaders." *Works-in-Progress* blog (American Sociological Association)

"Academics with an Impact." *Brite Innovation Review* file:///C:/Users/Steve%20Brint/Downloads/BIR\_1709\_inventions.pdf (This might have been published in Sept.)

### **Carpiano, Richard**

I was interviewed and featured for a story on anger in the April 2018 issue of *Inland Empire Magazine*.

Minn, Tammy. 2018. "Angry Times: From Road Rage to Facebook Rants, this Age-Old Emotion Has Become the Go-To Reaction when Things Don't Go Our Way." *Inland Empire Magazine*, April 2018, pp. 94-95.

Also, I provided expert commentary to *New Scientist* regarding a recently published study (not my own) on vaccine hesitancy.

Locklear, Mallory. 2017. "Focus on Liberty and Purity may Change Anti-Vax Parents' Minds." *New Scientist*, December 4, 2017. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2155356-focus-on-liberty-and-purity-may-change-anti-vax-parents-minds/>

### **Garcia, San Juanita**

Article featured in *Contexts* – an ASA quarterly magazine that makes cutting-edge social research accessible to general readers. <https://contexts.org/articles/looking-illegal/>

García, San Juanita. 2017. "Racializing 'Illegality': An Intersectional Approach to Understanding How Mexican-origin Women Navigate an Anti-immigrant Climate." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 3(4): 474-490.

### **Reyes, Victoria**

[Reyes, Victoria. January 25, 2018. "Demystifying the Diversity Statement," \*Inside Higher Ed\*](#)



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Published at Riverside, California on May 23, 2018 by the Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside.

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