Note from the Chair

The past year was one of stability, continued accomplishment, and prospective growth for the Department. The University’s financial situation continued to stabilize and even improve, and there were no further major cuts in the Arts & Sciences. Our faculty, staff and graduate students have all adjusted well—heroically in the case of our staff— to the cuts and reorganization of two years age.

In recent months, two members of our community have been honored with university-wide mentoring and teaching awards. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva was named one of several recipients of the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Senior graduate student, Allison Wisecup, was named one of two recipients of the Deans’ Award for Excellence in Teaching. Congratulations Eduardo and Allison! Past recent recipients of faculty mentoring awards include Linda George, Debbie Gold, and David Brady.

Our faculty continue to be highly active in research and scholarly output. Scholarly articles by faculty (and often, graduate student co-authors) appeared in virtually all of the discipline's
top journal outlets. Two faculty, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva and David Brady had books released by major university presses in the past year. The faculty grant portfolio remains strong as ever. And, several graduate students and their faculty mentors had NSF dissertation awards funded. If the growing balances of faculty frequent flyer accounts foreshadow future productivity, then the coming year will be a good one as well!

The 2010 National Research Council’s much anticipated rankings of departments in different disciplines showed Sociology at Duke faring very well, acknowledging that there has been some debate about the specifics of the ranking methodology. Looking across a wide range of indicators, particularly those centering on research productivity, the Department of Sociology at Duke has a most credible argument for being a top ten department nationally, and for being one of the highest, if not the highest ranked social science department at Duke.

In July we expect to be joined by two new faculty members. Matt Bradshaw (Ph.D., UT Austin, 2008) will join us after a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the Carolina Population Center. Matt’s teaching and research interests center in biodemography, health, genetic epidemiology, religion, and quantitative methods. Steve Vaisey (Ph.D., UNC Chapel Hill, 2008) will join us from the University of California at Berkeley, where he has been an Assistant Professor for the past two years. His specializations include cultural sociology, the origins and consequences of different moral world views, and statistical techniques for set theoretic analysis. Matt and Steve, we welcome you and your families to our larger family.

Finally, it is a pleasure to announce a major new gift. Linda George, long-time Duke Sociology faculty member, recently donated $1 million dollars to the Department. The associated endowment will help support primarily new graduate program initiatives, and secondarily, undergraduate program initiatives. Linda, on behalf of present and future members of the Department, we thank you for this extraordinary act of generosity and kindness.

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**Featured News**

**Eduardo Bonill-Silva Wins 2011 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring**

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva recently received the 2011 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring from the Duke University Graduate School. These awards allow graduate students to identify faculty who embody both the letter and spirit of mentoring and are intended to recognize the considerable efforts and accomplishments of faculty who consistently serve as effective mentors. Students nominate faculty members based on a broad array of criteria, including: monitoring progress, offering constructive feedback, integrating students into the broader culture of the discipline, ensuring students master the content and skills of their discipline, demonstrating sincere interest in the well-being of students, maintaining accessibility and open lines of communication, connecting students to professional networks and other resources, and modeling a solid record of scholarship. Eduardo was selected from a highly competitive pool of nominees to receive the award by a committee of senior deans and students representing the major disciplines of the Graduate School. He will be featured in the March issue of the Graduate School Newsletter and honored with a reception in April.

**Allison Wisecup Wins 2011 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching**

Congratulations to Allison Wisecup who was awarded the Graduate Student Teaching award from the Graduate School! The Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching is the highest teaching award offered by the Graduate School to recognize graduate students who best exemplify the characteristics of effective college teaching as they prepare for lives of service, leadership and teaching.

Allison has enjoyed the opportunity to teach several courses in the Department. Her aim in the classroom is to foster and develop students’ sociological imaginations through experiential learning activities and group-based problem solving.
Allison is currently finishing her dissertation, “Do We have Consensus?: Examining the Sources of Systematic Variation in Cultural Identity Meanings,” and plans to graduate in May 2011. In addition to her dissertation research, Allison submitted a paper to the Sociology of Health and Illness that examines the social foundations of children’s dental health (with David Brady). Further, she plans to attend the 2011 Southern Sociological Society meeting in Jacksonville, Florida to present a portion of the findings from her dissertation research which suggests that the identity meanings of socially distant individuals are more disparate than the identity meanings of socially proximate individuals.

George Donates $1m to Department

Linda George has generously donated $1 million to the Department that she earned over time from various grants and other projects. Working with the Provost, George distributed her accumulated funds equally among the Department of Sociology, the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and the Provost’s office. She had originally planned on endowing her funds upon her retirement; however, the move was precipitated by the onset of her vision problems last year.

George intends for the funds that she allocated to the Department to be used mainly to fund graduate students’ research, particularly for those students who do not have summer funding. Although summer funding for graduate students is not typical in many sociology departments, George believes that some of those that Duke benchmarks itself against provide summer funding. The idea of providing summer funds is to allow students to continue working on research projects that may otherwise get shelved for lack of financial support. Her new contribution effectively supplements her earlier endowment to the Department, the Linda K George Research Fund that helps graduate students cover the costs of miscellaneous research expenses (e.g., compensation for subjects, specialized software). A Duke Sociology alum who has spent more than 35 years here as a graduate student, post-doctoral researcher and professor, George strongly believes in giving back and encourages the same value among her students and colleagues as well.

Sociology Working Groups Facilitate Collaborative Research

Duke Network Analysis Center

The Duke Network Analysis Center (DNAC) is starting its first “official” year this semester, thanks to generous funding from the Provost’s Office, Social Science Research Institute and the Arts and Sciences Vice Provost Office for Interdisciplinary Studies. The goal of the DNAC is to build world-class scholarly community around the concepts, tools and applications of network analysis. Duke is perfectly situated to capitalize on this exciting research frontier. With leading scholars across the university’s divisions and schools, there is every reason to believe that Duke is among one of the nation’s leading sites for network research.

The Center’s primary goal this year remains community building, facilitating mutual learning and creating collaboration opportunities. To this end, DNAC has worked with SSRI to develop a new website (http://dnac.sri.duke.edu/) and sponsored a popular weekly seminar series (http://dnac.sri.duke.edu/seminarseries.php). Talks this semester have ranged from historical overviews of the roots of network science, to qualitative research on the role of culture in ego-network formation to mathematical tools for analyzing networks at multiple scales or tracking dynamic flow over networks. In addition, DNAC has been active in the year-long module on complex networks of the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences (SAMSI by NSF), creating even stronger links to network scholars throughout the Triangle and nation.

Future activities include training seminars on network methods, direct research support for graduate students working in multiple-disciplinary teams, and the coordination of joint training programs. The Center is also collaborating with investigators to build network modules into their work. For example, two recent projects are related to physician networks. With all these current and proposed activities, DNAC foresees a vibrant community creating new insights at the cutting edge of multidisciplinary science.
Race Workshop

Since its establishment in late 2008, the Race Workshop has provided graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty with an intellectual space to share and develop their ideas and knowledge related to issues of race and ethnicity. In addition to bringing speakers from Sociology, the workshop has hosted and been attended by scholars from other fields, including Public Policy, History, Political Science, and African American Studies, facilitating interdisciplinary and cooperative research within the Duke community.

In the fall of 2010, the workshop dealt with a variety of crucial issues associated with race and ethnicity, including return migration, sexual politics, and public housing from scholars in the fields of sociology, communication, and public policy. The presentations by outside scholars such as Ellington Grave and Carson Byrd (Virginia Tech), and Cerise L. Glenn (UNC Greensboro), contributed to enlarging group members’ intellectual perspectives. The workshop hosted Duke postdoctoral fellows Sabrina Pendergrass, Sonali Jain, and Rosalind Chou, and also welcomed dissertation research presentations from current Duke students. In addition, the workshop conducted open discussions on cutting-edge issues, including new books in the field such as Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. In the spring of 2011, the workshop continues to provide an arena to discuss contemporary issues of race and ethnicity. With its two-year anniversary, the Race Workshop has become an intellectual hub for racial and ethnic studies at Duke.

MMS Continues to Steer Undergraduate Interest in Business and Entrepreneurship

The Markets and Management Studies (MMS) Program is an Interdisciplinary Certificate Program at Duke that is administered by Sociology. It is designed to meet the needs of Duke undergraduates who wish to study business issues and functions in preparation for careers in business and management, banking, consulting, government, the non-profit sector, and related graduate fields. One of the program’s overarching learning objectives is to bridge theory and research in business education. Accordingly, students are actively involved in projects and benefit from lectures by a variety of business executives and industry experts. In addition, in the past year, MMS director, Lisa Keister initiated a Duke Engage summer program that focused on the management of non-profits in Portland, Oregon.

Faculty News

For more information and a longer list of publications, please see the Duke Sociology Faculty website at:

http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/Sociology/faculty

Rebecca Bach

Bach was promoted to the position of Associate Professor of the Practice in July 2010 and accepted the position of Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department. She continues to merge her scholarly interests, teaching, and service with the integration of community-based research in her Sexuality and Society course. Community-based research brings together community organizations and student teams to conduct research projects for the organizations. Students learn about using knowledge in the service of society by developing their budding research skills and working hand-in-hand with staff from the community organizations. The work resulted in a recent publication in *Teaching Sociology* (with Julianne Weinzimmer, Duke Ph.D. 2008).

Bach presented “Can’t Nobody Take that Away from Me: Motherhood in the Context of Domestic Violence” at the International Sociological Associations’ 2010 meeting in Gothenberg, Sweden. She organized a session on “Gender in the Media” for the 2011 Southern Sociological Society’s annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida and will present (with Sarah Mayorga) a paper on gendered representations in Oprah’s book club selections.
Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


**Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**


Bonilla-Silva was selected by the international journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, arguably the top journal in the field of racial and ethnic relations, to deliver their annual lecture in London in May 2011. The title of his lecture will be “The Invisible Weight of Whiteness: The Racial Grammar of Everyday Life in America.” The international impact of his work is also evidenced by the fact that two of his publications were translated into Spanish this and will appear in the book, *Debates sobre ciudadanía y políticas raciales en las Américas Negras*. Colección CES, Serie Idcarán del Centro de Estudios Sociales de la Facultad de Ciencias Humanas.


**David Brady**

Brady’s research is embedded in the fields of political sociology, poverty/inequality, globalization, work/labor, and comparative political economy. More specifically, Brady continues to study the politics of poverty and inequality, and the interrelationships between institutions, markets and globalization. In the past year, Brady has coauthored four articles with current and former graduate students, and edited a volume on “Comparing European Workers.” Among the projects that he is currently working on, he is studying the economic sociology of female sex work in India, the political economy of declining government spending in affluent democracies, and the relationship between immigration and welfare state attitudes. In addition, Brady’s forthcoming publications include a paper with graduate student, Lane Destro that examines whether European-style welfare generosity discourages single mother employment. He teaches classes in research methods, politics and markets in the global economy, and poverty.

Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


Brady, David, Katelin Isaacs, Martha Reeves, Rebekah Burroway, and Megan Reynolds. Forthcoming. “Sector, Size, Stability and Scandal: Explaining the Presence of Female Executives in Fortune 500 Firms.” *Gender in Management*.

**Linda Burton**

Linda Burton is having a great time working with and teaching students in the Department, and is particularly excited about directing the Department’s undergraduate honors program and a program on secondary analysis of ethnographic data for graduate students at North Carolina Central University. She recently received grants from the National Science Foundation to continue her research on the social, cultural, and contextual forces that shape the romantic unions of America’s poor, and from the MacArthur and William T Grant Foundations to examine the impact of housing on family and child development. During this past year, Burton presented her research at a number of national conferences including the Annual Coalition for National Science Funding Exhibition, the National Council on Family Relations, and the National Academy of Sciences. She continues to serve on the Committee on the Science of Research on Families for the Institute of Medicine, the Board of Directors for the Council on Contemporary Families, the Family Process Institute, the Advisory Board of the National Center on Marriage Research, and the Minority Fellowship Advisory Panel for the American Sociological Association. She also co-organized, with Stephanie Coontz, a national conference, titled “Tipping Point?: When Minority Families Become the Majority.”

Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


**Mark Chaves**


**Linda K. George**

Linda K. George is broadly interested in the social structures and social processes that affect individual well-being. Among the social structures most closely linked to well-being are socioeconomic status (SES), race/ethnicity, and gender. Social position, in turn, is strongly linked to the major risk and protective factors that more proximally determine health and well-being. Among the risk and protective factors that George investigates are stressful life conditions, social relationships, and social integration/civic engagement. The outcomes of her research include mental health, especially depression, physical health, disability, and mortality. The effects of some social structures cannot be observed *within* societies, but are placed in bold relief by comparative research. George is beginning to investigate well-being in comparative perspective, focusing on macro-
level factors including economic development, income inequality, and the status of women. George has been interested in health and well-being across the life course since the beginning of her career. Much of her research focuses on social pathways of vulnerability and resilience that lead to different health and well-being destinations.

Another recent area of research is global health and aging. George is co-investigator of a grant that examines the health and life quality of the “oldest old” (persons age 80 and older) in China. Five waves of data have been collected at three year intervals. The sample size is large (11,000+ at each wave) and the survey content is both broad and deep. George, in collaboration with Yi Zeng, is examining a variety of specific research questions with these data including the relationship between religious participation, which is very different from Western religions, and health; gender differences in health and longevity; and urban/rural differences in health and well-being.

George remains heavily involved in working with graduate students. She currently chairs or co-chairs the dissertation committees of six graduate students and serves on the dissertation committees of several others. George is a recent recipient of the Distinguished Mentorship Award of the Graduate School here and has also been awarded the Distinguished Mentorship Award of the Gerontological Society of America. Her latest award is the Lifetime Career Award from the Gerontological Society of America (2010).

George is active in professional societies and related organizations. She is Past President of the Gerontological Society of America and currently chairs that society’s Awards Committee. She is Past Chair of the Life Course and Aging Section and Past Chair of the Sociology of Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association. She continues as co-editor of the Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences. The seventh edition was published January, 2011.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


Lisa Keister continues to do research on wealth ownership in the United States and firm behavior in China. Her research on wealth ownership and accumulation explores the various processes that lead to asset accumulation and debt. She has studied work, family, intergeneration, educational, and cultural influences on asset ownership and resulting inequalities in wealth. Her recent work has focused on the important role that religious belief and practice plays in shaping saving, investment, and accumulation. She is currently finishing a book on religion and wealth as well as papers on consumption and fringe banking, debt and luxury fever, and the social origins of financial crises.

Keister’s work on China focuses on the process by which firms are making the transition to a market economy. She continues to study interfirm relations during transition, the emergence of banks and financial markets, and the effect of changing organizational practices on workers and inequality. Her edited volume on organizations and work in China came out this year in Research in the Sociology of Work. In addition to those listed below, she also published articles in the Georgetown Law Journal and the Asia-Pacific Journal of Management. Finally, Keister took over as Director of Duke’s Markets and Management program in July 2009.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


**Ken Land**

John Franklin Crowell Professor Ken Land serves as Director of the Center for Population Health and Aging in the Duke Population Research Institute (DuPRI).

Ken has just finished his three-year term (2007-2010) as Editor of *Demography*. With the assistance of twelve Deputy Editors, all but two at Duke, the efficiency of reviews at *Demography* was greatly improved. In response to this, new submissions increased by more than 50 percent from 2007 to 2010, to about 300 per year.

Ken continues his work on research and development pertaining to a Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) to track changes in numerous social indicators of the well-being of children and youth in the United States over the 34 years since 1975. Currently working with Ken on this project are two Duke Sociology doctoral students, Hui Zheng and Qiang Fu, and Vicki Lamb, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology at North Carolina Central University and Research Scientist at Duke. The CWI project is supported by the Foundation for Child Development in New York City. Its annual reports receive substantial general public exposure and press coverage. The project has produced a number of peer-reviewed journal articles and a book is now under preparation for publication.

Ken also continues to be very active in the development and empirical application of new models and methods in demography, aging, criminology, and social statistics.

**Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:**


**Miller McPherson**

Two articles published in the *American Sociological Review* and one in *Contexts* are the first results from the NSF-funded study of Miller McPherson’s theory of group affiliations. Another paper co-authored with Jeff Smith and Lynn Smith-Lovin (on his favorite topic, homophily) currently has a revise-and-resubmit at *American Sociological Review*. He is working with graduate students on several more. There seems to be tremendous interest in this line of work—there were over 12,000 Google hits on the title of the 2006 *ASR* paper, “Social Isolation in America,” and the *Annual Review of Sociology* paper on networks that McPherson, Smith-Lovin and Cook did a few years ago (“Birds of a Feather”) is now the second most cited chapter in the history of the journal. In fact, it was the most cited article in the social sciences in August of this year (according to Reuters Scientific, who interviewed them about it on that occasion). McPherson and Smith-Lovin are currently carrying out a survey experiment in the 2010 GSS that will help determine whether or not the downward trend in close ties is real, or is created by context effects, and will write a paper with Peter V. Marsden of Harvard when those data are available this Spring.

McPherson also has data from his re-interview study (funded by the Human and Social Dynamics program at NSF) which will create the first ever nationally representative panel data on voluntary affiliation at two points in time and additional life history calendar data which will allow an unprecedented dynamic analyses of the co-evolution of networks and voluntary memberships. The study, called
the National Voluntary Association Survey, will allow the first national-level test of his ecological evolutionary theory of association.

Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


**Gilbert Merkx**

Gil Merkx has stepped down as Vice Provost for International Affairs and assumed the new position of Director of International and Area Studies. He continues as Director of the Duke Center for International Studies (DUCIS) and is beginning a three-year term as Director of the Duke Center for Islamic Studies (DUCIS). He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Duke Global Health Institute, on the Duke Library Committee, and on the Duke Committee on Facilities and Environment, as well as on the boards of the Scholars at Risk Network (New York) and Venice International University (Italy). He is co-chairman of the Council of Directors of Title VI National Resource Centers for Foreign Language and Area Studies, and Treasurer of the Association of International Education Administrators. He continues to research and write on international education issues, as well as on constructal theory and systems theory. In October he gave the opening address at a University of Michigan conference entitled “Relevant/ Obsolete? Rethinking Area Studies in the U.S. Academy.” His talk can be seen on line at: www.ii.umich.edu/events/symposium2010. Gil very much enjoyed teaching the “Theory and Society” course in the fall 2010 semester and looks forward to teaching the same course in the fall of 2011.

Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


**James Moody**

James Moody continues his work on the dynamics of social networks, focusing on diffusion over dynamic social networks and network visualization. On-going projects include a major grant from NSF/HSD to study the dynamic of youth networks (with Dan McFarland, Stanford & Scott Gest, PSU). The goal is to build crosslevel models for network evolution that can ultimately account for sustenance of peer cultures in youth networks. Graduate student Jeff Smith is a primary collaborator on that project, working on a new statistical model for multi-level network formation processes. In a related project using new data from the PROSPER peers project (Wayne Osgood-PI, PSU), Moody is mapping network trajectories over time and linking peer structure to substance use. For example, in a recent paper with Duke graduate student Wendy Brynildsen and others in *Social Networks,* he shows that status dynamics in the school network are significant predictors of substance use. Graduate students Robin Gauthier and Jake Fisher are also key collaborators on this project, working on gender differences in local peer dynamics and the life-history of peer group respectively. This project seeks to understand how peers affect substance use and includes panel data on thousands of young adolescents (6th grade – 9th grade), who will be followed through graduation, with fantastic
opportunities for new work related to peer influence, network dynamics, and community program effects.

All of these projects require new methodological innovations and tools. Moody has two new projects (with pending NIH funding) to tackle some of these methodological problems. With M. Giovanna Merli (PI, Duke Public Policy & Sociology), he is examining the assumptions underlying tools used to sample hard-to-reach populations. The state-of-the-art procedure, “respondent driven sampling” (RDS) is an adaptive network-based sampling technique that, in principle, gives unbiased estimates of hard-to-reach populations. But these assumptions are rarely met in practice, so their project seeks to understand the bounds of RDS in a sample of sex-workers in China. Graduate student S. Joshua Mendelsohn is currently working on aspects of that project. One of the principle reasons that networks matter is because of how they structure diffusion – from political ideology to disease. In a second new NIH project, they are building new simulation architecture for diffusion over dynamic networks. When completed, they hope to have a comprehensive tool to help health researchers build tractable network models for health and behavior diffusion.

This year also marks the first formal year for the new Duke Network Analysis Center, based on generous funding from the university. This is an excellent opportunity for graduate students interested in interdisciplinary work, and S. Joshua Mendelsohn has been actively coordinating work on the network Center. The Center seeks to build a community of network scholars across programs at Duke, with significant attention to graduate student funding and training. Opportunities for network research abound at Duke, making this a perfect place for linking broad substantive interests in sociology, political science or public health to a rigorous tool-set. To help foster this graduate community, Moody has worked with a long-standing working group of graduate students who share and comment on each other’s work.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


Phil Morgan

Morgan, the Norb F. Schaefer Professor of International Studies, is faculty director of Duke's Social Science Research Institute (SSRI, http://www.ssri.duke.edu/), one of Duke's seven signature interdisciplinary research institutes (http://www.interdisciplinary.duke.edu/institutes/uics.php). SSRI provides infrastructure for social science training and research activities and incubates promising interdisciplinary collaborations.

Morgan's research focuses on family change, with a special focus on human fertility. The forthcoming book below develops a broad theoretical framework that can account for family change, including both very low fertility and that at or above replacement levels. Recent journal publications focus on the fertility response to the Great Recession of 2008-09. Other papers document current Chinese low fertility, replacement level fertility in the United States and internet dating.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


**Angela M. O’Rand**

Angela M. O’Rand continues her position as Dean of Social Sciences. However, 2010 was still a busy year of research-related activity. She presided at the Southern Sociological Society meetings in April in Atlanta Georgia, where she delivered the Presidential address title: “The Devolution of risk and the Changing Life Course.” The address will be published in *Social Forces* in 2011.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


**Lynn Smith-Lovin**

Three projects dominate Smith-Lovin’s research agenda. First, she continues her work on identity, action and emotion in an NSF-funded National Science Foundation grant. In collaboration with researchers at the University of Georgia, Smith-Lovin and graduate students Kim Rogers and Steven Foy will explore how people respond emotionally and behaviorally to injustice.

In a second project, Smith-Lovin is working with Miller McPherson to study social networks and voluntary groups. She is interested in how networks and groups influence self-structures. Since many of our self-identities come from role relationships or group memberships, McPherson’s structural theory of affiliation should imply an ecological theory of the self. New data from a re-interview of respondents from the 2004 General Social Survey are now available to address these questions. She, Miller and graduate student Robin Gauthier are currently analyzing those data to establish whether memberships create ties, ties create memberships or both. They are also collecting new data in the 2010 General Social Survey to examine how context affects the measurement of ego networks. That should solve a major dispute that developed over their 2006 ASR paper.

The third project is a study of affective meanings and reactions to social events in Arabic. A grant from the Office of Naval Research funded a pretest of the questionnaire using Arabic speakers here in the Triangle area. Smith-Lovin worked with Jen’nan Read, Mary Hovespian, Kim Rogers and Rob Freeland on this project. A new international phase of the project will begin this year, with data collection in Egypt, Kuwait and several other Arabic-speaking countries.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


**Ed Tiryakian**

Ed Tiryakian presented two papers at the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17: “Civilization in the Global Era: One, Many...or None?” and “The Diaspora Community: Lifeline or Albatross in the Peace Process?” This spring he is also teaching a new graduate-level course in the Master of Liberal Studies (MALS) program on altruism in the 21st century.

**Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:**


**Yi Zeng**

The year 2010 was exceptionally productive for Yi Zeng’s research. He has been elected foreign member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in May 2010. His NIA/NIH R01 competitive renewal grant application on “Demographic Analysis on Determinants of Healthy Longevity in China” has been funded (09/01/2010 to 8/31/2015). He has eight articles in English published in peer-reviewed academic journals in the U.S. and Europe, one book chapter in English published in the U.S. and two books in Chinese as the chief editor published in China. In addition, a group of distinguished Chinese scholars translated the UNESCO-sponsored “Demography” volume of the *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* (EOLSS, in English) that was edited by Yi Zeng into Chinese and published in China. To exchange/ discuss the frontiers of demography and to celebrate the publications of both English and Chinese versions of the *Demography* volume, “The International Seminar on Frontiers and Perspectives of Demographic Research” was successfully held in May 19-21, 2010 Beijing, organized by China Population and Development Research Center, in collaboration with Center for Healthy Aging and Development Studies of Peking University, the UNESCO-EOLSS Joint Committee, and Population Association of China. Eighteen distinguished scholars from outside of China (including Duke Professors Kenneth Land and Yi Zeng) and more than 50 scholars from China attended this influential international conference.

One of the interesting research findings Yi Zeng and his group published in 2010 is that, adjusted for various confounders, the GxE interactions between regular exercise and the genotype FOXO1A-209, which significantly reduces survival probability from middle-age to age 100+, significantly enhance survival by 31-32% (P<0.05) at ages 92 and over in Han Chinese. Yi Zeng and his colleagues’ remarkable discoveries have been published by *The Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences* (Zeng et al., 2010).

**Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:**


Sonali Jain

Sonali Jain is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Social Sciences Research Institute and affiliated with the Center on Globalization, Governance and Competitiveness. She graduated from Boston University in May 2010. Her dissertation examined the ‘return’ of high-skilled, second-generation Indian-American professionals from the US to their parental homeland, India. Her research and teaching interests include immigration, globalization, South Asian studies and transnationalism. She is also part of a team (including Vivek Wadhwa and Gary Gereffi) that is conducting an online survey designed to assess the transnational behavior of high-skilled Indian and Chinese returnee entrepreneurs from the US to their home countries, India and China.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


Ben Kail

Ben Lennox Kail is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Sociology and the Center for Population Health and Aging. His research interests include Aging and the Life Course, Political Economy, Welfare State/Social Policy, and Health. His current line of research examines the impact of public- and private- benefits on life course transitions and trajectories. His primary focus is on how these benefits impact the domains of work, wealth, health, and mortality in later life, as well as how these benefits work through one domain to influence other domains. He is concerned with both the proximal and distal consequences of benefits – particularly in terms of private benefits – as well as how the impact of these benefits changes over time and how the effects differ across cohorts.

Kail is currently working on several projects using the Health and Retirement Study to a) investigate the antecedents to post-retirement employment, b) explore the changing nature of work and retirement across cohorts – including the timing and duration of working after retirement, and c) understand the impact that work after retirement has on mental health, physical health, and mortality. Kail has recently presented his research at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and will be presenting at the 2011 Population Association of America.

Select Recent/Forthcoming Publications:


Christian C. Lentz

As a Visiting Scholar, Christian teaches two classes in Duke Sociology, Methods of Social Research and Challenges of Development, both of which draw on his interests in historical sociology, nationalism and statemaking, as well as race and ethnicity.

He was busy in 2010 with a number of research projects and speaking engagements. He completed his dissertation, “Mobilizing a Frontier: Dien Phu and the Making of Vietnam, 1945-1955” and earned a PhD from Cornell University’s Department of Development Sociology. He participated in a workshop on Space in Vietnam.
CONGRATULATIONS!

RECENT GRADUATES

PH.D. RECIPIENTS

Ryan Denniston (May 2010)
Dissertation: Globalization, Institutions and Varieties of Industry Change in the Tobacco and Hog Farming Industries
Current Position: Library Intern
Lib-Data GIS
Duke University

Katelin P. Isaacs (March 2010)
Dissertation: Women's Retirement Insecurity Across U.S. Birth Cohorts
Current Position: Income Security Analyst
Congressional Research Service
Washington, DC

Nathan Martin (March 2010)
Dissertation: Social Class and Elite University Education: A Bourdieusian Analysis
Current Position: Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
University of South Carolina

Jessica M. Sautter (May 2010)
Dissertation: Trajectories of Social Role Occupancy and Health: An Intra-Individual Analysis of Role Enhancement, Strain and Context
Current Position: Post-doctoral Scholar
Agency for Health Care Research and Quality
Duke University Medical Center

Ashley Taylor (April 2010)
Current Position: Transitional Employment Coordinator
Roca Inc., Boston

Patti Thomas (July 2010)
Dissertation: Social Engagement, Limitations and Mortality in Late Life
Current Position: NICHD Post-doctoral Scholar
University of Texas at Austin

Rebecca Tippett (April 2010)
Dissertation: Household Debt Across the Life Course: An Analysis of the Late Baby Boomers
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service University of Virginia
at Harvard University and was an invited speaker at the University of Michigan’s Council of Southeast Asian Studies 50th anniversary celebration. After organizing a panel on “Hidden Histories and Submerged Stories from Northwest Vietnam” at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) meetings in Philadelphia, he was invited to edit a special issue in *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* featuring the panel’s papers. His work on militarization will feature at the AAS meetings in Honolulu. Two of his publications will come out in print: “Mobilization and State Formation on a Frontier of Vietnam” in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*; “Making the Northwest Vietnamese” in the *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*.

**Duke Welcomes New Graduate Students in 2010**

**Austin Ashe**

Austin W. Ashe graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University in 2009 with a B.A. in Sociology. While studying at N.C.C.U., Austin was an active member of the Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society. He continues to serve as the editorial assistant for *Sociation Today*, the official journal of the North Carolina Sociological Association. Austin was awarded the Dean’s Graduate Fellowship and is currently working on a project with Sarah Mayorga for the 2011 meeting of the Southern Sociological Society.

**Paige Borelli**

Paige Borelli received her B.A. in Sociology and International Studies at Saint Louis University, with a concentration in Chinese Studies. Her senior thesis explored the citizenship practices of Ethiopian immigrants relocating in St. Louis, MO. After graduating she spent a year in Macau, China as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant, and then returned to St. Louis for a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA. As a first year graduate student, Paige has enjoyed exploring many of her research interests at Duke, such as China’s Special Economic Zones and rural to urban migration in China. Paige has also been able to explore the ethical components of her research as a fellow of the interdisciplinary Kenan Institute of Ethics.
MEMENTOS
Amie Bostic

Amie Bostic received her B.A. in Political Science and American History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009, graduating with honors. At UNC, her research focused on the welfare state of advanced industrialized countries, particularly issues of gender and income inequality. To study social democratic welfare states firsthand, Bostic studied at Sweden’s Lund University in 2007, becoming a full-fledged Swedophile. Presently, her research interests continue to gravitate toward social policy, stratification, and gender, with a burgeoning interest in immigration both in the United States and Europe.

Trenita Childers

Trenita Childers graduated from Davidson College in 2005 with honors in Sociology and an Ethnic Studies Concentration. After graduation, she was a fifth grade teacher for three years before joining the Peace Corps and serving in the Dominican Republic. Trenita’s research interests include medical sociology, health disparities, and race/ethnicity in Latin America. She enjoys food and spending time with her husband and son.

Jacob Fisher

Jake Fisher received his B.A. in Anthropology and History from Washington University in St. Louis in 2008. He spent the two years following his undergraduate work at the City of St. Louis Department of Health, where he worked as the field supervisor for the local implementation of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system. During his work with the Department of Health, he developed an interest in studying diffusion in a network setting, which he has continued to study during his first year at Duke.

Louise Seamster

Louise Seamster graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College in 2005 with a BA in English, earning general and departmental honors, and received an MA in Liberal Studies from the New School for Social Research in 2008. Her master’s thesis, which was awarded honors, focused on liberal ideology supporting the Iraq war. This year, she was awarded the James B. Duke Fellowship, a university-wide award for incoming Ph.D. students. She is currently working on several articles with Professors Burton and Bonilla-Silva. Seamster is primarily interested in race and ethnicity with a focus on white self-segregation and colorblindness. Prior to enrolling in Duke’s Ph.D. program, she taught for two years as an elementary teacher at a Montessori school in Durham, which has contributed to her research interest in white children’s racial socialization. Her research interests also extend to globalization and privatization efforts, especially in relation to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Regina Smalls Baker

In November, Regina presented at the 2010 G.E. Hendricks Symposium sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She presented research entitled: “The Obama Effect: Did the Election of Our First Black President Change Public Discourse about Race?”, in which she collaborated with fellow graduate students, David Eagle, Melanie Sereny, and Sancha Doxilly-Bryan, for their research design course taught by Mark Chaves. Currently, Regina is working on her second year research paper, which examines how the effects of marriage and work on child poverty in the U.S. have changed over time. Regina is also excited to be involved with the Poverty, Ethics and Policy Laboratory, which is part of a larger anti-poverty initiative called the Moral Challenges of Poverty and Inequality. This project is sponsored by The Kenan Institute for Ethics in collaboration with the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at UNC. As a graduate fellow this past semester, Regina advised undergraduate student research on poverty in Buncombe and Madison counties in North Carolina.

Wendy Brynildsen

Wendy Brynildsen is a fourth year graduate student interested in studying sexual and romantic relationships, aging and health. She has collaborated with Phil Morgan and Suzanne Shanahan on a project examining the social correlates of hooking up on college campuses and is now working on a paper examining the effect of virginity on the gendered nature of hookups. In addition, she is
currently working on her dissertation, which focuses on measuring social convoys (i.e., networks) and the impact of social convoys on health and well-being among middle-aged and older U.S. adults. This past year she has presented papers at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America and the Gerontological Society of America. She has also coauthored a paper on trajectories of popularity with James Moody, forthcoming in Social Networks.

Rose Buckelew

Rose Buckelew successfully defended her dissertation proposal in October and is now in the thick of collecting her dissertation data. Her project, tentatively titled “Betting on Black: Race and Gender and Gambling Addiction,” requires her to spend long hours observing people gamble. When not doing ethnography, she is conducting interviews with gambling addiction counselors throughout the state of North Carolina. She is also working on a paper exploring the ethics of covert ethnography in light of recent sociological scholarship using computer mediated communications. Buckelew is looking forward to presenting a paper, “Medical ‘Interventions’: Racialized Representations of Addiction” at the next annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society.

Rebekah Burroway

Rebekah Burroway was honored to receive this year’s Vorsanger-Smith Scholar Award from the Duke Sociology Department. She is currently finishing her dissertation, entitled “Structural Violence and Child Health: A Multi-Level Analysis of Gender Inequality, Capability Development, and Politics in Developing Countries.” She will graduate in May and begin a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at SUNY-Stony Brook next fall. She recently presented her work on gender inequality and child health at the annual ASA meetings in Atlanta. She will also present a paper on single mother poverty (co-authored with Dave Brady) at the upcoming Annual Meetings of the Population Association of America in Washington, DC. During the fall semester, Burroway taught statistics for the Master of International Development Policy program at Duke, and is currently teaching the undergraduate course in statistics for the Sociology Department.

Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:


Brady, David, Katelin Isaacs, Martha Reeves, Rebekah Burroway, and Megan Reynolds. Forthcoming. “Sector, Size, Stability and Scandal: Explaining the Presence of Women Executives in Fortune 500 Firms.” Gender in Management.

Michelle Christian

Michelle is a sixth year graduate student with a research focus on economic development and globalization, race and ethnicity, labor, and global tourism. She is the tourism sector’s research coordinator for the UK Department of International Development funded Capturing the Gains research program; see http://www.capturingthegains.org/. Program researchers explore the dynamics to economic and social upgrading/downgrading in global production networks. Michelle recently completed a pre-feasibility study for the International Labour Organization (ILO) addressing if their Better Work program can be applied to the tourism industry. In 2011 she will travel to South Africa, Kenya, and Indonesia for tourism related research. Her trip to Kenya is a World Bank funded project to highlight the gendered opportunities, constraints, and challenges for female participation in the tourism global value chain. Michelle's dissertation research details how racial and ethnic groups are incorporated, excluded, or stratified within the tourism global value chain between the United States in Costa Rica.
Lane Destro

Lane is currently spending most of her fifth year at Duke writing her dissertation. Entitled “Up the Down Escalator: The Heterogeneity of Families’ Pathways Through Poverty,” her dissertation uses qualitative data from the Family Life Project to explore low-income families’ employment and mobility trajectories. Lane is really excited about how these unique data will contribute to our sociological understanding of what the “American Dream” really means for low-income, working American families.

This year, Lane is thrilled to be a Graduate Fellow with the Kenan Institute for Ethics, where she plans to present the first working chapter of her dissertation this spring. Lane is also thrilled to have a steady teaching schedule. In addition to teaching two courses this spring and summer, Lane will return to the classroom yet again next year to teach a course inspired by her dissertation project – Working Families in the Great Recession. Lane is elated and honored to be able to teach this course as the 2011 – 2012 recipient of the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Fellowship for Undergraduate Instruction.

In addition, Lane has collaborated with David Brady on a publication to be featured in Research in Sociology of Work. She looks forward to collaborating with Ryan Finnigan on a paper using survey data from the Three City Study to explore the relationships between household disruption, social support, and mental distress.

David Eagle

David Eagle has two papers forthcoming in the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. The first, entitled, “Changing Patterns of Attendance at Religious Services in Canada, 1986 – 2006,” argues that the declines in Church attendance in Canada are attributable to declines amongst Catholics; Protestants have held steady over this period. The second paper, “Intersecting Identities as a Source of Religious Incongruence” (co-authored with Jen’nan Read) argues that religion does not impact political values and behavior in a uniform fashion, but competes with other components of identity for salience.

His second year paper attempts to formulate an explanation for the rise of megachurches as a popular form of Protestant organization in the United States. Over the summer, David presented the latter paper at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta and attended a weeklong seminar at Calvin College that addressed how to incorporate religious measures into social science research. He is presently assisting Mark Chaves and Shawna Anderson with a major survey research project examining how churches make decisions about clergy compensation. David received the William and Myra Boone Fellowship from the Duke Graduate School for 2010-2011 and a three year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship. On top of this, he has attempted to manage the academic careers of his preschooler, Anastasia and first grader, Joshua.

Ryan Finnigan

Ryan is currently pursuing multiple lines of research. The first is his dissertation proposal, focusing on race, class, and gender stratification in poverty dynamics across the life course. The second explores race and class inequalities in homeownership. Ryan presented his second-year paper, “Racial and Ethnic Stratification in the Health Advantage of Homeownership,” at the 2009 annual meetings of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta, and it is now under review. His subsequent project addresses changes in the demographic composition of homeowners and renters over time, which he presented in the DuPRI seminar series and will also present at the 2011 annual meetings of the Population Association of America. Meanwhile, Ryan is collaborating with his advisor, David Brady, on a paper addressing the counter-intuitive effects of immigration on cross-national support for the welfare state. Ryan is very gratefully funded through the National Institute of Aging’s training grant on the Social, Medical, and Economic Demography of Aging. Beyond research, he is also currently the president of DukeOUT, the LGBT organization for Duke’s graduate and professional students.

Steven Foy

Over the last year, Steven Foy coauthored an article with Steven Frenk and Keith Meador on the dissemination of religion and health research, which was published in the
Journal of Religion and Health, and had two book reviews accepted for publication by *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms*. He also presented a paper with Wendy Brynildsen at the 2010 annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America and other papers at conferences for the International Society for the Study of European Ideas and the Southern Sociological Society. Currently, he is working on a variety of projects including those comprising his dissertation for which he received a research improvement grant from the National Science Foundation and a participant payment grant from the Duke Interdisciplinary Initiative in Social Psychology. In 2010, he was selected for a Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship (for 2010-2011), a Summer Research Fellowship (for 2011), and an Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Fellowship for Undergraduate Instruction (for 2011-2012) from the Graduate School.

**Rob Freeland**

Rob’s research interests are in social psychology and stratification. Within social psychology much of his work centers on Affect Control Theory. He is currently working with Lynn Smith-Lovin on a project to examine how Arabic speakers interpret meaning. In addition, he is working on several stratification projects including a study to examine how race influences entrepreneurial outcomes with Lisa Keister. A paper on how social class affects the patterning of social ties across social contexts (cross-nationally) is under consideration for the 2011 meeting of the American Sociological Association. He plans to integrate his interests in his dissertation by demonstrating how quantitative symbolic interactionism can be used to inform stratification research.

**Steven Frenk**

Steven Frenk is finishing his dissertation and working at Duke University’s Center for Child and Family Policy. In his position at the center, he has designed and implemented a web-based survey, constructed survey instruments, and written reports for the State of North Carolina and the Children’s Bureau (US Department of Health and Human Services). In August, he presented a paper at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, and in October, he presented a poster at the annual meetings of the American Public Health Association. He has two forthcoming articles: one in the *Journal of Religion and Health* (co-authored with Mark Chaves) and another in *Sociology of Religion* (co-authored with Shawna Anderson, Mark Chaves, and Nancy Martin). He also has a number of other papers currently under review.

**Elizabeth Hordge Freeman**

Elizabeth Hordge Freeman is a fifth year student who recently returned from conducting dissertation fieldwork in Salvador, Brazil exploring how white supremacy shapes racial socialization in families. As an ASA NIMH Predoctoral Fellow, she is particularly interested in the mental health outcomes associated with differential treatment in families (based on race and color). Her work challenges a dominant narrative in Brazil that the prevalence of multi-racial families proves that racism is absent in Brazilian society. Approaching her studies with a comparative lens, she is interested in exploring the intersections and convergences of racial socialization of adolescents in the United States and Brazil. She is one of the co-authors on an article, spearheaded by Linda Burton, which was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* dealing with colorism in U.S. families. Additionally, she is working on a book chapter with Eduardo Bonilla-Silva on racial hierarchies and beauty norms. Lastly, she is also working with Lynn Smith-Lovin on projects that incorporate race and ethnicity into experimental studies of distributive justice and affect.

**Brad Fulton**

Brad Fulton is a third year graduate student. His research focuses on the intersection of religion and stratification. He has recently completed two projects related to congregations and their social service programs. One study focuses on African American churches and their responses to people living with HIV/AIDS and the other study demonstrates how congregations’ collaborator networks shape their social service activity. Fulton is currently working with Interfaith Funders and the Southwest Institute on Religion and Civil Society to conduct a national census of institution-based community organizations.
Hang Young Lee

Hang Young Lee recently completed his second year paper which examines gender differences in access to social capital using the 2005 US Social Capital survey. In the summer of 2010, he conducted extensive field research in Korea funded by the Summer Research Fellowship of the Asian Pacific Studies Institute of Duke University. The main purpose of his field trip to Korea was to study why and how Korean companies adopt and implement corporate social responsibility. He also served as a summer research assistant for Nan Lin on a project addressing the causal relationship between social capital and labor market outcomes. In the past year, he worked with David Brady to investigate causes of cutbacks in government spending in 17 affluent democracies from 1971 to 2006. This work has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Joonkoo Lee

Joonkoo Lee is currently working on his dissertation that examines the evolution of the animation industry in India and South Korea from a comparative historical perspective in conjunction of a shifting global division of labor and domestic political economy. He is also working as a senior research assistant for the multi-year, international project, titled “Capturing the Gains: Economic and Social Upgrading in Global Production Networks” funded among others by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Following a series of his collaborative research on changing global agri-food industry, his co-authored paper with Gary Gereffi and Janet Beauvais, titled “Global Value Chains and Agri-Food Standards: Challenges and Possibilities for Smallholders in Developing Countries,” has been published on December 2010 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. His next step focuses on analyzing the trade structure of global horticulture trade in terms of trade concentration using the UN Comtrade database.


Sarah Mayorga

Sarah Mayorga is a fifth year doctoral candidate currently working on her dissertation. Her project is a mixed-method analysis of a local neighborhood. Her study centers on the experiences of white, black, and Latino residents. Mayorga conducts participant observation, interviews, and a household survey to document how neighbor-to-neighbor social interactions are structured in a multi-ethnic neighborhood. She is also working on two presentations for the 2011 annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. One is a collaboration with Austin Ashe, which focuses on diversity within The Office, and the other is a collaboration with Professor Rebecca Bach, which analyzes gender representations across Oprah’s Book Club novels.

S Joshua Mendelsohn

S Joshua Mendelsohn is currently in his third year at Duke. He is enthralled with the macro-dynamics of large systems, and directs much of his academic attention toward the study of the global economic system. Methodologically, his specialties include network analysis, geo-spatial analysis, electronic data collection, and computational social science.

In addition to his main line of research, Joshua is currently involved in a wide range of side projects, spanning from explorations of spatial population distributions in Russia, to examinations of the broader impact of removing nodes from a network.

He also teaches scientific programming in the R language for the Social Science Research Institute.

2011 promises to be interesting year for Joshua, including a dissertation proposal defense in April, and a conference presentation at Sunbelt in February. For more info, visit his work page: sjoshuam.com/professional.

Andrew Miles

Andrew’s research interests are mainly directed toward two areas: religion and health and the social psychological
antecedents of behavior. His work to date has focused on rural/non-rural differences in health as well as in the occupational conditions of clergy. He is currently investigating the effectiveness of support groups for clergy mental health, examining religion and health connections in a cross-national and comparative perspective, and researching how identity-based theories of behavior can be improved to provide more accurate predictions of behavior.

Sowmya Rajan

Sowmya is working on several projects. She continues to refine her second year paper and make it fit for publishing in the next few months. This paper examines how gender-based household roles and family structure affect the short-term illnesses experienced by men and women in India. As a research assistant to Phil Morgan, she is examining trajectories of unintended childbearing among young women in the US. Additionally, she is working with Dave Brady on a project that examines slum poverty in India, in comparison to rural and urban non-slum poverty.

Victor Ray

Victor Ray successfully defended his dissertation proposal in the fall. In the data collection phase, his proposed project, entitled “Racial and Gender Differences in Veterans’ Transition to Civilian Life” has already garnered a lot of attention, winning an NSF Dissertation Improvement grant, a Mary Duke Biddle Award, and the Aleane Webb Dissertation Research Award. This work is a qualitative examination of the reintegration experience of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. This summer, Ray also presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society and was invited to participate in the Future of Minority Studies conference at Cornell University, as a Mellon fellow.

Kimberly Rogers

Kimberly Rogers’ dissertation project “Mapping the Social Ecology of Culture: Social Position, Connectedness, and Influence as Predictors of Systematic Variation in Affective Meaning” received the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for 2010-2011. She is currently finishing data collection on the third of three studies for the project, which explores how social position, connectedness, and the network distribution of influence contribute to the emergence of normative consensus in social meaning. A paper presenting two of these studies is under consideration for the upcoming meeting of the American Sociological Association. Kimberly has also written a chapter on action, interaction, and groups with Lynn Smith-Lovin this year, which will be published in The New Blackwell Companion to Sociology. Her comment on the future of emotion research in social psychology, written with Liam Kavanagh, was published in Social Psychology Quarterly in December.

Megan Reynolds

Megan Reynolds’ second-year paper (co-authored with David Brady and presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta) examines the link between union membership and health among Americans, and is currently under revision. Another paper with Jen’nan Read on gender differences in Middle-Eastern and Mexican-American health is also under revision. Once resubmitted, Megan will begin investigating potential relationships between labor unions and mortality using newly available GSS data. She will also continue work on her dissertation, which aims to identify the effects of organized labor and the welfare state on population health. As one of five authors alongside David Brady, Katelin Isaacs, Martha Reeves and Rebekah Burroway, Megan has a paper forthcoming in the journal of Gender and Management on firm-level predictors of appointing a female executive in Fortune 500 companies. She is currently a part-time research assistant on the Beyond Test Scores project in the department of Public Policy.

Melanie Sereny

Melanie Sereny is a fourth year Ph.D. student currently working on her dissertation titled “Social Context, Norms of Filial Responsibility, and Exchanges between Generations in China.” The project will explore whether adult children’s attitudes towards filial piety have been modified by the demographic, social, economic, and cultural changes that have taken place in China, and how such attitude shifts influence intergenerational relations and the well-being of the elderly. Melanie’s dissertation analyzes both individual-level and community-level survey data.
In addition to her dissertation work, Melanie continues to research the relationship between biomarkers of health and social determinants among a sample of older adults residing in longevity areas in China. For this project, she collaborates with Zeng Yi and Linda George, and other colleagues in China. This summer she plans to travel to Beijing to continue this research at the China CDC.

This past summer Melanie attended a 3-day ICPSR workshop on dyadic data analysis in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She also participated in two RAND summer institutes in Santa Monica, California – the Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists and the Institute on the Demography, Economics, and Epidemiology of Aging. This year Melanie receives funding from the National Institute of Aging training grant on the Social, Medical, and Economic Demography of Aging.

**Select Recent/ Forthcoming Publications:**


**Jeffrey Smith**

Jeffrey Smith is currently working on his dissertation, which draws on Weberian and Blauian theories to explore political stratification outcomes in a dynamic setting. Specifically, he explains how demographic groups fare politically in the face of large scale exogenous (political) shocks. Based on this work, he was recently awarded the ASA Mathematical Sociology Section Outstanding Dissertation in Progress Award. He is also in the process of resubmitting his second year paper. This paper develops a new methodology which takes independently sampled ego networks and uncovers the properties of the full, unknown network. He is also working with Miller McPherson on a paper which imputes network structure onto datasets, and therefore regressions, with no explicit network data. He is also working on a paper with Lynn Smith-Lovin (and Miller McPherson) mapping the change in demographic based homophily over the last 20 years. Additionally, he is working with Jim Moody on a few papers. One paper uses dynamic exponential random graph models on classroom social networks. Another series of papers looks at the effect of missing data on the validity of network measures. Finally, he is working on a paper with Bob Faris (UC-Davis) which models status hierarchies in a multilevel context.

**Inseo Son**

After defending his dissertation proposal in September, 2010, Inseo Son is working on his dissertation project which examines the influence of race and ethnicity on career choices among second-generation Korean Americans. This research plans to explore how Korean Americans as a racial and ethnic minority experience restrictions on career options, challenging the stereotypical image of Asian Americans as “model minority”. Inseo Son is currently conducting in-depth interviews and ethnographic field research in several major cities in the U.S. which will last until September 2011. This research is partly funded by Summer Research Fellowship of the Duke Graduate School. He was awarded the Korean Honor Scholarship from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in 2010. He will be presenting a paper on his preliminary research at the Association of Asian American Studies Conference in May, 2011. Inseo Son is also working with Bai Gao to examine the sociological origins of the recent U.S. financial crisis.

**Feng Tian**

Felicia Feng Tian has a B.A. in Information Management in Renmin University, China, and a M.A. in Sociology from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research interests are in the areas of globalization, family change and social inequality in China. Her current projects include examining changes in marriage formation in China, and developing statistical models for measuring narrative data. She is now working with Christine Bachrach to explore the meaning of the ‘biological father’ for poor single mothers in 3-cities study.

**Yanlong Zhang**

Yanlong Zhang was awarded the Katherine Goodman Stern Dissertation Fellowship, and the Summer Research Fellowship this year. His dissertation project examines the diffusion of neo-liberal urban policies in China, which tests the validity of multiple diffusion models in a comparative context and examines whether theories developed in the Western settings can be generalized to other social and
political context. Meanwhile, he also works on a series of papers that study household financial behaviors. The most recent piece is on how network compositions and socioeconomic status affect household choice of financial intermediaries. In addition, he uses data from the Social Capital Survey and Taiwan Social Change Survey to compare the structural differences of civic networks in three societies (the U.S., Taiwan, and China). These latter two papers have been presented in the Sunbelt conferences.

The Graduate Student Forum (GSF) facilitates discussion regarding departmental, inter-departmental, discipline-wide, and community-specific matters of concern to Sociology graduate students. Over the course of the last semester, GSF elected new officers and student representatives to the junior faculty search committee, launched a student satisfaction survey and compiled the results for the Department’s faculty and graduate students, and aided the Department in finding ways of improving its administration of prospective student visits. Additionally, GSF coordinated with the Department to open a graduate student lounge, offered intradepartmental and interdepartmental social activities, and organized a drive to collect items for families in need during the holiday season. We invite all Sociology graduate students to take part in GSF’s opportunities.

Our Honors Program has grown steadily in prominence in the last five years, and as a Department, we couldn’t be more proud of what our program graduates have achieved. Our previous honors graduates have entered PhD programs in Sociology at prominent universities including Harvard, Stanford, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, obtained professional degrees in law, medicine, and dentistry, and launched successful careers in business and in global investment markets and management. We are delighted to say that our level of pride also extends to the research and professional promise of our current honors’ cohort.
The Class of 2011. The 2011 cohort of honors students has already demonstrated that they are no exception to the success rule as they aspire for excellence in their research and move towards pursuing graduate and professional degrees or careers in business, advertising, or global health. This Class of 10 is mentored by Professor Linda Burton, the current Director of the Honors Program, and graduate students Allison Wisecup, a veteran mentor of the honors program, and David Dietrich, a dedicated newcomer.

Burton, Wisecup, and Dietrich have been quite impressed with the range and intellectual rigor of research projects that the students have chosen to pursue. Matthew Boyles and Courtney Lam are analyzing large, complex survey and geographic data sets to produce results that are representative of patterns of social, religious, political, or health behaviors in national populations. Martin DeWitt, Tiphany Jackson, and Nnenna Ene are gathering primary data from men and women about the roles of gender, race, and class in shaping attitudes and behaviors about social relationships, marriage, childbearing, work, and employment. Tracy Vallejo is conducting secondary analysis of a dataset about social cues in the world of virtual social networks. Courtney Arrindell is conducting secondary analysis of a longitudinal ethnographic data set on poverty and families to assess the relationship between health and histories of domestic violence. Jennifer Solomon is evaluating thousands of bankruptcy records to determine how women fare in these financial situations. And, Caroline Cappelli and Kate Zeligson are examining print and media data in advertising archives to explore aspects of children’s gender socialization. Students will be presenting the results of their research at the Department’s Honors Day Colloquium on April 1, 2011. The Department’s faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and students’ families and friends are invited to attend this very important event.

In addition to their research, this year’s cohort of undergraduate honors students participated in the Department’s first annual Honorsfest. Honorsfest is a social networking and exchange event in which Sociology honors students from both Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill and their faculty mentors gather together to share food, music, and their experiences “conducting research.” This year’s celebration was held at Dr. Burton’s home and great fun was had by all!

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Class of 2011
Sociology Honors Students

Courtney Arrindell: *The Relationship between Sexual Abuse/Domestic Violence and Health Conditions*

Matthew Boyles: *Render Unto Caesar: The Relationship Between Evangelical Christians and the Republican Party in the 2008 Presidential, Senatorial, Congressional and Gubernatorial Elections*

Caroline Cappelli: “*Women in Print:* An Assessment of Women, Beauty, and Gendered Portrayals in Fashion Magazines

Martin DeWitt: *Is Racism Manly? Racial Expressions of White Masculinity*

Nnenna Ene: *Entrepreneurship as a Way of Life: Insights on African American Female Business Owners*

Tiphany Jackson: *Degrees, Babies, or Both? Professional African-American Women’s Decision Regarding Motherhood*

Courtney Lam: *Where’s A Dentist? The Geographical Distribution of Dentists and Access to Care*

Jennifer Solomon: *The Feminization of Bankruptcy: The Differential Impact of Dependents on Unmarried Men and Women*

Tracy Vallejo: *Facebook Friendships and the Role of Social Cues in the Presentation of Self*

Kate Zeligson: *Socialization Through Subtleties: A Content Analysis of Children’s Toy Commercials*
Congratulations to the
2010 Honors Graduates!

Ryan Victoria Steiger:
Making Connections: Undergraduate Student Involvement, Social Networks, and Monetary Giving Patterns

Sarah M Rabiner:
Youth Gangs in Schools: Impact on Student Attitudes about School and Behavior in School

MK Han:
Making Meaning of Art

Brandy Austin:
Narratives of Lesbian Participation in Bondage and Discipline, Domination and Submission, and Sadism and Masochism

Maja Falcon:
Cheating Outside of the Classroom

Bo Hyeong Jane Lee:
Perceptions of Machismo in the Journey of Socioeconomic Mobility among Low-Income Latina Mothers

Jerald Lee-Austin Prince:
Color-Blind Racism: An Examination of Caucasian Attitudes of Interracial Marriage

Nicole Gonzales:
Where do I fit in?: Exploring Latina Cultural Identity in An Elite Institution

Jesse Huddleston:
What Kind Of Guy Is This?” A Report on Young Men's Gender Identity & Volunteering Experiences

Sara Giedgowd:
To Have One’s Cake and Eat it Too: How Female Collegiate Athletes Negotiate Identity

Jane Alukonis:
The More Identities the Merrier? How Balancing Multiple Identities Affects Female Student Athletes’ Self-esteem

Aklil N Abraham:
Belief Structures of Ethiopian Farmers
Matthew Boyles, a senior in the department’s Honors Program, will be presenting his honors thesis research at the upcoming annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Jacksonville, FL, April 6-9, 2011. Matthew’s study, titled *Render Unto Caesar: The Relationship Between Evangelical Christians and the Republican Party in the 2008 Presidential, Senatorial, Congressional and Gubernatorial Elections*, examines national exit polls from 37 states in the 2008 elections to test whether Democrats who adopt conservative stances on social issues fare better with Evangelical voters. The study looks at the presidential race in 37 states, senatorial races in 28 states, gubernatorial races in 7 states and congressional races in 5 states in order to investigate not only regional differences but also potential differences among varying levels of politics. Results from the study offer insights into the motivations of Evangelical voters, and test the efficacy of interaction rituals at shaping the behavior of participants.

Matthew is no stranger to presenting his research at professional meetings having done so in his sophomore and junior years at Duke. While studying the sociology of politics and religion is a passion of Matthew’s, he plans to pursue a career with the Boston Consulting Group upon completing his undergraduate degree in Sociology in May 2011.