

Letter from the Chair

Dear friends and colleagues:

Welcome to our winter newsletter! I begin by sharing one major source of intellectual liveliness and general excitement in the Department of Sociology this fall — the arrival of two new faculty members, Tim Black and Mary Erdmans, both of whom joined our department as associate professors. You may recall reading about Tim's work in our Spring 2012 newsletter. See Page 3 of this issue for a story on Mary's work, which spans the fields of immigration, social movements and gender and ethnic studies. Tim and Mary are already adding breadth to Sociology's course offerings at both the grad and undergrad levels.



I want to draw attention to a very special honor awarded to one of our colleagues during 2012. Last fall, Eva Kahana was named Distinguished University Professor, the highest distinction given by CWRU to faculty members. To celebrate, the Department of Sociology hosted a special lecture by Eva in October. I know that many of you were in attendance. See the story on Page 2.

This fall also marked the formalization of an exchange agreement with the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, which will provide opportunities for our doctoral students to study at Geneva, and for their students to come here. The finalization of the agreement were presaged by the September arrival of Stefano Cavalli, our first visiting postdoctoral fellow from Geneva—see Page 4.

Meanwhile, it has been another season of accomplishment and recognition for our faculty and graduate students. Brian Gran was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for study in Iceland. Tanetta Andersson, George Kypriatou and Josh Terchek successfully defended their dissertations, and Melinda Laroco-Boehm, Diana Kulle, Paulette Sage and Mary Ellen Stone defended dissertation proposals. We are continuing our efforts to expand our relationships with alumni of the Department of Sociology. As part of these efforts, we are interested in learning about what you are doing and how your sociological background has impacted your career experiences and choices. You can send news to kar98@case.edu; please let us hear from you! We also welcome news of any job openings that may be of interest to our recent graduates and graduate students. And if you are in the area, please stop by and visit the Department of Sociology!

-Dale Dannefer, Chair

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Eva Kahana Named Distinguished University Professor

The title of Distinguished University Professor is the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the faculty at Case Western Reserve University. The award recognizes outstanding contributions of full-time, tenured professors with exceptional academic records of research, scholarship, teaching and service. Eva Kahana received this honor during the fall convocation held in August in Severance Hall.

It is a reflection of the breadth of Eva's accomplishments throughout her 28-year career at Case Western Reserve that colleagues from multiple departments in the College of Arts and Sciences—as well as from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and the School of Medicine, where she holds secondary appointments—were co-signatories of the letter nominating her for this award.

Eva has published more than 170 journal articles or book chapters, co-authored two books (with two more in production) and edited three volumes. Yet more telling than a numerical count is the impact of Eva's research, which has focused on finding new ways to improve life for older people. Her work, especially as director of the university's Elderly Care Research Center, has been recognized as breaking new ground in the understanding of resilience among elderly and disabled persons living with trauma.



Eva Kahana

“Although the quantity of Eva's work is highly impressive, what is more telling, its impact, which has focused on finding new ways to improve the lives of older people. “



Eva Kahana and her nominators for Distinguished University Professor, Gary Deimling and Dale Dannefer

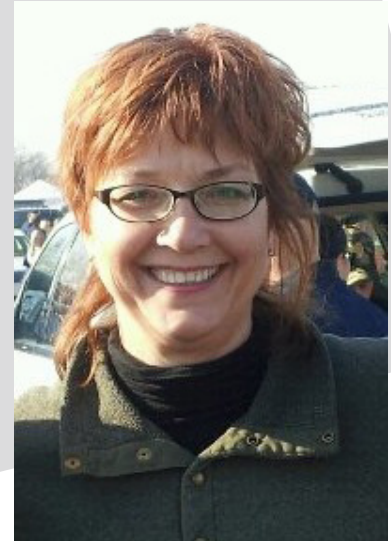
Eva has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health since 1969. She has been principal investigator on more than two dozen research grants, with budgets totaling more than \$16 million. In addition, she has earned many awards throughout her career, including the Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the organization's highest award; the GSA's Powell Lawton Award; the American Sociological Association's Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award; and the Dr. Max Prochovnick Prize of the Israel Gerontological Society. She also was the first woman awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, Stern College for Women (now part of Yeshiva University).

The Department of Sociology was proud to host “A Gerontological Journey Through the Life Course: Weaving Lived Experience into the Fabric of Science,” a lecture Eva presented this past November in celebration of her appointment as Distinguished University Professor. The event was attended by friends and colleagues from across the region and members of the wider university community and university officials, as well as students and colleagues from our department.

Mary Erdmans Joins the Sociology Faculty

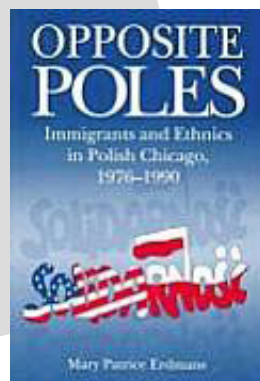
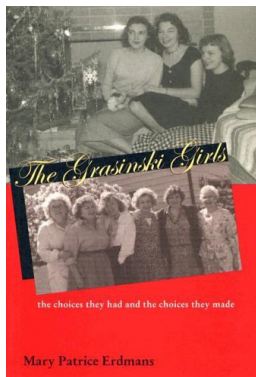
The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Patrice Erdmans as associate professor of sociology. Mary received her PhD in sociology from Northwestern University in 1992. Her research interests are immigration and ethnicity (with a focus on Poles and Polish Americans) and the intersection of gender, class, and race (her research has included studies of white working-class women and adolescent mothers). Her work contributes to understanding how life choices are influenced by social location.

“I am interested in deconstructing categories to look at differences within groups — for example, between immigrants and native-born populations in the Polish community; and between the working class and middle class in women’s studies — attending to both micro-level interaction patterns as well as macro-level political and economic forces.”



Mary Erdmans

Mary is the author of *Opposite Poles: Immigrants and Ethnics in Polish Chicago, 1979-1990* and *The Grasinski Girls: The Choices They Had and the Choices They Made*. She is in the process of finishing a book, co-authored with Timothy Black, titled *The Distraction of Adolescent Mothers*. The book tells the sociological backstory to teen births, focusing on life events such as child sexual abuse, statutory rape, school failure and partner violence as salient life events that often precede early motherhood. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Qualitative Health Research*, *Polish American Studies*, *Humanity and Society*, and *North American Review*.



Mary teaches courses in the areas of race and ethnicity, social inequality, social movements and revolutions, and qualitative methods with a focus on life stories, oral histories, autoethnography and other narrative forms.

Mary recently moved to the Cleveland area and lives with her dog, Jay-Cee, and husband Tim. She enjoys walking to work, burgers and beers, brick houses and old trees.

Stefano Cavalli, Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow

Both the intellectual life and the social energy of the Department of Sociology were enriched this fall by our visiting postdoctoral fellow, Stefano Cavalli of the University of Geneva. Stefano received his PhD in sociology from the University of Geneva, where he is currently a researcher at the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Gerontology and Vulnerability and senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology. He is also a member of the Swiss National Competence Center in Research LIVES (*Overcoming vulnerability: Life course perspectives*).

Stefano's research interests focus on the life course and aging and he is engaged in two research programs: *Old age democratization? Progresses and inequalities in Switzerland* (VLV) and *Changes and events across the life course* (CEVI) for which he is the international coordinator. VLV is a repeated cross-sectional study addressing the life and health conditions of individuals ages 65 and above living in Switzerland and their changes over the past 30 years.

CEVI focuses on the perceptions that adults from 13 countries and five age groups have about changes in their lives and their societal environments (recent changes in life, main turning points, and memories of socio-historical changes). During Stefano's visiting fellowship he presented a talk titled "Memory of History and Generations: An International Comparison," which was followed by a reception.

Please visit <http://cigev.unige.ch/recherches/cevi.html> for more information on CEVI research.



Stefano Cavalli

Support the Department of Sociology

Please consider supporting the Department of Sociology as we continue building on our achievements. You can contribute to our success by making a tax-deductible gift to the department. Your gift allows us to continue to offer opportunities for our students to excel academically and to conduct important research. You can give online at giving.case.edu.

David Warner Joins Sociology Faculty at the University of Nebraska



David Warner

The Department of Sociology bid farewell last spring to David Warner, who accepted a position at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, beginning in September. As many of you know, David is involved in important research on work, retirement and health and we wish him well as he continues this work. His departure coincided almost precisely with the advent of parenthood for David and his wife, who also joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska in September. We wish David and Tara the very best on the Great Plains!

News from the CSRP

The Cancer Survivors Research Program (CSRP) has submitted its final report for the P-30 grant it received from the NCI through the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. The most prominent needs reported by survivors were health and emotional concerns. Nearly 80 percent (23) indicated they had health concerns during the first five years after diagnosis. Of those reporting such concerns, 60 percent indicated that during the period of their illness, they would have used the types of help the research team proposed. At the time of the interview all respondents indicated they now have health concerns and one-third indicated they likely would use the types of services proposed.

CSRP also found that more than three-quarters of survivors reported having emotional concerns during the first five years after treatment, and of those reporting these concerns, two out of three said they would have been likely to use at least one of the services in the proposed intervention. Importantly, more than half continue to have these concerns. Telephone access to a nurse practitioner was universally endorsed as a service choice both in the period following treatment and subsequently for long-term survivors. In addition, both an in-home conference with a practitioner and informational services were likely to be used following treatment. The data makes a compelling case for the need for several intervention modalities, both in the first years after treatment and for long-term survivors.

The CSRP team is now meeting with faculty at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center to pursue additional NCI funding. It hopes to submit an application in 2013. The CSRP research team consists of Professor Gary Deimling, project director; Sherri P. Brown, project coordinator; Cory Cronin and Holly Renzhofer, staff; and Karen F. Bowman, Boaz Kahana, and Julia Rose, affiliated faculty.

URBAN SOCIOLOGY (SOCI 328/428)
is being offered as a graduate course this spring.

Fall Department Party

In September, Dale and Elaine Dannefer hosted a party to kick off the new school year, bringing together faculty, graduate students, staff, families and partners to celebrate fall and welcome new graduate students and faculty members Tim Black and Mary Erdmans.



Welcome, First Year Graduate Students

Casey Albitz received her BA in sociology and BA in psychology from Case Western Reserve. Her research interests are medical sociology, social inequalities and intersectionalities, youth and adolescent development, and health disparities.

Kaitlyn Barnes received her BA in sociology, premed concentration, from the College of the Holy Cross. Her research interests are medical sociology, aging and the life course, men and masculinities, and diabetes.

Danielle Bernat received her BA in health communication and political science from Ohio University and MA in health communication from Kent State University. Her research interests are medical sociology, health communication, the genderization of illness, sociology of mental health, familial interaction and eating disorder research, and the social construction of disease.

Alicia Smith received her BA in sociology from Oberlin College in 2010 and MA in journalism from Syracuse University in 2011. Her research interests are medical sociology, inequities in health education and food access, and health communication.



CASEY ALBITZ



ALICIA SMITH



KAITLYN BARNES



DANIELLE BERNAT

Congratulations to Students Who Successfully Defended Dissertations



Tanetta Andersson defended her dissertation, “Nobody Talks About Suicide Except if They’re Kidding: Disenfranchised Grief, Coping Strategies, and Survivor Identity in Peer Suicide Grievors,” in May.

Georgios Kypriotakis defended his dissertation, “A Year in Their Lives: Trajectories of Well-Being among Patients Diagnosed with Advanced Stage Cancer,” in November.

Joshua Terchek defended his dissertation, “ADHD and Self-Discrepancy: The Social Construction of ADHD in Adulthood,” in December.

GEORGIOS KYPRIOTAKIS: Ready to go home and enjoy a well-deserved celebration!

Tirth Bhatta Attended Two Workshops

Sociology graduate student Tirth Bhatta was chosen to attend two workshops during his summer break. The first, “Introduction to Spatial Demography: Geospatial Data and Spatial Regression,” was held in Boulder, Colorado, and organized by the University of Colorado. It provided an overview of spatial analysis in population and health, with an emphasis on spatial statistics and regression. It also covered details of how to use and identify spatial data and summarize it in mapping platforms. The second workshop, “Longitudinal Study of Generations,” was organized by the University of Southern California and focused on statistical methodologies required to analyze longitudinal and generation-level data.



From left to right: Prakash Pant, Tirth Bhatta, and Maricruz Rivera in Boulder, Colorado

“These two workshops provided me an opportunity to interact and share ideas with faculties and students representing different disciplines and nationalities, and the training that I received from them has helped me to further broaden my research interests,” he said.

Sociology Senior Capstone Presentations

As part of the university’s SAGES curriculum, each senior student must conduct a capstone project. During the fall 2012 semester, five of our senior majors participated in our Sociology Senior Capstone experience. In this seminar-based course, each student designed an original research study, collected data, and prepared a final empirical paper.

On December 13, 2012, the department sponsored Senior Capstone Day, a public forum for the student research. More than 15 faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students, guests and family members attended. The following students presented:

Katherine Borsh

“Pregnant in Prison: Current Circumstances and the Search for a Better Way”

Alia Green

“The Portrayal of Disability in American Cinema”

Margo Mathis

“Social Networks Sites: A Crossroads of Identity, Privacy and Work”

Luke Nance

“Chinese Working Class Attitude towards Homosexuality”

Megan Sturm

“Education and SES Outcomes for Children of Teen Mothers”

Congratulations to all who presented!!

Faculty Updates

In November, doctoral student **Rebecca Siders** and **Dale Dannefer** presented the coauthored paper “The Plague of Helplessness and the Meaning of Care in LTC Culture Change (CC) Efforts” at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

Brian Gran has been awarded a Fulbright grant to research and teach with the School of Law of Reykjavik University in Iceland in Spring 2013. Last November, he was invited to give lectures to the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch, Sion, Switzerland, on children’s rights and independent institutions for children’s rights. With David Brunisma and Keri Iyall Smith, Brian has co-edited *The Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*, due to be published early this year.

Jessica Kelley-Moore presented three papers at GSA’s annual meeting. The first paper, “Race/Ethnic Differences in Life Course Accumulative Processes Leading to Late-Life Functional Limitations: Test of a Conceptual Model,” was coauthored with **Dale Dannefer**, **Jielu Lin**, and **Tirth Bhatta**. The second, “From Static to Signal: Examining the Social Patterning of Intraindividual Variability in Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms Among Adults Aged 50 and Over,” was coauthored with **Jielu Lin**. The third paper, “A Year in the Lives of Patients Diagnosed with Advanced Stage Cancer,” was coauthored with **Georgios Kypriotakis** and J. H. Rose.

Associate Faculty Updates

May Wykle, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, the Marvin E. and Ruth Durr Denegas Professor of Nursing and Sociology, received the Mary Starke Harper Distinguished Lecturer Award from the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence on November 13 in San Diego. Dr. Mary Starke Harper was one of the nation’s foremost authorities on mental health and aging.

Alumni Updates

Tanetta Andersson, PhD, has accepted a teaching position in the Department of Sociology at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Rev. Mark A. Latcovich, PhD, was named president-rector of Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. Rev. Latcovich received his PhD in sociology in 1996 and taught courses in the Department of Sociology from 1998 to 2005.

Joshua Terchek, PhD, has accepted a position as Associate Director of Institutional Research with CWRU’s Office of Planning and Institutional Research (OPIR).

Send us your news

We are continuing our efforts to expand our relationships with alumni of the Department of Sociology. As part of these efforts, we are interested in learning about what you are doing and how your sociological background has impacted your career experiences and choices. You can send news to kar98@case.edu; please let us hear from you.