

Sociology News

Spring 2022 Edition

Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University

Letter from the Chair

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of *Sociology News*! If you've been following updates on the departmental newsfeed online or on Twitter (@CWRUsociology), you will already know that we have no shortage of news to report since the last edition of *Sociology News* last spring. You may recall that our last issue was packed with updates including faculty book announcements, editorships and fellowships, and other notable happenings for students and faculty alike, and all despite the challenges accompanying the pandemic. As you'll see in this issue, that level of activity has continued through the past year. As a department and as individuals, we continued to move forward with our work. Seven students graduated with their PhD degrees: Luma AlMasarweh, Spencier Ciaralli, Wenxuan (Cherry) Huang, Jiao Yu, Sara Kennedy, Sherri Brown, and Minzhi Ye. Faculty continued to publish books as well as articles, receive grants, and edit journals. Several faculty, students and staff received prestigious awards.

The past year also marked the welcome return to in-person classes and events. The last of our Zoom colloquia events occurred in Spring '21, and this year, we have benefited from three in-person colloquium visitors. This spring culminates a period in which our colloquia speakers have been chosen because of their special expertise in some aspect of race and social justice.

This issue reports some very notable and consequential transitions. Especially noteworthy is Professor Gary Deimling's decision to retire at the end of the spring term. While we will miss having Gary in the department and the hallways of Mather Memorial, for many of us he will continue to be a valued colleague and friend, and a mentor to many alums as well as current students. I know you'll want to join us all in wishing him the very best with his "next chapter."

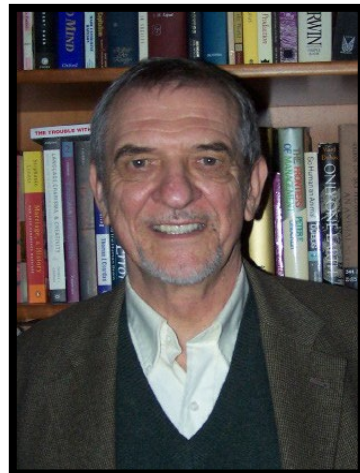
Among other significant transitions, the department welcomed Dr. Donald Hutcherson as full-time lecturer. Don did his graduate work at Ohio State, and he has both academic and applied research experience in areas including criminology, race and social justice. Our students are benefiting from his expertise and dedicated teaching. Another important faculty transition occurred at the end of the fall term, when Dr. Karie Feldman, who served as a full-time lecturer for 6 years, assumed the position of Assistant Dean in CWRU's Office of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Heather Hurwitz, also a valued member of the faculty as a full-time lecturer, left last fall to accept a promising research position at Cleveland Clinic. We will certainly miss Karie and Heather and the energy and dedication they both brought to teaching and serving our students!

As always, we are eager to hear alumni news. Please keep us informed of any job openings that may be of interest to our recent graduates and students. We also hope you'll encourage any prospective grad or undergrad students to consider Sociology at CWRU!

-Dale Dannefer, Chair

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Department of Sociology

Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7142
Phone: 216.368.2700
Sociology.case.edu

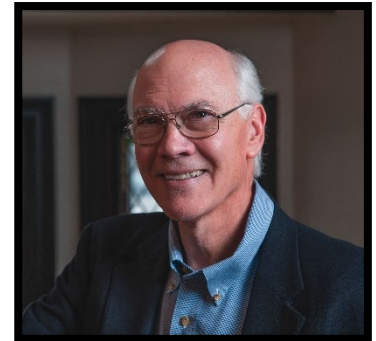
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Western Reserve University.



Department Highlights

Gary Deimling announces retirement

Professor Gary Deimling, valued teacher and mentor to generations of CWRU sociology majors and graduate students and valued colleague to faculty across the university, announced his decision to retire at the end of the spring term (effective June 30, 2022). Gary has been widely appreciated as a welcoming and affirming collegial presence, as well as someone with historical and critical perspectives on university processes.



Although formally retiring from the faculty, Gary has made it clear he is not retiring from his academic work. In May, he received a contract for his new research monograph, *Cancer Survivorship in Later Life*, from Oxford University Press. He plans to bring to fruition not only the book but also a series of related articles. His collaborative work, especially with some of his graduate students, will likely continue for some time, along with new pursuits.

After earning his PhD from Bowling Green State University in 1976, Gary taught at John Carroll University until 1980, when he joined the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging's Blenkner Research Institute. In 1993, he joined CWRU's Department of Sociology, where he has developed two parallel and complementary areas of research: stress associated with caring for older adults with mental impairment and the long-term impact of surviving cancer. These two areas have in common the orientation that while illness can be a profound stressor, responding to it can be an opportunity for intense personal growth.

Gary's early research focused on adaptation of older adults to the stresses associated with illness and the impact of caring for frail older adults, especially those with dementia. This work entailed developing new multi-dimensional measures of family caregiver strain. In 2002, he was named the Outstanding Researcher in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Research Council on Aging for his work on Alzheimer's patients and their families.

In the early 1990s, Gary expanded his work to include a second focus, issues surrounding the quality of life of older adult cancer survivors. A major emphasis of his work has been how the development of "survivor identity" can buffer individuals from some of the more profound effects of cancer. This work was supported with grants by the National Cancer Institute, which provided approximately \$3 million in funding from 1998 through 2008. For this work, Gary was honored for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Cancer Survivorship Research by the National Cancer Institute (2004). Two years later, he received the Trish Greene Quality of Life Award from the American Cancer Society for excellence and innovation in improving quality of life for people with cancer. In Fall 2013, Gary's work and career were featured in CWRU's *art/sci* magazine.

From 2007 to 2009, Gary held the Armington Professorship, a rotating professorship that supports a faculty member whose professional activity and personal character exemplify important values, in particular individual initiative tempered with concern for the rights of others.

Over the years, Gary has mentored and encouraged the contributions of many graduate, undergraduate, and even high school students on his research projects. During his tenure on the CWRU faculty, Gary has made significant contributions beyond sociology. He has secondary appointments in the School of Medicine as Professor of Medical Research Oncology and Faculty Fellow of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. Within the college, he served in a number of important committee and administrative roles, including two terms as acting chair of Sociology. On May 5, the Department of Sociology celebrated Gary's career, colleagueship and friendship with a special reception – on that, more in our next issue!

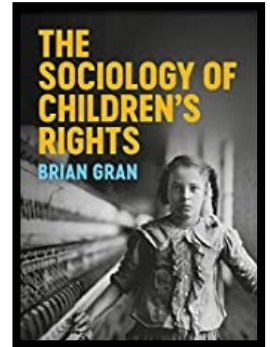
Department Highlights

Brian Gran publishes *The Sociology of Children's Rights*

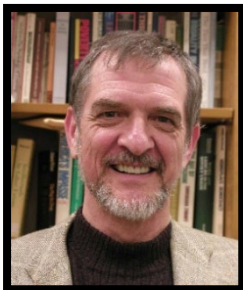


Professor Brian Gran has published a new book, *The Sociology of Children's Rights*, with Polity Books. In this book, Gran helps explain what is at stake when children's rights are compromised.

This insightful text presents core theories and key data about children's legal entitlements. The chapters tackle central questions regarding rights accrued to young people, whether they advance equality and how they influence children's identities, freedoms, and societal participation. Ultimately, this book shows how current frameworks hinder young people from possessing and benefiting from human rights, arguing that they function as cynical invitations to question whether we truly believe children are endowed with human rights. *The Sociology of Children's Rights* offers a critical and accessible introduction to understanding a complex issue in the contemporary world.

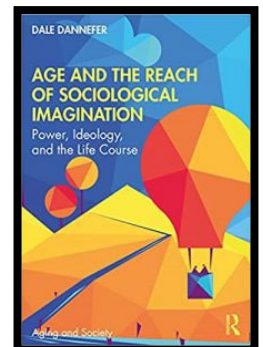


Dale Dannefer offers critical framework for understanding age and the life course



In August, Routledge published Dale Dannefer's monograph on the life course, *Age and the Reach of Sociological Imagination: Power, Ideology and the Life Course*.

In this book, Dannefer brings together key aspects and principles of his earlier work, analyzing key frontiers of investigation in the study of human development, age, and the life course. Virtually no aspect of age and aging, Dannefer contends, can be understood without taking into account the operation of social forces – whether in the shaping of the body by cultural practices, nutrition, and lifestyle opportunities, or in the way that the very idea of age operates in the constructions of popular culture or social policy. A particular strength of this framework is the ability to highlight the intersections between age and other dynamics of inequality and ideology. The book concludes by applying insights from the sociology of science and knowledge to interrogate both the study of aging and its uncritical acceptance of current age-graded institutional arrangements ranging from juvenile facilities to nursing homes, and by suggesting how the sociological imagination might facilitate a reimagining of taken-for-granted and naturalized, but often humanly destructive, age-graded social arrangements.



Jessica Kelley receives 2022 John S. Diekhoff Award



Professor Jessica Kelley was honored with the 2022 John S. Diekhoff Award for Distinguished Graduate Teaching for her legendarily effective approach in the classroom, especially related to statistics and research methods. Her classes begin with the reassurance, "Statistics can be learned by everyone." Professor Kelley empowers students to feel confidence in their analysis skills regardless of their level of experience. Students may trust in their ability even if they do not have an extensive background in mathematics. As editor of a major social science journal, Jessica can convey to students the factors involved in achieving the level of methodological rigor required for publication success in such venues.

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In addition to her demanding schedule teaching both innovative and established methods courses, Jessica also teaches popular courses such as Health Disparities and Body, Culture, and Disability. Whatever the course, she encourages active participation in class, which helps her assess comprehension and adjust her teaching plan, delving more deeply into difficult concepts and moving quickly through those more easily understood.

Jessica received this award during a ceremony on April 26, 2022, and was recognized during the university's commencement ceremonies on May 15. Her skills were clearly appreciated among her students, who nominated her for this award. For more details and student testimonials, read the May 4 issue of *The Daily*.

Departmental Administrator Michelle Corcoran named Notable Woman of the Year



In October, Michelle Corcoran, the Department of Sociology's administrator, received the 2021 Mather Notable Woman of the Year Award. Faculty, staff, and students attended a "watch party" to support Michelle and view the Mather Center's presentation of the 2021 Women of Achievement awards.

These awards recognize those whose outstanding professional accomplishments, leadership, and service have had a significant positive impact on our university community.

Michelle has been with the department for over 20 years. In addition to being an essential member of the department, she has also been a student. She earned an MBA from CWRU's Weatherhead School of Management in 2010.

The smooth operation of our department is dependent on countless unseen and mostly thankless tasks and decisions that Michelle carries out every day. In addition to her service and accomplishment, she has been a model of leadership both in and beyond the department. Please join us in congratulating Michelle on this much deserved award!

Don Hutcherson joins department faculty



In August 2021, Dr. Donald Hutcherson joined the Sociology faculty as a full-time lecturer. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology at The Ohio State University and has taught and conducted research in numerous other settings, including Ohio State, Cleveland State and Ohio University.

Don has teaching interests in the following areas: sociological research methods, social statistics, sociology over the life course, collective behavior, criminal and social justice, social class and social stratification, global stratification, and race and ethnicity.

Don has researched strategies to reduce the prison population produced by decades of mass incarceration. His work on the collateral consequences of incarceration was featured on National Public Radio and CNBC.

In his 2015 article "Youthful Arrest and Parental Support: Gendered Effects in Straining the Parent-Child Relationship," Don confirms the role of the parent-child relationship with respect to youth involvement in delinquency while examining the reverse—how an arrest for a delinquent offense impacts the parent-child relationship. While parental support is prone to gradual, yet significant, decline during the adolescent years, the arrest-parental support relationship appears to be non-linear. In other words, multiple juvenile arrests

Department Highlights

matter. In 2012's "Crime Pays: The Connection between Time in Prison and Future Criminal Earnings," Don finds that individuals with an incarceration history earn significantly higher annual illegal earnings than those without such a history, suggesting that significant time in jail or prison may produce a stigma that leads formerly incarcerated people into illegal opportunity structures to obtain income.

Please join the department in welcoming Don!

Karie Feldman and Heather Hurwitz accept new positions

Karie Feldman (PhD CWRU, 2010), former full-time lecturer in Sociology, accepted a position as Assistant Dean in CWRU's Office of Undergraduate Studies. She assumed her new role in January 2022.

As a Sociology lecturer, Karie was nominated multiple times for the Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She was also nominated for the J. Bruce Jackson, MD, Award in Undergraduate Mentoring in 2018 and named an Outstanding Faculty Advocate by Disability Resources in 2017 — all reflecting her dedication to supporting students and making clear the importance of sociology.



Heather McKee Hurwitz (PhD UC Santa Barbara, 2015), former full-time lecturer in Sociology, joined Cleveland Clinic last summer as a project staff researcher. Heather, whose recent book *Are We the 99%? The Occupy Movement, Feminism, and Intersectionality* has garnered considerable national attention (see the last edition of *Sociology News*), was also nominated multiple times for Wittke and Jackson awards.

While we will miss both Heather and Karie, we congratulate them on their exciting new roles!

Taylor Hargrove explores health consequences of skin color



In February 2021, the department hosted Professor Taylor Hargrove of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for a colloquium, "Examining the Health Consequences of Race, Skin Color, and School Context."

Dr. Hargrove's research seeks to uncover and explain the development of health disparities across the life course, focusing on the consequences of race, skin color, gender, and socioeconomic status. Her work addresses both between-group inequalities in health as well as sources of heterogeneity within groups that differentiate pathways to health. Her research explores linkages among socio-geographic contexts, individual-level characteristics, and biological measures of health in early adulthood.

Department Highlights

Adia Harvey Wingfield examines minority health care workers in the new economy



The Department of Sociology hosted its first in-person colloquium of the school year in October, co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Department of African and African American Studies, welcoming Professor Adia Harvey Wingfield of Washington University, St. Louis. Professor Wingfield delivered a lecture titled “Professional Work in a ‘Post-Racial’ Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy” and met with doctoral students and faculty to discuss the racial and gender inequality that persists in health care professions.

Professor Wingfield is Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor of Arts and Sciences and Vice Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity at Washington University. Her research examines how racial and gender inequality persists in professional occupations. She has served as President of both Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) and is an elected member of the Sociological Research Association. She is the author of two award winning books: *No More Invisible Man: Race and Gender in Men’s Work* and *Flatlining: Race, Work, and Health Care in the New Economy*. In addition to her academic scholarship, Professor Wingfield writes regularly for mainstream outlets including *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *Vox*, and *Harvard Business Review*.

Kamesha Spates examines suicide in the Black community



In February, the Department of Sociology hosted the first Spring 2022 colloquium. Professor Kamesha Spates delivered a lecture titled “Built for Pressure?: A Closer Look at Suicide in the Black Community” in the morning and met with doctoral students and faculty in the afternoon.

Professor Spates is Associate Professor of Sociology at Kent State University and the founder and director for the Racial Justice and Health Equity Research and Education Collaborative (RJHEREC), which trains Kent State undergraduate and graduate students to conduct health-related research from a racial equity and transdisciplinary standpoint. Her specializations include the intersections of race, class, and gender; the African American experience; mental health; and suicidology.

In 2016, she published “What Don’t Kill Us Makes Us Stronger: Black Women on Suicide,” offering a deeper understanding of the positive life strategies that underlie black women’s resilience. Her work can be found in the *Journal of Black Psychology*, *The Ohio Journal of Public Health*, *Sex Roles*, *Journal of Pan African Studies*, and media outlets including *Essence* and *HuffPost*.

Beth Richie lectures on Abolition Feminism



In April 2022, the Department of Sociology hosted Dr. Beth Richie, in a visit co-sponsored by the Department of History and the African and African American Studies Program. Professor Richie delivered a talk titled “Anti-Violence Scholarship and Racial Justice Activism: Reflections on Abolition Feminism” and met with interested faculty and students.

Professor Richie is Head of the Department of Criminology, Law and Justice and Distinguished Professor of Black Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her work focuses on Black feminism and gender violence, race and criminal justice policy, and the social dynamics of sexuality, prison abolition, and grassroots organizations in African American communities.

Department Highlights

She is the author of several books, including *Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation* and *Compelled to Crime: The Gender Entrapment of Black Battered Women*. She was interviewed, along with Angela Davis and Gina Dent, on *Democracy Now* to discuss their recently released book, *Abolition. Feminism. Now*.

In addition to advising the NFL's gender violence prevention program, Dr. Richie was a founding member of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African Community, the National Network for Women in Prison, and INCITE!: Women of Color Against Violence. Professor Richie has received multiple awards and an honorary degree from City University of New York Law School.

Socio-Technology of Cyber Security: an Experiential Learning Course

In November 2021, New America, a think tank focused on public policy issues, announced grant awards totaling \$270,000 for two CWRU faculty teams and a joint project with The Ohio State University and Cleveland State University. These grants reflect the current trend to expand the proactive and transparent use of technology to address critical problems in the public interest. Case Western Reserve University is a member of the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN), an initiative of New America.

One of these awards will enable Brian Gran and An Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Computer and Data Sciences, to create a new, multidisciplinary course: "Socio-Technology of Cyber Security: An Experiential Learning Course." In collaboration with community partners, this course will educate students about core technical issues and the ethical-societal-policy implications of cyberattacks and protective technologies. The course will be open to students of all undergraduate degree programs and seeks to foster PIT apprenticeships and internships for students who plan to pursue careers in cyber-security technology and policy.

These projects are also supported by funding provided by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for Smart, Secure, and Connected Systems (ISSACS), which coordinates PIT-UN activities at CWRU. ISSACS and PIT-UN activities are generously supported by the Cleveland Foundation through the Internet of Things (IoT) Collaborative's Community+Technology Hub.

Department Highlights

It's a WRAP! Course on mass imprisonment inspires the Western Reserve Abolitionist Project



The Western Reserve Abolitionist Project (WRAP), a new student group that emerged out of Professor Tim Black's course Racial Inequality and Mass Imprisonment in the US, launched in Spring 2022. The group currently has 16 members and hosted its first event on April 11, 2022.



The event, entitled Eroding Mass Incarceration: Pursuing Abolitionism in Ohio, centered on a panel discussion with representatives from five local and state organizations who spoke about their work to dismantle the carceral state. The panelists included Malika Kidd of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Chazidy Bowman of Opportunities People's Justice Leaders, Melekte Melaku of ACLU of Ohio, Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez of Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition, and Damian Calvert of Building Freedom Ohio.



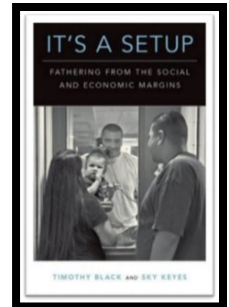
Tim Black's analysis featured by News 5 and ASA Section Newsletter



Professor Tim Black was interviewed on Cleveland News 5, where he offered a sociological perspective on the ongoing controversies in Ohio schools and school boards. His comments illustrated the value of a sociological framework for making sense of some aspects of a complex and dynamic social reality.

Tim's latest book, *It's A Setup: Fathering from the Social and Economic Margins*, was published in December 2020 by Oxford University Press (see prior issue of *Sociology News*). Tim and co-author Sky Keyes provide a moving and intimate narrative of the political and economic circumstances that shape the lives of low-income fathers. While the expectation for fathers to be more

involved with parenting is higher than ever, broad social, political, and economic changes make it more difficult for low-income men to be involved fathers. Fathers on the social and economic margins are set up to fail.



On this topic, Tim and Sky published an article, "Voices from the Margins: Low-Income Fatherhood in the Era of Neoliberalism," in *Humanity and Society*. In the fall, the article was profiled in the ASA's Section on Human Rights newsletter. When asked how he came to be interested in low-income fathers and their self-perceptions, he explained, "I was studying fragile families in Connecticut, working closely with a state agency that provided home visitation services to first-time mothers from vulnerable households. Mary Erdmans' and my book, *On Becoming a Teen Mom: Life Before Pregnancy*, is based on this work. Fathers were around but remained in the shadows of these services and research. I decided to reach out and learn more about these fathers, who ranged from being just-getting-by working class to very marginalized. I conducted three studies on low-income fathers during the decade of 2000, on which *It's a Setup: Fathering from the Social and Economic Margins* is based."

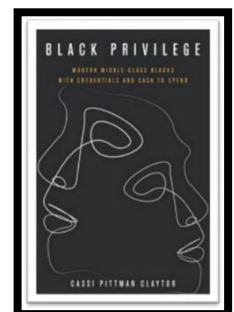
Cassi Pittman Claytor featured in *Forbes* and *Glossy*



Professor Cassi Pittman Claytor was featured in *Forbes* and *Glossy* for her research on racism in retail, specifically in relation to her work with Sephora. She was also featured in "Beyond Living the Dream," the cover story of the Summer 2021 issue of *art/sci*.

Cassi published *Black Privilege: Modern Middle-Class Blacks with Credentials and Cash to Spend* in September 2020. Her book addresses the intersection of race and class in elite spaces. In her book, Cassi studies the consumer experiences

and choices of 54 Black professionals in the New York City area between 2009 and 2014. She also looks at how they navigated their workplaces, including Fortune 500 companies and Wall Street firms, and the connections they maintained to Black institutions and cultural settings. Read more about Cassi and her accomplishments at her website, cassipittmanclaytor.com.



Faculty Updates

Mary Erdmans presents paper on Jewish Polish identity



In January, Mary Erdmans presented her paper “Jewish Polish Identity Construction in Wroclaw, NYC, and Mississippi” at the American Historical Association/Polish American Historical Association in New Orleans.

Founded in 1942, the Polish American Historical Association is a scholarly association dedicated to the study of Polish American history and culture.

Brian Gran publishes two op-eds in *The Hill*



Professor Brian Gran published two op-eds in *The Hill*, addressing the rights of Syrian refugee children and the role of hospitals in improving community health. “How the world can stop the radicalization of innocents in Syria” was published in November 2021. Brian discusses the many families and children relocated to Al-Hol and Al-Roj refugee camps after the fall of the Islamic State and the need to fight for the rights of children.

The U.S. Department of State selected Brian as a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Jefferson Science Fellow (JSF) in 2020. He has returned to his academic career but will remain involved with the U.S. Department of State/USAID for short-term projects for five years.

December’s op-ed, “Hospitals can truly benefit communities by going beyond the IRS standard,” is co-authored by Brian, CWRU alum Professor Cory E. Cronin (Ohio University’s College of Health Sciences and Professions), and Berkeley Franz. They explore the role hospitals play in community health, noting that hospitals’ tax-exempt status is contingent upon the IRS’ community benefit policy, which requires hospitals to promote health and benefit people served. The authors question whether hospitals truly offer community benefit when factors resulting in health inequities are not mitigated.

Brian Gran consults with White House and State Department, lectures at US-Kazakhstan Convention

Brian Gran has been invited to participate in a key stakeholder consultation on a national Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally (“the Global GBV Strategy”), co-hosted by USAID and the U.S. Department of State, with the support of the White House Gender Policy Council. So far, Gran has participated in February and March meetings, with additional meetings anticipated.

As part of the Jefferson Science Fellowship (JSF) program, Gran also participated in a Zoom session with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and discussed ideas for the JSF program and the contributions it can make to the State Department and USAID. “As JSF Fellows,” Brian noted during this session, “we are bringing our experiences back to the classroom. I will encourage CWRU students to pursue opportunities with the State Department and USAID.”

On December 16, 2021, Kazakhstan celebrated 30 years of independence. In the 1990s, the country closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site and voluntarily renounced the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world. In December, Brian was one of the featured speakers at the Kazakhstan-US Convention, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two nations, in Washington, D.C.

Faculty Updates

Sue Hinze researches spinal cord injury recovery



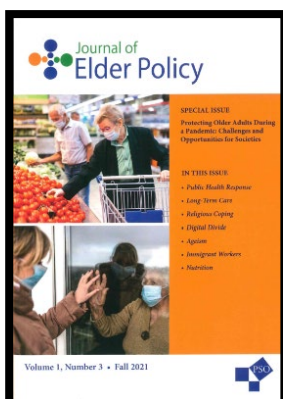
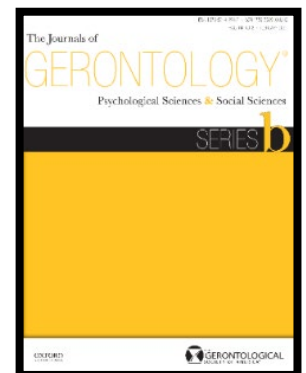
Professor Susan Hinze continues to work as part of a research team (also including Drs. Kim Anderson, Anne Bryden, and Brian Gran) on two separate funded research projects on recovery from spinal cord injuries. She presented early findings from this work at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in April. Her paper was titled "Who Cares? Spinal Cord Injuries and the Invisible Experiences of Support Persons."

Sue will travel to the ASA meeting in August to present another early findings paper titled "Coming Back from Injury: Barriers and Facilitators to Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury" at a session titled "Disability and Society: Focusing on Past, Present, and Future in Sociological Disability Studies."

Challenges of COVID-19 for older adults is focus of journals edited by Eva Kahana and Jessica Kelley

Two journals, each edited by a Sociology faculty member, have dedicated special issues to understanding the impact of COVID-19 and how to respond to it.

The April 2021 issue (Vol. 76, Issue 4) of *The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* (JGSS), edited by Jessica Kelley, included a "Virtual Collection: COVID-19—Healthcare Challenges for Older Adults." A second issue, called "Aging and COVID-19 2.0," will be released this summer, focusing on the long-term impacts of the pandemic, such as extended loneliness and cost of delayed health care. JGSS is the flagship social science journal for the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and has one of the highest impact factors in the field of gerontology.



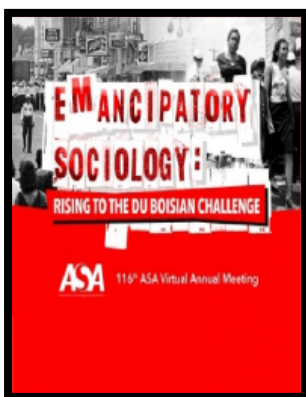
The Journal of Elder Policy, edited by Eva Kahana, dedicated the Fall 2021 issue (Vol. 1, Issue 3) to developing an international base of knowledge on the impact of COVID-19 and attendant policy considerations and implications. The special issue's topics included public health response, long-term care, religious coping, digital divide, ageism, immigrant workers, and nutrition. *The Journal of Elder Policy*, launched during the pandemic, with Eva as its founding editor. The publication is off to a strong start as a forum for international discussions of policies related to age and aging.

Sociology faculty and students present at ASA Annual Meeting

The American Sociological Association (ASA) held its annual conference virtually in August 2021, with the theme Emancipatory Sociology: Rising to the Du Boisian Challenge.

Professor Cassi Pittman Claytor (CWRU) and David K. Crockett (University of South Carolina-Columbia) presented "Theorizing Marketplace Racism and Racially-Biased Exclusionary Treatment." Cassi also presided at a roundtable, "Mentor Workshop: From Dissertation to Book Proposal," with Clayton Childress of the University of Toronto.

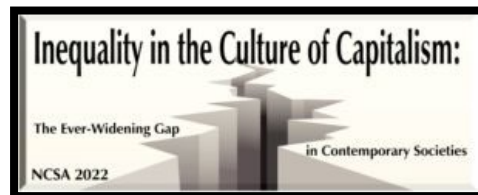
Several sociology graduate students presented at the event. Well done, everyone!



- Luma Issa AlMasarweh, "Understanding Second-Generation Arab American Transnationalism"
- Wenxuan Huang, "Reconnect the Youth: A Comparison of School-to-Work Trajectories between GED Recipients and High School Graduates"
- Chengming Han, "Oral Health Disparities among Asians in the U.S.: The Role of Household Language"
- Jiao Yu, "Cumulative Advantage/Disadvantage or Selection: Chinese Women's Fertility History and Later Life Health"
- Abolade Oladimeji, "Marital Status Differences in the Perception of Neighborhood Safety and Financial Stress on Life Satisfaction"

North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting Presentations

In April, Dyanna Burnham, Colleen Kavanaugh, and Professor Gary Deimling attended the North Central Sociological Association (NCSA) Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Together, they presented "The Impact of Race and Education on the Quality of Life of Older Cancer Survivors," which was authored by Gary, Dyanna, Colleen, and Spencier Ciaralli.



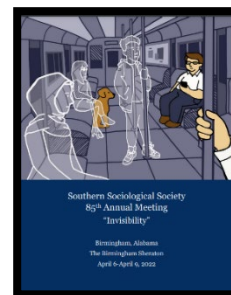
The theme of the 2022 NCSA Annual Meeting was Inequality in the Culture of Capitalism: The Ever-Widening Gap in Contemporary Societies. Dyanna and Colleen presented their work with cancer survivors. Dyanna presented "Medical Skepticism Among Older Adult Cancer Survivors: Impact of Race and Education." Colleen's presentation was titled "The Use of Flexible Social Resources in Older Adult Cancer Survivors: The Intersectional Influence of Race and Education."

Graduate Student Updates

Southern Sociological Society Presentations

Later in April, Casey Albitz and Professor Sue Hinze attended the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to presenting "Extending an Invisible Crisis: Eviction and a Morale of Mitigation," Casey was the presider at a paper session titled "Food and Housing Inequalities."

Sue presented "Who Cares? Spinal Cord Injuries and the Invisible Experiences of Support Persons" during the Disability and Visibility paper session.



More Conference Presentations

Gary Deimling, Dyanna Burnham, Gabrielle Beck, and Spencier Ciaralli presented a virtual poster titled "Predictors of Racial Differences in Depression and Affect among Older Adult, Long-Term Cancer Survivors" at the 2021 Gerontological Society of America Conference in November.

Earlier, in March 2021, the same team (Dyanna, Gary, Spencier, and Gabrielle) presented a virtual poster entitled "Racial Differences in Mood and Affect among Older Adult Cancer Survivors" during the Cancer Disparities Symposium in Cleveland.

Reema Sen presented and co-presented three papers this past year. In August, she presented a paper titled "Can Targeted Intervention Reduce Social Inequalities: A Case Study of BRACs Targeting the Ultra Poor in Bangladesh" at the meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). She also presented work at two conferences with Professor Brian Gran. In November, they presented at the Sociological Society of Himachal Pradesh (SSHPP) international conference on "Digital Nomadism: Leveraging the Knowledge Economy for Competitive Tourism in Asia," and in December, they delivered a paper at the Social Practice of Human Rights Conference in Dayton titled "Does Human Rights Derogation Limit COVID-19 Infections?"

Congratulations to Sociology's Graduate Student Award Winners!

Each spring, faculty and staff from each department nominate students for awards offered through the School of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award is presented to graduate student assistants who demonstrate outstanding achievement in undergraduate instruction and recognizes their exceptional skill and dedication. The Ruth Barber Moon Award is presented to one graduate student per department for demonstrating academic promise and leadership ability. The Marie Haug Award is presented annually to graduate students who have shown exemplary performance in gerontological studies. Established in 1990 for her pioneering work in aging at CWRU, the award honors Dr. Haug who co-founded the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing's University Center on Aging and Health in 1978.

Three Sociology graduate students were honored in Spring 2021. Mike Slone received the Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award, Chenming Huan received the Marie Haug Award, and Collette Ngana received the Graduate Student Appreciation Award.



Graduate Student Updates



This spring, three more of our graduate students were recognized during a ceremony on April 26, 2022. Casey Albitz received the Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award, Polina Ermoshkina received the Ruth Barber Moon Award, and Poshan Dahal received the Marie Haug Award.

In 2021, Minzhi Ye received the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Boaz Kahana Student Poster Award and the GSA Mentoring and Career Development Technical Assistance Workshop Diversity Fellow Award.



Please join us in congratulating all of these students!

Polina Ermoshkina in *Journal of Cross Cultural Gerontology*



In January 2022, Polina Ermoshkina published her master's thesis, "In the Shadows of Others: Unheard Voices of Older Russian Immigrant Women in the United States," in *The Journal of Cross Cultural Gerontology* with co-author Kate de Medeiros, a professor at Miami University. Her research focused on older post-Soviet U.S. immigrants who lived in a totalitarian regime until middle age and found their lives profoundly altered after its fall. The qualitative study examined the experiences and caregiving expectations of these women through in-depth interviews.

Reema Sen, Amber Byrd, Michelle Gotto research children's rights

On February 17, 2022, Reema Sen, Amber Byrd, and Michelle Gotto received invitations to participate in the meeting Research in the Area of Children's Rights and Child Welfare, sponsored by the Schubert Center, the Mandel School and the Department of Anthropology. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the students to discuss and explore the challenges of their own studies with leading researchers in an informal setting. The special guest at this meeting was Dr. Hanita Kosher, a faculty member at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Kosher is the academic director of Haruv USA, an international training center for professionals in the field of child maltreatment, located at the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa.

Reema Sen publishes in *Cleveland Scene*

In September, Reema responded to Literary Cleveland's call for American immigrants of Northeast Ohio to share their stories. Reema's essay, "Rolling Stone Gathers Moss," was published in *Cleveland Scene* magazine during Global Cleveland's Welcoming Week. In December, she was a panelist with fellow essay authors in a YouTube program, "Becoming American: In Our Backyard: Immigrant Voices of Cleveland." Reema has traveled to 59 countries and called several home, including her native India, China, the United Kingdom, and now Cleveland.



Luma AlMasarweh, Spencier Ciaralli, Wenxuan (Cherry) Huang, and Jiao Yu successfully defended their dissertations in early summer 2021.

Sara Kennedy defended her dissertation in November 2021.

Sherri Brown and Minzhi Ye defended their dissertations in January and March 2022, respectively.

Please join us in congratulating these PhD graduates!

“Transnational Projects of Second-Generation Arab Americans”

Luma AlMasarweh

**The Climax of the Story:
Queering Women’s Sexual Histories and Pleasure Narratives**

Spencier Ciaralli

**Leisure to Explore or Failure to Launch?
A Cohort Comparison of the Transition to Adulthood between Late Baby
Boomers and Early Millennials**

Wenxuan (Cherry) Huang

**Fertility History and Later Life Health:
A Sequence Analysis of Cohorts
before and during the One-Child Policy Era**

Jiao Yu

How Transportation Plays a Role in Care of People with Epilepsy

Sara Kennedy

**Does Long-Term Stress Contribute to Racial Disparities in Health?
Testing an Extended Stress Process Model**

Sherri Brown

**Differences in Long-Term Health Trajectories between Older Cancer
Survivors and Older Adults without Cancer**

Minzhi Ye

Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society



In 2021, seven students were initiated into the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society and eighteen students were recipients of Undergraduate Awards. The 2021 AKD initiates, along with the five 2020 AKD initiates, were recognized during the virtual 2021 awards ceremony on May 7. The 2021 initiates were Judith Cusack, Lakshmi Garimella, David Gueye, Manpreet Kaur, Junyi Luo, Anna Ryder, and Jiara Sanders.

Vanessa Pilatova received the Schermerhorn Award for an outstanding student in sociology. The Mark Lefton Award for excellence in sociological studies was given to Hannah Allen, Jazmin Diaz, Lina Kim, Jiara Sanders, and Nathan Shapiro. The Stella Berkeley-Friedman Award, recognizing seniors for the highest academic achievement in the study of sociology, was awarded to Anisha Bhargava, Lori Chan, Natalie Hiney, Anitra Karthic, Roshana Kishnappa, Sarah Kim, Becca Lee, and Kiana Loo. The Robert C. Davis Award for demonstrated commitment to sociological studies went to Judith Cusack, David Gueye, Morgan Jones, and Crystal Tascon. Although we could not celebrate their achievements in person, we are very proud of their work!

This year, five students were initiated into the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society. The 2022 AKD initiates were recognized during an in-person ceremony on April 28, 2022. This year's initiates were Mya-Ariel Blake, Kathryn Jennie Freeman, Lina Kim, Eileah Rye, and Linda Rinella.

During the April 2022 ceremony, 13 students were recipients of Undergraduate Awards. The Schermerhorn Award for an outstanding student in sociology was given to Olivia Min and Joey O'Donnell. The Mark Lefton Award for excellence in sociological studies went to Mya-Ariel Blake, Cielle Brady, Ashley Hawkins, and Lina Kim. The Stella Berkeley-Friedman Award to seniors for the highest academic achievement in the study of sociology went to Jasmine Cuenca, Kenzie Fox, Samuel Martinez, Anurithi Senthil, and Camille Witt. The Robert C. Davis Award for demonstrated commitment to sociological studies went to Michele Lew and Anna Ryder. We are very proud of their work!



Undergraduate Student Updates

Jiara Sanders Receives 2021 James Dysart Magee Award

Sociology major Jiara Sanders won the 2021 James Dysart Magee Award! Granted in the senior year, this prestigious award is given to one outstanding social and behavioral science major annually. Congratulations!

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in sociology, Jiara is pursuing a master's degree in social administration through the Integrated Graduate Studies Program.



Sociology Senior Capstone Presentations

On December 6, 10 sociology majors presented their Senior Capstone Experience (SOCI 392). Each of these independent projects reflected the student's emerging intellectual interests and strengths. The topics were drawn from diverse sociological areas and utilized a number of methodologies. For those who were not able to attend, the poster presentations are on display in the Sociology Department's hallway.



2021 Senior Capstone Project Presentations

"No Vacancy: Using Machine Learning to Predict Gentrification and Displacement Vulnerability in Cleveland, Ohio"

Samuel Martinez

"Urban Rebellion and Institutional Governance: The Coloniality of Power in and around University Circle"

Morgan Jones

"Producing Terror Isn't Deep: Louisiana's State Agenda and the History of State-Violence During Hurricane Katrina"

Hailey Marshall

"TikTok's Increasing Influence on Generation Z"

Nicole Lu

"Generational Perceptions of Healthcare and Their Effect on Immigrant Health"

Lexi Celaya

"Personal Environmentalism Study"

Gwendolyn Yates

"Making Cleveland Home"

Tyler Kapusta

"Covering the Spread: Unmasking Communication Strategies in College Responses to COVID"

Joey O'Donnell

"As They See Us: Prevailing Images of Queer Men in LGBT+ Californian Media"

Calvin Gibson

"Understanding the Difficulty in Female Promotion in the Investment Banking Industry"

Evelyn (Yihong) Nie

Alumni Updates

Where Are They Now?

Spencier Ciaralli (2021) accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Augustana University.

Sara Kennedy (2022) is a research associate in the Population and Quantitative Health Sciences Department at Case Western Reserve University.

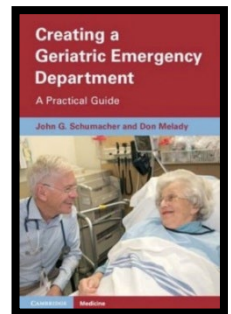
Alicia Smith-Tran (2018) recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Oberlin College.

Wenxuan (Cherry) Huang (2021) joined the Department of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University as Research Assistant Professor.

Jiao Yu (2021) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota.

John Schumacher Publishes Book on Geriatric Care

In December 2021, CWRU Sociology alum John Schumacher published *Creating a Geriatric Emergency Department: A Practical Guide*, incorporating his research on geriatric emergency departments and care delivery models for older adults. John is currently Co-Director of the UMBC/UMB Gerontology Doctoral Program.



Paritosh Joshi Produces Tedx Talk



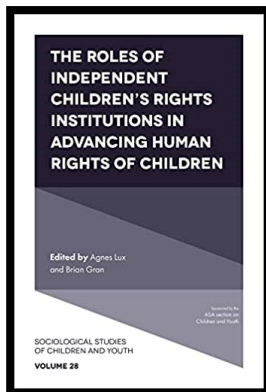
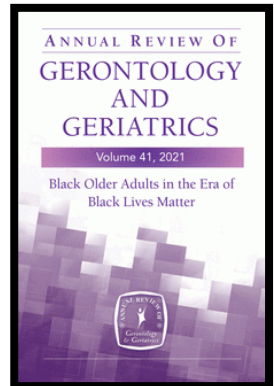
In the spring of 2020, CWRU alum Paritosh Joshi earned an MA in Sociology through the Integrated Graduate Studies program in addition to BAs in sociology and psychology. Currently, Paritosh is a Research Assistant and Business Analyst in the Mental Health Services and Policy Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He works in the Family CARE Parenting Lab and on various team projects with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. In addition, he is the co-chair of his program's Advocacy Committee, through which he facilitates discussions on anti-racism initiatives, community outreach events, departmental affinity groups, and podcasts and news articles. He also serves on the Racial Justice and Equity Committee and collaborates with team members to tackle racial biases among the program's research programs and employees. His research interests focus on studying mental health disparities through the lens of race. In March 2021, in a Tedx Talk titled "Social Media & Mental Health," Paritosh spoke about the effects of social media on mental health and explained how people can take control of social media usage to yield more beneficial results for themselves as well as others. Be sure to watch his talk on Ted.com.

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.

Two Annual Series Co-Edited by Sociology Faculty

During their second year as Series Editors of the *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics* (Springer Publishing), Professor Jessica Kelley and Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. worked with Linda Chatters to produce the 2021 volume, “Black Older Adults in the Era of Black Lives Matter.” The volume featured articles representing the state of the field in the areas of mental health, spirituality, impact of lifetime discrimination, and political participation among Black older adults. The 2020 volume focused on “Economic Inequality in Later Life.”



Professor Brian Gran and Agnes Lux co-edited an annual volume, *The Roles of Independent Children's Rights Institutions in Advancing Human Rights of Children*. Former deputy head of the Hungarian Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and former child rights education and advocacy director of UNICEF Hungary, Agnes Lux is an International Visitor Leadership Program alumna and a research fellow at the Centre for Social Sciences in Hungary. The articles in this collection describe the contributors' firsthand experiences in directing, working for, and studying independent children's rights institutions (ICRIs).

ICRIs have been established across the world and endorsed by the United Nations. They function independently of their governments but are endowed with legal powers. The chapters in this book examine ICRIs in Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and the United States to detail how they function, factors impacting their success, and the objectives ICRIs seek to achieve. The book also introduces innovative ideas about ICRIs' independence and legal powers.

Other Department Publications

Black, Timothy. 2022. "Humanism, Social Justice, and the Art of Ethnography." In *The Handbook of Humanist Sociology*, edited by Daina Cheyenne Harvey and David G. Embrick. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan (in press).

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Boggio, Andrea and Brian Gran. 2021. "A Proposal for Indicators of the Human Right to Science." In *The Human Right to Science, Then and Now*, edited by Helle Porsdam and Sebastian Porsdam Mann. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

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Department Publications

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- Choyke, Kelly L., Cory E. Cronin, Vanessa Rodriguez, Brian C. Gran, and Berkeley Franz. 2022. "An Organization's Role in Anchoring Community Health: How For-Profit Hospitals Balance Corporate and Social Responsibility." *Qualitative Research in Health* 2(2022):1000037. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2021.100037>.
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- Gran, B. 2021. A World Society Analysis of the Rights of Unaccompanied Children. In *Rights of Unaccompanied Minors* by Yvonne Marie Vissing and Sofia Leitao. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.
- Kahana, Eva, Boaz Kahana, and Polina Ermoshkina. 2021. "The Many Faces of Creativity in Old Age." In *The Cambridge Handbook of Lifespan Development of Creativity*, edited by Sandra W. Russ, Jessica D. Hoffmann, and James C. Kaufman. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108755726.014
- Kelley, Jessica and Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. 2021. "The Interplay of Age, Period, and Cohort: Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases in Later Life." In *Handbook of Aging and Social Sciences*, 9th Edition, edited by Kenneth Ferraro and Deborah Carr. New York, NY: Elsevier.
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- Shura, Robin and Brian Gran. 2021. "The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC): Key Influences in Children's Rights Promotion." In *The Roles of Independent Children's Rights Institutions in Advancing Human Rights of Children*, edited by Agnes Lux and Brian Gran. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Slone, Michael, Timothy Black, and Alicia Smith-Tran. 2021. "On the Job, Off the Books: Organizing Against Worker Misclassification in the Neoliberal Era." *Critical Sociology* 2021:1-19.