

SOCIOLOGY

VOLUME I

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



2019

FAU DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR</u>	1
<u>NEW FACULTY PROFILES</u>	2-3
<u>RETIREMENTS</u>	4
<u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	5
<u>FACULTY PUBLICATIONS</u>	6-7
<u>DEPT. WORKSHOPS/FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS</u>	8
<u>GRADUATE NEWS</u>	9
<u>GRADUATE UPDATES</u>	10-12
<u>UNDERGRADUATE NEWS</u>	13-15
<u>CONTACT</u>	16



SOCIOLOGY

Message From the Chair

On behalf of the FAU Sociology department, I am pleased to present the first edition of our newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the many accomplishments of our faculty and students, and we invite all alumni and current students to send us updates so that we can feature your stories in future editions of the newsletter.

The Sociology Department has undergone amazing transformation and growth in recent years. Since becoming chair of the department three years ago, I have had the enormous satisfaction of hiring a dynamic and energetic set of talented assistant professors who have taken leading roles in moving the department forward. In 2016, Dr. Lotus Seeley and Dr. Laura Backstrom joined the department as microsociologists specializing in gender and sexuality. In 2018, we added three new tenure track faculty who bring expertise in exciting areas of sociology: Dr. Carter Koppelman specializes in urban social policy in Latin America, Dr. William McConnell specializes in aging, health, and social networks, and Dr. Nikolas Summers specializes in quantitative methods, consumption, and environment. We also hired Dr. Robert Caputi as a full time instructor for the Davie campus. See page 2 for more information about the new hires.

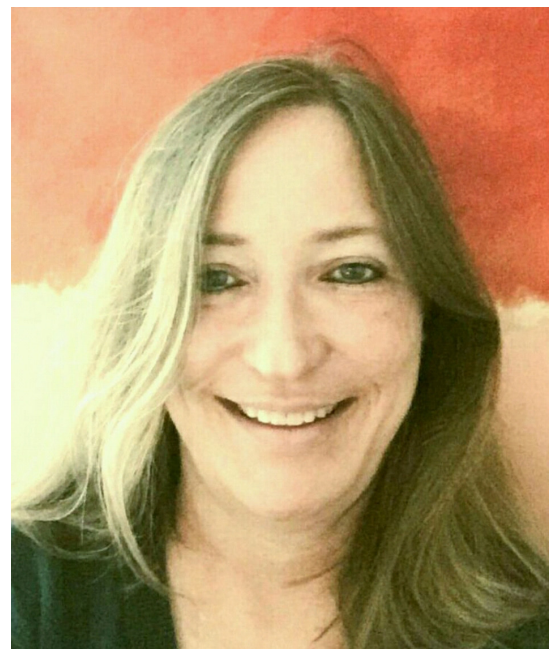
The sociology department's level of research engagement has increased tremendously. Since 2017, members of our department has collectively published 11 journal articles, two book chapters, and one book! In addition, faculty have participated in numerous conference presentations, written book reviews, and received distinguished fellowships and awards. See pages 6-8 for the details of these incredible accomplishments!

Our research productivity has not only enhanced our department's profile in the discipline, but it also has increased opportunities for students to collaborate with faculty. Since 2017, five students have written MA theses, and the BA Honors program in Sociology launched in fall 2018. Many of our graduate and undergraduate students have gone on to prestigious Ph.D. programs or launched fulfilling careers related to sociology. Check out pages 10-12 as well as our department's website for alumni updates.

Faculty are working enthusiastically to advance our department's Writing Enhanced Curriculum project and to promote the university's Undergraduate Research Initiative through the development of research intensive courses for sociology majors and participation in the university's SURF program. Faculty have also been increasing undergraduates' exposure and skill development in sociological research through innovative courses and Directed Independent Studies (see page 13).

Whether you are a Sociology alum, a prospective student, or a current member of the department, we are grateful that you have taken time to celebrate all of the great things going on in the department these days. FAU sociology is better and stronger than ever. If we have lost touch over the years, we invite you to send us your updated contact information and become an active participant in our department's culture and events. You can always reach us at sociology@fau.edu.

Dr. Ann Branaman Sociology Department Chair



Nikolas Summers, Ph.D.



Nik Summers received his Ph.D. in sociology from Indiana University in 2018, an M.A. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a B.A. in sociology from Texas Lutheran University.

He has research interests in the sociology of consumption, environmental sociology, urban and community sociology, economic sociology, and political sociology. One unifying thread across his research projects is an interest in socially and ecologically sustainable political economy. In a current project, Nik is studying the “tiny house movement” as a lens for viewing the relationship between social class and consumption and lifestyle culture(s).

Nik also enjoys teaching and mentoring students. He teaches a variety of classes at FAU, including *Urban Community*, *Sociological Analysis: Quantitative Methods*, and *the Sociology of Consumption* (graduate and undergraduate).

“I chose FAU Sociology because of the balance the department offers between research and teaching, allowing me to develop my career in both areas. I hope to make contributions to scholarship and teaching worthy of FAU, and I’m excited to have landed in a department filled with supportive colleagues and engaged students.”

William McConnell, Ph.D.



Will McConnell completed his doctorate in Sociology at Indiana University Bloomington, where he also obtained an MS in Applied Statistics. Prior to that, he studied sociology and suicide at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in upstate New York. He first discovered Sociology during an Intro course at HWS. He was originally interested in Social Work, but that first class inspired him to pursue a career in teaching and research. Since a lot of students find Sociology that way, he always try to inspire his students to develop their own sociological interests.

Will’s areas of expertise include social networks, aging, mental health, culture, and quantitative methods. One line of Will’s research focuses on the dynamic relationship between supportive social networks and Alzheimer’s disease. This research contributes to community-based care initiatives through identifying how, when, and why informal caregivers are effective intervention partners for medical professionals. A second line of research focuses on the use of administrative medical records to study professional relationships among physicians. Will teaches several courses at FAU, including *Research Methods*, *Aging and Dying*, *Mental Health*, and *Healthy Aging* (graduate).

“I’m looking forward to forming new collaborative relationships with FAU students and faculty. Everyone has been so welcoming so far. Especially as someone who studies health and aging, South Florida is a great place to be.”

Carter Koppelman, Ph.D.



Carter Koppelman was a relative latecomer to the discipline of sociology. As an undergraduate, he majored in International Relations and focused primarily on the study of development economics and Latin American history. However, in the process of conducting research for an undergraduate thesis project in Chile, he found that sociological theories and analyses vastly enriched his understanding of urban politics in Latin America. Attracted to a discipline where he could conduct theoretically-driven ethnographic research, he pursued a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California-Berkeley.

In January, Professor Koppelman joined the Sociology Department at Florida Atlantic University, where he will be teaching in the areas of development & globalization, social theory, social movements, and various aspects of cities and urban life.

Today, Professor Koppelman's research examines how social and developmental policies in Latin America affect the living conditions, identities, and practices of urban citizens. He takes an on-the-ground approach to studying the state, using participant observation to explore how policies devised by dominant political actors are used and contested by individuals in their everyday lives, and social movements in collective struggles for dignity in unequal societies. His doctoral dissertation looks at how neoliberal affordable housing programs in Chile and Brazil shaped poor and working-class women's struggles for urban inclusion. Using a comparative ethnography of grassroots housing organizations in Santiago and São Paulo, it investigates how local political contexts shape the ways in which women mobilize to claim dignity, autonomy, and security in different Latin American cities. He has recently published articles from his research in *Latin American Perspectives* and *City & Community*, and is currently developing a number of manuscripts on the politics of gender, citizen participation, and social stigma in affordable housing programs.

"I am excited to join an intellectually engaging department where faculty and students are teaching, learning, and researching an array of interesting and timely sociological topics. More broadly, I am drawn to FAU as an institution with a public mission to serve the multiple communities that make south Florida a rich and diverse region."

Robert Caputi, Ph.D.



Robert Caputi received his PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2011, and before joining the FAU faculty in January 2019, he taught at Borough of Manhattan Community College and Long Island University, Post. His dissertation was an ethnographic study of the sexual aesthetics and sexual politics of the bear community, a gay male subculture. Dr. Caputi is currently teaching undergraduate courses in *Cultural Sociology*, *Sociology of Mass Media*, *Research Methods*, and *Sociology of Masculinities*. His teaching is driven by the feminist belief that the personal is political and the claim by cultural studies scholars that the roles of culture and representation are often under-theorized in social science departments.

He runs a highly interactive classroom, but continually seeks ways to ensure that it is also intellectually rigorous. At the beginning of the semester, he and the students discuss the classroom etiquette they desire and the learning goals and expectations they have. In all courses, he emphasizes critical thinking skills and starts with a review of key sociological concepts and methodologies. Throughout the semester, he explicitly explains the skills he is helping them to develop by utilizing Benjamin Bloom's "Taxonomy of Educational Objectives", and they discuss the ways that the writing assignments and oral presentations that they do are preparing them for their future in graduate/professional schools and/or their work lives.

"Prior to joining FAU this semester, I taught at an urban community college, and a suburban 4-year private college. I enjoyed my time at the for your college because I was able to teach more upper division electives, but overall I enjoyed my time at the community college more because of the diversity and the amount of nontraditional students. Teaching at FAU Davie has been very rewarding so far because I am now teaching upper division courses to the type of students I had in community college."

RETIREMENTS



Dr. Lynn Appleton

Dr. Appleton is Professor Emerita in the Department of Sociology. During her years at FAU, she won every teaching award granted by the University and was the youngest faculty member ever to be named "Distinguished Teacher of the Year." She was named one of FAU's "100 Women of Distinction" in 2016; in the 1980's, she got her first significant salary increase as part of FAU's settlement of a sex discrimination suit. Among other university positions, she served as UFF/FAU President, Director of Women's Studies, Senior Associate Dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, Chair of the Department of Sociology, and Special Assistant to the Provost. She was the University liaison to the CU building's design, planning and construction and she might be the only person on campus who knows how to control the atrium lights. She chaired the University's promotion and tenure committee for many years and was extensively involved in the development of the University's system for reviewing faculty accomplishments. She has always enjoyed "finding the meaning of the past that is gone" (to quote FAU's Alma Mater) as well as trying to figure out what is going on right now and what's likely to happen next. Her research has ranged over many substantive areas but always hinged on issues of power.



Dr. Marsha Shapiro Rose

Dr. Rose, Associate Professor of Sociology, will retire in May 2019. Her primary research interests and publications have been directed at the connections between gender and wealth. She received an award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching as well as an award for Outstanding Service to FAU Students.



Dr. Thomas C. Wilson

Dr. Wilson, Professor of Sociology, retired in May 2018. His main areas of expertise are quantitative analysis of large-scale survey data; intergroup relations and especially race and ethnic group relations in the US; urban sociology and urban subcultures; and cultural and economic capitals, especially as they impact subjective well-being. His work was published in *Social Forces*, *International Review of Sociology of Sport*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *American Sociological Review* and *American Journal of Sociology* as well as other leading journals.



Dr. Naihua Zhang

Dr. Zhang, Associate Professor of Sociology, retired in December 2017. Her main areas of expertise are social movement and social change, the sociology of development, the intersection of class, race/ethnicity, gender and nation, globalization and inequality, state and civil society, China studies, and Asian studies. Her teaching was centered at the Davie campus.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Arthur Evans Jr.

OCTOBER 1951 - DECEMBER 2017

Dr. Arthur Evans, Jr. professor of sociology, died on Dec. 11, 2017 at age 66 after a prolonged illness. Dr. Evans had a distinguished career at FAU as a faculty member and department chair, serving at FAU for a total of 37 years.

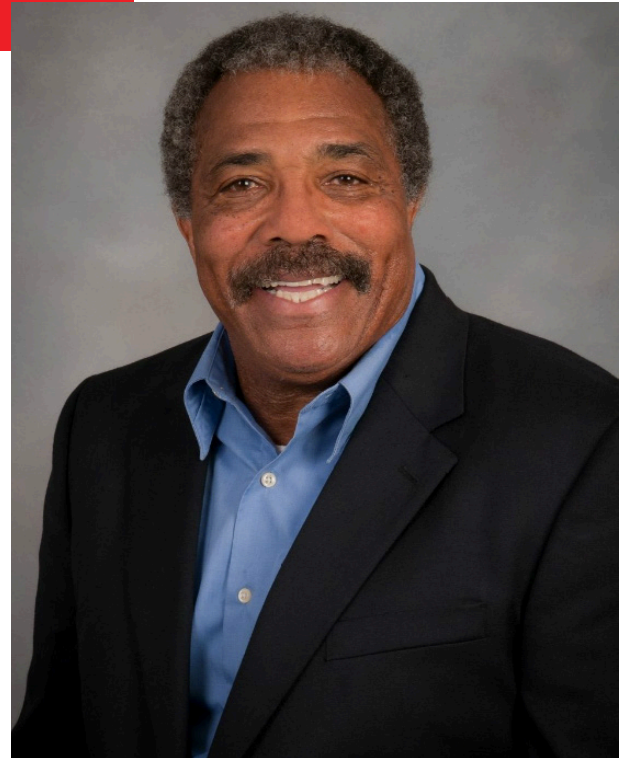
Dr. Evans earned his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in 1978 and began his career as an Assistant Professor at Indiana University-South Bend before being recruited to FAU in 1980. Dr. Evans earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and further promoted to the rank of Professor in 1990.

Dr. Evans served as the Chair of the Department of Sociology from 1989-2000 and as Director of Ethnic Studies from 1994-2002.

During his career at FAU, Dr. Evans authored 26 articles, presented more than 40 papers at academic conferences, and co-authored an important book, *Pearl City, Florida: A Black Community Remembers*. Dr. Evans' published work focused largely on the racial stratification in sports, in education, in communities, and in the discipline of Sociology. He is best known for his research on the Black middle class.

During his time at FAU, Dr. Evans was honored with many distinguished awards. He was twice awarded the Degree of Difference Award, once in 2001 and again in 2013 by the FAU National Alumni Association. He was twice selected as the college's nominee for Distinguished Teacher of the Year, once in 2006 and again in 2013. In addition, he was awarded the College of Social Science Distinguished Scholar award during the 1990-1991 academic year, the College of Social Science Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991, and the College of Social Science Distinguished Faculty award from FAU Minority Student Services in 1992.

Dr. Evans was one of the most highly regarded classroom professors by FAU's students. His courses were among the very first sociology courses to reach capacity, and he always received the highest ratings from students. Dr. Evans' relentless passion for transmitting the core concepts and insights of the discipline of Sociology earned him the designation of "Preacher of Sociology" by many students who took his courses as well his colleagues who could hear his booming voice in the classroom through layers of walls. Dr. Evans taught a wide repertoire of courses at FAU, including *Race and Ethnic relations*, *Sociology of Sport*, *Social Conflict*, *Sociology of Aging and Dying*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Sociology of Migration*, and others. He will be greatly missed in the classroom, both by his students and by colleagues.



FACULTY

PUBLICATIONS

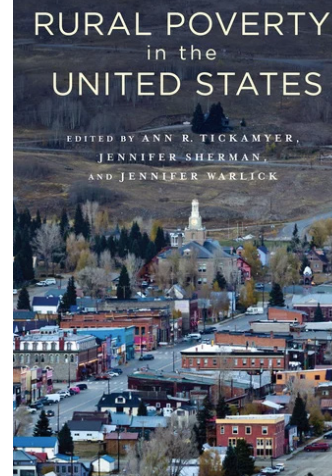
Dr. Philip Lewin

Dr. Lewin published “Coal is Not Just a Job; It’s a Way of Life’: The Cultural Politics of Coal Production in Central Appalachia” in *Social Problems* in 2019. He also has two forthcoming works: “I Just Keep My Mouth Shut’: The Demobilization of Environmental Protest in Central Appalachia” will be published in *Social Currents* and “Global Environmental Governance under the Trump Administration: Challenges and Possibilities” will be published in the edited volume, *Trump Administration and the Americas*.



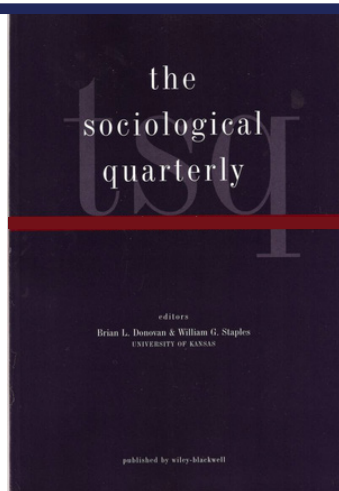
Dr. Mark Harvey

Dr. Harvey published a chapter in the edited volume, *Rural Poverty in the USA*, (J. Sherman, A. Tickamyer and J. Warlick, eds, Columbia University Press) in 2017 entitled “Racial inequalities and poverty in Rural America,” which addresses the ongoing role of racism in the perpetuation of poverty among rural minorities.



Dr. Will McConnell

Dr. McConnell’s latest article with co-author Emma Cohen, “Fear of Fraudulence: Graduate School Program Environments and the Impostor Phenomenon.” will soon appear in *The Sociological Quarterly*. In 2017, he published “Cultural Guides, Cultural Critics: Distrust of Doctors and Social Support during Mental Health Treatment” in *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.



Dr. Greg Lukasik

Dr. Lukasik published a book review of *Social Mobilization, Global Capitalism and Struggle over Food: A Comparative Study of Social Movements* by Renata Motta in *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* in June 2018.



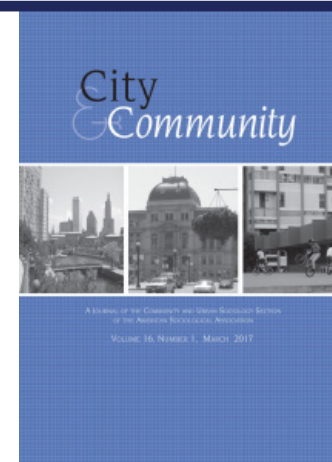
Dr. Farshad Araghi

Dr. Araghi, along with co-author Philip McMichael, published “What Was Postmodernity? Capitalism and Historical Crises of Modernity in Global Context: A World-Historical Analysis” in *Review: A Journal of the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems and Civilizations* in 2017.

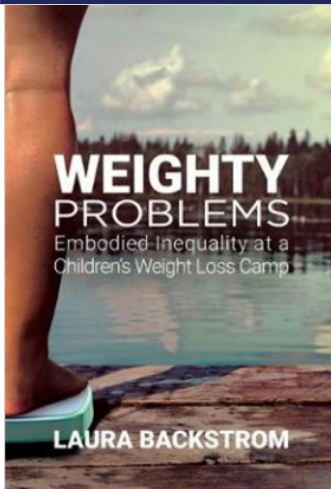


Dr. Carter Koppelman

Dr. Koppelman published an article entitled “For Now, We Are in Waiting’: Negotiating Time in Chile’s Social Housing System” in *City & Community* in 2018.



Dr. Laura Backstrom



Dr. Backstrom published her first book entitled *Weighty Problems: Embodied Inequality at a Children's Weight Loss Camp* (Rutgers University Press, 2019).

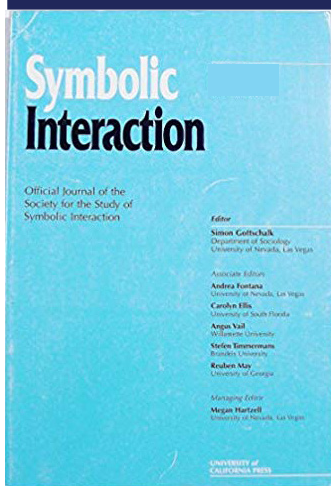
Many parents, teachers, and doctors believe that childhood obesity is a social problem that needs to be solved. Yet, missing from debates over what caused the rise in childhood obesity and how to fix it are the children themselves. By investigating how contemporary cultural discourses of childhood obesity are experienced by children, Laura Backstrom illustrates how deeply fat stigma is internalized during the early socialization experiences of children. *Weighty Problems* details processes of embodied inequality: how the children came to recognize inequalities related to their body size, how they explained the causes of those differences, how they responded to micro-level injustices in their lives, and how their participation in a weight loss program impacted their developing self-image. The book finds that embodied inequality is constructed and negotiated through a number of interactional processes including resocialization, stigma management, social comparisons, and attribution.

Dr. Phillip Hough



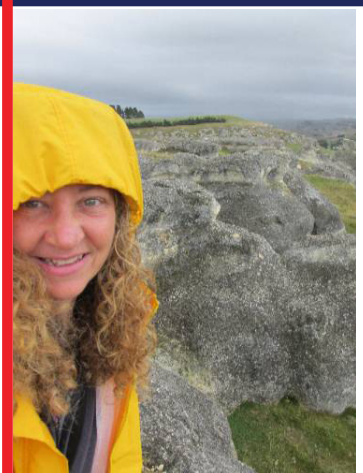
Dr. Hough co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Agrarian Change*, with Jennifer Bair and Kevan Harris, called "Capitalist Development in Hostile Environments and Hostile Times" that will be published in Spring 2019. Dr. Hough has two publications in this special issue. The first is the introductory essay (coauthored with Bair and Harris), "Hostile Environments and Hostile Times: Economic Growth, Social Welfare, and Trajectories of Development." The second is a solo-authored article, "The Winding Paths of Peripheral Proletarianization: Local Labor, World Hegemonies, and Crisis in Rural Colombia."

Dr. Lotus Seeley



Dr. Seeley published two articles recently: 'A Give Grief Kind of Guy': Help-Seeking, Status, and the Experience of Helpers at a University IT Help Desk" was published in *Symbolic Interaction* in February 2019. This research examines how help-seeking for IT support services is a mundane process through which organizational status is reproduced. A second article, "Show Us Your Frilly Pink Underbelly": Male Administrative Assistants Performing Masculinities and Femininity" in *Gender, Work, and Organizations* was published in Summer 2018. This research examines how men administrative assistants do different forms of masculinity in order to deal with being in a "women's" occupation, some that reproduce gender inequality but some that don't.

Dr. Patricia Widener



Dr. Widener balanced her international research on oil resistance and climate activism in New Zealand with two regional case studies: hydraulic fracturing in Florida and political resistance and public mobilization in South Florida. In 2018, she published three journal articles: "National Discovery and Citizen Experts in Aotearoa New Zealand: Local and Global Narratives of Hydraulic Fracturing" in *Extractive Industries & Society*; "Coastal People Dispute Offshore Oil Exploration: Toward a Study of Embedded Seascapes, Submersible Knowledge, Sacrifice, and Marine Justice" in *Environmental Sociology*; and "Climate Discourse: Eluding Literacy, Justice and Inclusion, By Evading Causation, Privilege and Diversity" in *Environmental Sociology* with a former student.

Additionally, Dr. Widener published two book chapters: "Citizens in Resistance to Oil Development and Acid Fracking in the Sunshine State" in *Fractured Communities: Risk, Impacts, and Protest Against Hydraulic Fracking in US Shale Regions* and "Race, Class, Privilege and Bias in South Florida Food Movement" in *Food & Poverty: Food Insecurity and Food Sovereignty among America's Poor*.

DEPARTMENT

WORKSHOPS

Dr. Phillip Hough and Dr. Philip Lewin co-organize the Workshop on Sociological Research (WSR) series. These workshops are designed to provide a space for faculty, graduate students, and invited guests to present, discuss and improve in-progress manuscripts that advance sociological knowledge, to facilitate communication and collaboration among faculty, students, and invited guests, and to strengthen the intellectual culture of the community at FAU. The WSR meets several times each semester in the Sociology Department's Conference Room (CU 249) on the Boca Raton campus.

2018-2019

Phillip Lewin

November 9th, 2018

"The Visual Injuries of Class: Structural Violence and the Stigmata of Social Suffering"

William McConnell

February 1st, 2019

"Learning to Cope: Caregiver Education Moderates the Effect of Cognitive Impairment on Depression among Older Adults"

Stacey Salerno

February 22nd, 2018

"College and Familia: Gender Differences in Latinx Students Experiences of Familism"

Nik Summers

March 15th, 2019

"Are Tiny Homes Evidence of a Changing Geography of Gentrification?"

2017

J. Lotus Seeley

March 24th, 2017

"They Want What They Want When They Want It": Help-Seeking, Face-Saving, and Status at a University IT Help Desk"

Vrushali Patil

April 21st, 2017

"Transnationalizing the Heterosexual Matrix"

Rebecca Hanson

November 3rd, 2017

"Masculinities, Marginality, and Reducing Police Use of Force"

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Dr. Lotus Seeley received a Scholarly and Creative Activities for Faculty (SCAF) for Fall 2019 to start a qualitative interview project on gender and the gig economy.

Dr. Ann Branaman was awarded two SURF grants to support collaborative research with two undergraduate students, Ashley Ostroot and Caralin Branscum on her new line of research focused on human biographies, self-identities, and everyday lives as they vary according to social differences (e.g., class, gender, race, nationality) between people and as they share commonalities with others as a consequence of shared culture, society, and historical period. Dr. Branaman works closely with both undergraduate and graduate students on this project.

Dr. Phillip Hough received an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship for the academic year of 2018-2019. This fellowship, in conjunction with a full-year sabbatical, allowed him to take the academic year from teaching in order to complete the writing of his book manuscript, *At the Margins of the Global Market: Making Commodities, Workers and Crisis in Rural Colombia*.

Dr. Mark Harvey was awarded a sabbatical for the 2019-2020 academic year to complete a book on the implications of the rise of corporate philanthropy as a kind of alternative mechanism for promoting economic and community development in the face of a retreating US federal welfare state.

Dr. Laura Backstrom was awarded the Division of Research Faculty Mentoring for 2019 to write a \$200,000 grant for her new research project on decision making in Early Childhood Court.



Pictured:
Graduates of the MA
Sociology Program, L to
R: Mayra Girasol, Akilah
Somersall, Stephanie
Alvarez, Casey Mullen,
Ashley Ostroot, Dylan,
and Rachel Hargis.

2018 MA Program Graduates

- Casey Mullen
- Akilah Somersall
- Nicola Spenceburrell
- Deborah Ford
- Mayra Girasol
- Alberto Gomez-Daboin
- Rachel Hargis
- Davyd Heasley
- Ashley Ostroot

Recent M.A. Thesis Projects

Jacqueline Frazer (2017). "Working in the Biz: Material and Identity Processes of Bartending."
Committee: Phillip Hough (Chair), Philip Lewin, Lotus Seeley

Rachel Hargis (2018). "Femininity on Four Wheels: How En-wheeled Women Manage Stigma"
Committee: Lotus Seeley (Chair), Mark Harvey, Ann Branaman

Casey Mullen (2018). "Framing Climate Change: Structural Education, Individual Action."
Committee: Patricia Widener (Chair), Mark Harvey, Philip Lewin

Ashley Ostroot (2018). "Accelerated and Emerging Transitions to Adulthood: Identity, Upward Mobility, and Life Outcomes on a College Campus."
Committee: Ann Branaman (Chair), Laura Backstrom, Lynn Appleton

Akilah Somersall (2018). "Mean Girls or Bad Girls: Expressions of Conflict and Aggression by Black and White Female Siblings on Family Sitcoms."
Committee: Laura Backstrom (Chair), Mark Harvey, Patricia Darlington

GRADUATE UPDATES

2009 ALUMNI

Rain Jarrett

Since graduating from FAU, I went to law school, joined the Jamaican Diaspora Movement and became a delegate, representing Jamaicans living in the S.E. region of the US. I was featured in the online publication of Caribbean National Weekly in their feature "Top 20 Under 40" piece where I made mention of FAU and my experience with Sociocinema. <https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/community-news/rain-jarrett-sociology-professor/> I also received my certification in mindfulness instruction and I'm currently working as a mindfulness instructor teaching mindfulness to children in elementary, middle and high schools in Florida and Jamaica. This has become my most recent passion. My sister Sky, (who is currently a consultant in DC for the federal government and is also a certified mindfulness instructor) shares this passion. Sky and I have joined forces and recently started a human development consulting company whose mission is to help people, groups and organizations unlock their potential and reach success- using mindfulness and a core component of our training. Our goal is to help normalize mindfulness in schools and organizations. The company's name is Transcend LLC. (website is under construction) Instagram @transcendllc

Elizabeth Caron

I am currently teaching AICE Global Perspectives and Research AS & A levels, and AP Seminar & AP Research at John I Leonard High School. I completed my EdD in Postsecondary and Higher Education in 2005. Most recently, I was nominated for the Palm Beach County Dwyer award for senior education.

2010 ALUMNI

Carrie Hough

I am a Ph.D student at the University of Miami.

2011 ALUMNI

RaMarissa Jordan

I live in London and work in music publishing.

Cathy King

After graduating in the spring of 2011, I went on to teach sociology courses at Nova Southeastern University, Broward College, and Florida Atlantic University. They say, "timing is everything," and that held true for me when Sue French, the previous "Queen of Sociology" retired and I accepted the passing of the crown in the spring of 2013. Between my love of all things academic, my love for sociology, my love for the department, and my love for the faculty and students, the offer of the job of Program Assistant here at FAU was a wonderful happenstance! Over the last 5 years I've had the privilege of working for a great department, a great group of people, and many wonderful students. Every passing year is bittersweet, however. While I'm happy to watch students graduate and move on and to see professors retire to more leisurely pursuits, it's also hard to say goodbye to so many semester after semester. Fortunately, "goodbye" need not be forever; it's always great when alumni call or drop by!

2012 ALUMNI

Rachel Talasko

During my time at Florida Atlantic University, I was able to explore the intersection of political-economy, race, and education. Guided by these interests, and hoping to explore them further, I joined Teach For America. The program placed me in Hawai'i, where I now live.

I spent several years teaching at a low-income elementary school in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i. My graduate studies at FAU prepared me to serve in several leadership roles, and more importantly, my work in sociology allowed me to understand the institutions that construct the experiences of my students and their families. I recently earned my MS in Education from Johns Hopkins University. With this degree, I was able to further explore the role of education in low-income, high-need areas. At present, I serve at the Department of Education in the West Hawai'i district. I work with the "Evidence Based Practices" team to ensure the 19 schools in our district are providing inclusive, equitable, and rigorous programs to students. Further, I co-lead a team that aims to bring restorative practices into schools and the criminal justice system in our community. In the near future, I look forward to serving in a school administration role. With this experience, I will eventually seek a PhD program that allows for a deeper exploration of the traumas caused by Western education systems being imposed on indigenous populations.



Pictured:
Southern Sociology Society (SSS)
Conference attended by faculty
and students. From L to R: Casey
Mullen, Laura Backstrom, Alberto
Gomez-DaBoin, Lotus Seeley,
Ashley Ostroot, Patricia Widener,
and Stephanie Alvarez.



Pictured:
Casey Mullen and Jai Tumolo
attending a ReThink Energy
conference in Tallahassee, FL

Samantha Leyendecker-Estupinan

These days, like my graduate studies days, are jammed packed with education and learning! I am currently an Associate Professor for Ashford University in their Sociology department, teaching Ethics and Social Responsibility, online. By day, I am a 5th grade teacher, teaching reading and writing. I have earned a second Masters in Educational Leadership since my time at FAU and am pursuing becoming an Assistant Principal within the Palm Beach County School District. Additional programs I am in: Aspiring Leaders Program (ALP) and Teacher Leader Program (TLP). I am now married with two beautiful girls (Sadie 7, and Jae, 1). Sadie is a resident FAU Sociologist to all of those who weren't in my cohort, she was in womb during my graduate studies and born halfway through my program- she's just as spicy as the rest of us!

Claudia Giribaldi

Previously I was working at the University of Chicago as a Program Coordinator for the Center for Latin American Studies and as a Spanish language Assistant for the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. I am currently pursuing my master's degree in teaching Spanish and TESOL at New York University to become a certified Spanish/TESOL teacher. My expected graduation is on May 2019.

2013 ALUMNI

Nathalie Rita

I am a PhD Candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where my research interests include international migration, social inequalities, and urban sociology.

Emily Bushey

I'm currently working as full-time as a HR Assistant for a solar panel manufacturing company and part-time as an adjunct instructor at Palm Beach State College teaching Introduction to Sociology.

2014 ALUMNI

Bradley Rosendorf

Education & Outreach Associate, Friends of Arthur R Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Boynton Beach Office

Andrea Toth

I am currently a fifth year Ph. D. student at Binghamton University Sociology Department. Thus far, I have defended one of my two area papers. This paper is entitled, "The First World War as the 'State(s) of Affairs' of Capitalist World History: Mapping, Reassessing, and Reinterpreting the Path to the First World War in Reflection of the History of Capitalism and World-Systems Analysis". Currently I am working on the second exam project, which is a critical literature review of the intersection of nationalism and neoliberalism.

This work utilizes Giovanni Arrighi's "consecutive systemic cycle of accumulation" and looked at situating the path to the First World War into the overlapping period of two such cycles (British and American).

Paul Clements

I am currently living in Tallahassee, FL, where I work as a qualitative research analyst for VISIT FLORIDA. After finishing the Master's program in 2014, I studied web development, completed a brief internship with Palm Beach Tech Association, and began working as a website coordinator at Garden of Life in Palm Beach Gardens. The role gave me the opportunity to gain experience in marketing, and after a stint there I jumped at the opportunity to move upstate in order to take on a market research position with VISIT FLORIDA. In my current position, I work on numerous projects that involve qualitative research skills that I learned in the MA program, such as interviewing, coding, analyzing qualitative data, and writing briefs and white papers on topics related to the tourism and marketing. My position also involves analyzing data sets and searching for trends, which utilizes many of the quantitative skills I learned in the MA program. In addition to my work there, I teach online courses as an adjunct instructor. Sociology continues to be my passion and a significant part of my life, and the training I received from the faculty at FAU has given me the tools to succeed as a research professional.

2015 ALUMNI

Alexandra Casuso

I am a PhD student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. My research involves children, social networks, race and happiness. With the help of Agent-based Models, I'd like to explore how children's social networks could be slightly modified in order to obtain better outcomes in adolescence and adulthood, especially in the realm of overall life satisfaction. Currently, I am working as a research assistant for a project funded by a 5-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health. The project uses an agent-based model to show how a small network intervention can reduce obesity in middle school children. In addition, I am working with Anthony Paik and Diego Leal on a paper to explore how the racial composition of the friends of our friends affect our own network diversity. Overall, my academic life has led me to a path of happiness that allows me to pursue my intellectual curiosities and travel around the world to continue to develop questions that are relevant to the future of society.

Stephanie Alvarez

I am currently working for NextGen America as the FL Operations Director. I have been working with NextGen since last January. I first started out as a Regional Organizing Director for South FL, then got promoted to Deputy Organizing Director for the state, and in December transitioned to my current role as Operations Director. My work is based around electoral politics, and we were heavily involved in the recent 2018 midterm elections. Although we ultimately lost the governor's race and our senate seat, we did restore the rights of more than 1.4 million Floridians. This year we will be on college campuses (look out for us at FAU) trying to register as many young people to vote as we can and making sure everyone is ready to go for the 2020 elections.

Emily Cleary

After graduating from the program, I spent a lot of time traveling and learning about the world whenever I could. I continued working as a writing tutor at the University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW) at FAU, and was hired by FAU and Broward College as an adjunct instructor, teaching Introduction to Sociological Perspectives. I decided to change environments, and moved from academia into a modern, mid-sized company in Miami as a Conceptual Designer. After working there for 3 years, living in Berlin, Germany for work, and moving into various roles, I applied and received an Uber scholarship for Ironhack's UX/UI Design Academy in Miami. I attended the accelerated program with the goal of combining my applied experience in marketing, content curation, and design with my sociological perspective and research background within the tech ecosphere. I'm currently a UX Designer and Content Marketing Specialist at 8base, a software company that empowers front end developers to build full stack applications. I've also kept up with my number one passion - music. I'm still singing and gigging around South Florida, while working on my debut album which will be released this spring!

2016 ALUMNI

Patrick Levine

For the last two years I worked as a counselor in various social service positions in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I'm currently a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I study race, interactions and urban inequality.

2017 ALUMNI

Rommel Auguste

I am still in Palm Beach County. I am currently working as an adjunct instructor at Palm Beach State College, teaching sociology and political science.

Jacqueline Frazer

I am a PhD student at State University of New York, Binghamton.

2018 ALUMNI

Casey Mullen

I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Utah. I submitted a paper from my MA thesis to the ASA conference, (hope to see some of you there), and I am also working with Dr. Widener to submit the paper to a journal. My plan for my dissertation is to examine air quality data for the Salt Lake City valley region. My advisor, Sara Grineski, and I believe we will see more air pollution more regularly on the West side of town, which is also where minority and lower income residents live (Salt Lake is pretty segregated) and are facing unequal impacts. The West side is also lacking a sufficient amount of air quality monitors to begin with. So, potentially I will be able to distribute some monitors to homes or schools and find out if having access to the air quality by their home leads to any behavioral changes. My ultimate goal is to engage communities in a bit of citizen science in hopes of fostering a sense of agency and inspiring some collective action working towards public policy change. I also have access to undergraduate students to help me with my research in the

Ashley Ostroot

I am a PhD student in the department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. After completing my Master's thesis on the transition to adulthood, I decided to pursue a research agenda focused on families, children, health, and inequality. Currently, I am working with my advisor Kammi Schmeer to understand the mechanisms that link childhood poverty, stress, and health, and how these factors work together to reproduce inequality.

Alberto Gomez-DaBoin

I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Virginia.

Davyd Heasley

I relocated to the Nashville, TN area after graduation. I am working for Middle Tennessee State University as a Coordinator in their Housing and Residential Life Department and manage a custodial staff of 20 employees. We look after roughly 3,000 residents living on campus, spread across 40 buildings. It is an enjoyable job; working closely with Student Affairs, Facilities Management, students, and my staff. One of the many perks of working for MTSU is that I can take one course, up to 4 credit hours, for free each semester. I am now working toward a BA in physics with an astronomy specialization; purely for fun! You know that I could not pass up free courses...



Writing Enriched Curriculum

Dr. Mark Harvey is deeply involved in the re-design the Department's undergraduate program to focus more on the development of student research and writing skills. He currently serves as the liaison to FAU's Center for Excellence in Writing and the director of the department's Writing Enriched Curriculum (WEC) initiative. This initiative is designed to enhance the level of sociological skills attained by majors upon graduation. During Fall 2018, Dr. Harvey organized two departmental workshops on how to more effectively use writing to teach principles and methods of sociology to undergraduates.

FAU Mentoring Programs

Dr. Gina Carreno-Lukasik serves as an FAU Faculty Owl Leader and participates in a number of events, including the annual i-lead and we-lead conferences, as well as the week-long intensive workshop the Leadershape Institute. She also served on the Talon Student Service Award Selection Committee. Beginning in Fall 2018, she was invited to serve as an FAU Academic Fellow. In this role, she provides support and outreach for all our students, but especially second-years. She starred in a live-streamed "Faculty Tonight Show" (along with the other Academic Fellow Chemistry's Dr. Tito Sempertegui), holds regular Coffee/Tea sessions with students in campus housing (IRT, UVA, and IVAS), and teaches a sample sociology class about the normative dimension of culture in three sessions of FAU's Freshmen Orientation.

Sociology Course Development

In **Dr. Phil Lewin's** *Cultural Sociology* class, students completed a collaborative research project that required them to examine how people develop their political beliefs. Many groups organized their projects around a social problem in their community, a social movement, or a contemporary political conflict. In groups of four, students developed a research proposal and interview protocol. After meeting with him to discuss their proposals, each group member conducted two interviews and two field observations and wrote memos for each data collection assignment.

At the end of the semester, students met with him to discuss the data they had collected. After developing a data analysis plan, they coded their data, wrote a 12-15 page research paper, and gave a 15 minute presentation to the class, which outlined their findings and the implications of their findings. Through these projects, students studied topics like: how the 2018 Stoneman Douglas shooting has affected attitudes toward gun control in South Florida; how Donald Trump's election has affected sexual minorities' political views and perceptions of safety; how residents of South Florida feel about climate change; why people support or resist cannabis legalization in Florida; how age and generational cohort affect attitudes toward immigration policy; and the processes through which people become involved in the women's empowerment movement.

In 2018, **Dr. Mark Harvey's** course on poverty became the first sociology course designated "Research Intensive" (RI) by the University Undergraduate Research Committee. In the course, students design and carry out their own research project on some aspect of poverty in South Florida.

Pictured: Dr. Philip Lewin facilitating a discussion with students



Honors Program

Dr. Laura Backstrom launched the Honors Program for sociology majors in Fall 2018. Through writing and research intensive coursework and participation in an original research project, Sociology Honors students will have firsthand experience with all aspects of the research process including working collaboratively with fellow students and faculty, writing and revising a journal article length piece, and presenting findings in a professional setting. In order to qualify for the honors program, students must have a 3.5 overall GPA and a 3.7 GPA in sociology courses.

Dr. Sharon Placide developed an introductory sociology seminar for students in the University Honors Program five years ago and has taught the course every year since then. Several of these students have pursued a minor in sociology. Two completed the major. One is now in our graduate program. Dr. Placide also serves as faculty advisor to FAU's chapter of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), founded by a UHP Honors sociology student, and the Food Recovery Network—also founded by a UHP Honors sociology student.

Dr. Gina Carreno-Lukasik has led numerous Honors Compacts and worked intensively with students on independent research projects through Directed Independent Studies. Many students who have completed an Honors Compact or DIS also have presented at poster sessions in FAU's annual OURI Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Dr. Carreno-Lukasik's Honors Compacts:

- DACA (Alyssa Alvarez)
- Human Intervention in the Survival of Pandas (Jemma Manela)
- Rape Culture and Social Media (Faith "Libby" Connally)
- Abortion (Alyssa Gelovich)
- Pornography's Effects on Women (Morgan Graff)

Dr. Carreno-Lukasik's DIS Students

- Fear and Social Control (Tessa Moody and Natasa Trisha)
- Language and Animals (Cassandra "Cassey" Penrod)
- Rape Myth Culture (Janesa Branford, Michele Mitchell, and Simone Stewart)
- Sociology of Womanhood (Hope Taylor)

Dr. Phillip Lewin's DIS Students:

- Marquisha Taylor (Spring 2018). Research Paper: "The Dismantlement of Gender Polarization in Gentlemen's Clubs: Patriarchy, Androcentrism, and the Political Economy of Sex"
- Stephanie Alvarez (Spring 2017). Research Paper: "Becoming a Clopper: Internet Subcultures and Online Deviance in the Digital Era" (Alvarez).

Sociological Student Association

Under the direction of faculty advisor, **Dr. Sharon Placide**, the Sociological Student Association (SSA) has emphasized career-oriented events including 3 career workshops at which representatives from various local organizations interested in hiring our graduates spoke. The club has also organized events designed to foster community among undergrads including movie nights, and fish bowl discussions. In Spring 2019, the association held a faculty/student mixer to facilitate faculty-student contact in an informal setting.

Community Involvement

Dr. Patricia Widener invited students to get out of the classroom and to join in four community events – all were invited, some attended! Two students traveled with her and the group ReThink Energy to Tallahassee to meet with our legislators on energy and the environment. More students participated in local events, including a "Conquer Climate, Build Resistance" workshop in Fort Lauderdale; a King Tide tour of sea level rise in Hollywood; and the People's Climate March in Miami.



Environmental justice: From global ecological destruction to local food connections. Artwork by Sage Lowe, an undergraduate of sociology and graphic design.



Pictured: Dr. Sharon Placide leads a discussion with students

Dr. Gina Carreno-Lukasik developed a new course entitled *Animals and Society*. This course covers topics including the Human-Animal Divide; Animals as Pets; Human Use of Animals for Food, Clothing, Science, and Entertainment; Human Use of Service Animals; Interlocking Systems of Oppression; and the Animal Rights Movement. Students read, write papers, and have class discussion about three books: *A Buffalo in the House*; *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat*; and *Understanding Animal Abuse*.

Class periods involve some interactive lecture but primarily are driven by class discussion about the books as well as the videos we watch in class: *The Natural History of the Chicken*; *Earthlings*; *Project Nim*; *Blackfish*; *Shelter Me*; *Vegucated*; and *Unlocking the Cage*. Guest speakers include Michelle Shaw from FAU's Student Accessibility Services and James Wildman from the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida. In Spring 2019, the class welcomed an additional guest speaker, undergraduate student Cassandra "Cassey" Penrod, who presented to the class her research on Language and Animals (based on work from a Fall 2018 DIS).

Dr. Carreno-Lukasik's goal is to encourage students to think critically about issues that many have never considered before. Students tell her this course "changed their life," with some students subsequently becoming vegetarian and vegan, and others making more conscious decisions about what they wear and the companies they support financially.

Dr. Greg Lukasik's students in his *Environmental Sociology* class completed research papers and class presentations on the following: racial/ethnic composition of residential areas near the Superfund Sites (designation of toxic waste sites by the EPA) in the state of Florida, the impact of the growth of physical infrastructure on the burrowing owls' habitat at the Florida Atlantic University, comparative analysis of recycling programs by socio-economic status in selected Florida cities, survey of environmental consciousness and environmental attitudes among out-of-state tourist population that visit Florida's coastal areas, environmental impact of the Florida sugar industry on Florida's drinking water, and many more.

Dr. Maritza Flores' *Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality* course began as an IFP course and has now found itself as a 3000 level course. As a result, Dr. Flores added a number of writing assignments and updated the main research assignment. The goal of the 4-6 page research assignment paper is to not only expose students to sociological research but also to have them recognize the relationship between this form of research and its impact on public policy. The first step of the assignment is to have students read, discuss, and evaluate a professional research article focused on a specific sociological issue, particularly highlighting race class gender and/or sexuality issues. The second step is to have students recognize the influence their particular study can have on influencing human behavior and the potential the study has in affecting public policy in social institutions.

"And while of course our goal as instructors is not to tell students what to think or how to feel but rather give them things to think about, I must admit that their willingness to discuss these issues with such open minds and hearts makes me especially proud to teach here at FAU. Our students rock!"

-Dr. Gina Carreno-Lukasik



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