Hello all! I hope you’re all off to a productive fall semester! As always, this is a busy time in Sociology department!

Our current students and alumni continue to do wonderful things! Kate Price was awarded a dissertation fellowship this year from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Both Adam Pittman and Erin (Cournoyer) Allain are working at the Crime and Justice Institute of Community Resources for Justice as data and policy specialists respectively.

In addition, several recent alumni began new jobs this summer: Dr. Lena Campagna is an assistant professor in the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Caldwell University, Dr. Justine Bulgar-Medina began working as a research methodologist at NORC at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Jay Byron is a data analyst in the Office of Institutional Research at the Northern Essex Community College. See page 05-07 for other updates from returning students and alumni! In addition, a number of PhD students are hard at work on their dissertations, planning for spring defenses.

The sociology faculty is also growing, with an ongoing search for a new faculty member. Stay tuned for information on campus visits and opportunities to meet the candidates.
We have begun planning for our second annual GSSA research symposium, with a keynote address and film screening of The Area, with Professor David Schalliol, sociologist, photographer, and filmmaker, and Deborah Payne, community activist. Mark your calendars for March 29, and we'll send out more details, including a call for student presentations, early in the spring semester.

"The Area is an eye-opening saga of resistance ★★★★"
— Andrea Gronvall, Chicago Reader

Photo credit: David Schalliol, from The Area

UPCOMING EVENTS

- American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting November 14-17, Atlanta, GA (submissions for next year will be due in March 2019).
- End of semester party at Professor Schutt’s house: Saturday December 15.
- Deadline to submit to ASA: January 9 (Conference August 10 - 13, New York City)
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 14-17, Boston Park Plaza Hotel
- GSSA Spring Research Symposium, March 29 (see above)
- American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Annual Meeting May 16 – 19 in Toronto
Kenneth Arsenault
Massachusetts born and raised, Ken studied sociology at Bridgewater State University for his undergraduate and went away to Sam Houston State University to complete his MA. Now in Massachusetts for his PhD, Ken’s research interests include advanced quantitative methods and macro-level theory. As an air force veteran and husband with three young children, Ken spends his free time programming an 8-bit computer system.

Nahalia Carless
Currently enrolled in the BA/MA program in Applied Sociology. Nahalia’s research interests include reentry and youths and the intersection of race and higher education. Her hometown is originally Retreat, St. Thomas, Jamaica, where Nahalia grew up in front of the beach and as a result, has found a familiar feeling of being at “home” here on UMB’s ocean-front campus. In her free time, Nahalia enjoys writing poetry and prose.

Brittany Riffle
Originally from Orlando, Florida, Brittany is a first-year PhD student in Sociology. She completed her BA at Brooklyn College and has been living in NYC for the past 8 years. Brittany’s main research interests include body politics, fat studies, gender, medical sociology, and stigma. Outside of school, she likes to go to music/art shows, read fiction, and explore the outdoors with her dog.

Julie LaBagnara
Born and raised in Northern New Jersey, Julie studied Neuroscience at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster PA. She then went to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and earned an MS in Biomedical Science. Returning to school after 15 years of oncology and rare disease medical research, Julie’s interests lie in deviance, social control, and veteran re-entry.

Katsyris Rivera Kientz
As a PhD student, Katsyris’ research interests include transnationalism, the Puerto Rican diasporic community, race and gender issues, national identity, education and the United States-Puerto Rico political relationship. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in Cayey in 2016 with a major in Psychology and Mental Health and completed her Master at UMB’s Transnational, Cultural and Community Studies program in 2018. She has worked in projects on access to education, the failing student-financial aid system, issues concerning underrepresented minorities at UMass Boston, animal welfare, among others. She was elected in October 2018 to become part of the GEO organizing committee and will be supporting and working for the rights of our graduate students’ community and UMB as a whole.
MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS

PhD in Sociology:
Kenneth Arsenault
Laura Golden
Dana LaVergne
Julie LaBagnara
Brittany Riffle
Katsyris Rivera-Kientz
Nicole Young

MA in Applied Sociology
Theresa Coney
Timothy Dacey
Morgan Hallion
Shannon Raeke
Jonathan Vega Martinez

BA/MA in Applied Sociology
Hannah Grabowski
Cristal Martinez
Hannah McLaughlin
Keisha Taylor
Janelle Watty
Michelle Crist
Michelle participated in the UMB SSRC Transdisciplinary Dissertation Proposal Development Program during the 2018 spring semester and received $3,000 in research funds. She has also been accepted into the Problem-Solving Sociology Dissertation Proposal Development Workshop at Northwestern.

Alessandra Bazo Vienrich
As a PhD candidate, Alessandra is completing her dissertation on the educational trajectories of undocumented Latinx youth in North Carolina and Massachusetts. She has recently published “Undocumented in the Ivory Tower” in Counternarratives from Women of Color Academics: Bravery Vulnerability and Resistance, and has a forthcoming publication “Indigenous Immigrants from Latin America (IILA): Racial/Ethnic Identity in the U.S.” in Sociology Compass (Race & Ethnicity). Alessandra presented at the ASA and SSSP in Philadelphia in August 2018. Additionally, she will be teaching a course at Colby College in January 2019: “Contemporary Immigration in the U.S.: Research, Policy, and Society.”

Erin (Cournoyer) Allain
Since passing her dissertation proposal defense in February, Erin started a new full-time position as a Policy Specialist at the Crime & Justice Institute. She also just got married (changing her last name to Allain), and moved to the south shore to be closer to family. Although Erin is not on campus this year, she is still working in the Boston area as she continues working on her dissertation. She will also be attending the American Society of Criminology conference this month.

Ryan Hoffman
Ryan is a student in the Applied Sociology M.A. Program at UMass Boston. He is currently an intern at Bunker Hill Community College in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness where he is conducting institutional research. His research interests lie within Medical Sociology and more specifically clinical adverse events as they pertain to practitioners, osteopathic medicine versus allopathic medicine, lifestyle medicine as a means of disease prevention, and implementation of worksite wellness programs.
Rebecca Hooper
Rebecca is currently in her second year of the PhD program. She is interested in Medical Sociology, and hopes to further her research within the realm of doctor/patient relationship in order to bridge the communication gap and improve patient care. Using her knowledge of social determinants of health, Rebecca is also interested in community health outreach in the Greater Boston Area.

Haily Piccinini-Laferriere
Haily is currently working at BEACON ABA services as a behavioral therapist. She is interested in researching Prisoner Reentry, Community Sociology, and Gender and Race Inequalities. She likes working with qualitative methods, but plans to use mixed methods for future research projects. Haily is also teaching an Introduction to Sociology course as a Teaching Assistant II, where she is the lead lecturer. Her career goals are to teach at the collegiate level, as well as publish research projects that will help in improving the community.

Adam Pittman
This summer Adam successfully defended his dissertation proposal. He was also fortunate to travel to Holland, Germany, Paris, and hop around the Greek Islands. While on vacation, Adam got good news that he, Dr. Andrea Leverentz, and Jen Skinnon had a paper accepted to City and Community; received a revise and resubmit on a paper with Dr. Bianca Bersani in Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, and was awarded a UMB dissertation grant! This fall Adam is on the job market and applying to academic and applied jobs while working on his dissertation.

Robert Rice
Robert Rice is currently working on a project that examines epistemologies of ignorance and the denial of racism, specifically surrounding NFL player protests of systemic inequalities and police violence. He is interested in digital methodologies, ethnography, race and racism, knowledge and ideologies, and the logics used to deny social justice.
Joseph Silcox
Joe is an MA student in the Applied Sociology M.A program and is currently working at MassArt as a Research Assistant in the Office of Institutional Research. He has conducted qualitative research regarding issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus. This year Joe will conduct his research on how individuals in long-term phases of recovery from substance abuse disorders maintain sobriety through continued engagement with recovery resources. Joe is teaching Intro to Sociology to continue developing his skills.

Isaac Yablo
Isaac is currently interning in downtown Boston within the Community Services Department at Mass Housing. He recently established a proactive policing framework within the Boston Police Department called the “The Hub.” The Hub works to connect at-risk individuals to services within 24-48 hours, and gets community agencies to collaborate their efforts rather than work as Independent silos. The Hub is active in the Jamaica Plain (E-13) and East Boston (A-7) districts within the BPD.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: ALUMNI UPDATES

Justine Bulgar-Medina
Since her dissertation defense in the spring, Justine has gone on to become a research methodologist for NORC (National Opinion Research Center) at the University of Chicago, as well as an instructor for the Masters in Public Policy and Administration program in the School of Professional Studies at Northwestern University.

Gerard “Jay” Byron
Now with a complete PhD in Sociology, Jay is furthering his skills as a data analyst at North Essex Community College. In this role he is pursuing studies on workplace climate, culture, and gender biases through the use of longitudinal survey design.

Lena Campagna
Upon graduation, Lena went on to become an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Caldwell University.

Candace Evans
After completing her MA in Applied Sociology last fall, Candace has continued to work in the field, pursuing her PhD in Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Daniel Martin
Upon finishing his MA in Applied Sociology, Daniel went on to become a researcher and data analyst for the Massachusetts State Parole and the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Kathryn Sabella
With a recently completed PhD in Sociology, Kathryn continues to work at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in her as a research instructor.
FACULTY PROFILE

WRITTEN BY NAHALIA CARLESS

Meet Jacqueline “Jackie” Lageson, a senior lecturer II in the Sociology Department here at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She first started working at UMass Boston in September 2000. Over this time, she has taught a variety of undergraduate courses including Juvenile Delinquency, Drugs and Society, Police in Society, Punishment and Corrections, Criminology and more recently, Ethics and Justice.

The things Lageson enjoys about teaching at UMass Boston is the student body, her colleagues, and the ocean view. She notes that “We’ve got an incredible student body that is so talented, they come into the classroom with such great life experiences, diversity of backgrounds, age, socioeconomic status, race, and gender orientation.” This, she believes leads to a “rich discussion” in her classes and is one of the things she enjoys the most.

“We have a great team of faculty and staff – both within the department as well as campus-wide.”

As a senior lecturer, her focus is primarily on teaching but Lageson recently worked on a commercial sex study in Boston with Professor Megan Klein Hattori from the department. Apart from research and teaching, Lageson serves as the director for the Breaking the Cycle of Violence Initiative (BCVI) on campus. BCVI addresses violence by using the world cafe model to touch on issues of violence however people chose to define the term. Gun violence, bullying, and domestic violence are examples of issues around which BCVI convenes to discuss. By getting people to talk about these issues, it is hoped that people will take it a step further and build connections to help combat these issues.

Students interested in topics related to criminal justice, law enforcement, and the prison system are encouraged to reach out to Lageson. She is well connected within the criminal justice system community and has experience working in the prison system as a law enforcement officer as well as in probation and parole. She worked in the field for 17 years prior to pursuing her graduate studies. Lageson encourages students to connect with her if they have questions concerning prisoner reentry along with the topics discussed prior, as she has a great deal of experience related to reentry.

“I’m more than willing to just sit and talk with somebody about possibilities.”

Outside of teaching, she enjoys traveling and hiking in the mountains. She also does walk and talks where she’ll go to different green spaces in Boston and do walk and talks with friends and colleagues. As fun as walk and talks are, she also enjoys grilling and hanging out on her back deck with friends.

Lageson’s advice for graduate students is to seek out connections and support, and to keep going. “One of the greatest things that really helped me during my graduate studies was building really solid relationships within my cohort and learning that we really have each other’s backs. There are many stressors that come in during grad school and you [may] feel overwhelmed and the process is isolating [but] force yourself to build those connections with your cohort.”

“These are going to be your peers and colleagues moving forward and this is your opportunity to really get to know each other and support each other.”

You may want to take her advice not only for academic support but also for professional development as Lageson divulged that her cohort was how she got jobs after leaving graduate school.
Professor Sofya Aptekar was the keynote speaker at the “Public Libraries, cultural policies and public reading” international conference in Lisbon, Portugal in September. Aptekar also has two forthcoming articles in City & Community: “The Public Library as Resistive Space in the Neoliberal City,” and “The Unbearable Lightness of the Cosmopolitan Canopy: Accomplishment of Diversity at an Urban Farmers Market.”

Professor Bianca Bersani was a co-author on several recent publications including: “Desistance from Offending in the 21st Century” in Annual Review of Criminology; “Understanding the Role of Marriage in Black Women’s Offending over the Life Course” in the Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology; and “Investigating the Offending Histories of Undocumented Immigrants” in Migration Letters, Special Issue.

Professor Andrea Leverentz has two recent publications: “Churning Through the System: How people engage with the criminal justice system when faced with short sentences” and “Gender and Crime: Black Women, Crime, and Criminal Justice.” She is also working on a juvenile diversion program service project with Prof. Bersani and Isaac Yablo.

Professor Sarah Mayorga-Calvo has published a recent article in Sociological Forum titled "Whose best friend? Dogs and racial boundary maintenance in a multiracial neighborhood". Additionally, she gave two recent presentations: one at the ASA Annual Meeting, on white fragility and white-passing Latinxs; and one at The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference as a panelist for the Interpreting Race: Trends, Dilemmas, and New Directions panel.

Professor Russell Schutt gave a recent talk at Binghamton University on Sociology and Evolutionary Biology. Later that year he presented research at the ISA on the Meaning of Consumer Choice and at the ASA on Veteran Housing Support.

Professor Kevin Wozniak recently published new research in Race and Justice. "An analysis of black-white racial differences in public support for nonviolent sentencing reform" and Social Problems. "Are racial and educational inequities in mass incarceration perceived to be a social problem? Results from an experiment". He also has a paper that is forthcoming in Justice Quarterly, "The effect of exposure to racialized cues on white and black public support for justice reinvestment".
Meet the Graduate Sociology Student Association!

MISSION:
The Graduate Sociology Student Association (GSSA) is here to build a sense of community, among graduate sociology students and the sociology faculty, by providing opportunities to socialize and engage with the larger campus and Boston communities. The GSSA is open to all graduate students in Sociology and is committed to being respectful, resourceful, supportive, and above all, welcoming. GSSA’s mission is to enrich student involvement across all aspects of university life and within the broader community.

Your Officers for 2018-19:
Tracy Reed
Michelle Crist
Isaac Yablo
Joe Silcox
Nahalia Carless
Haily Piccinin-Laferriere

The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden

Graduate Program Leadership:
Dr. Paul Benson, Department Chair
Dr. Andrea Leverentz, PhD & MA Program Director
Dr. Philip Brenner, Survey Certificate Program Director
Dr. Silvia Mignon, Forensic Services Certificate Program Director

Thank you to those who contributed to this issue of the fall newsletter!
- Sarah Bopp [Editor]
Graduate Program Coordinator