

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair

The ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course has an outstanding tradition of offering terrific sessions for the annual meetings, thanks largely to section members! This year is no different for the section's activities at the 2013 meetings in New York City.

A couple of deadlines to keep in mind. The online system opens on December 7, 2012. The session period ends on January 9, 2013. Please visit the ASA website to submit to our open sessions and roundtables – and to other sessions too. Increasingly, the intellectual developments of our section are being felt throughout the ASA.

This year's sessions are:

Dynamics of Health and Aging: Period Trends and Cohort Processes

Session Organizer: Michal Engelman, University of Chicago

Email Address: mengelman@uchicago.edu

This session will focus on changes in population health, incorporating both period and cohort perspectives. It will examine linkages between early life circumstances and outcomes in mid and later life as well as social and economic changes that influence trajectories of health and well-being.

Social Change, Inequality, and the Life Course

Session Organizer: Jennifer Karas Montez, Harvard University

Email Address: jkmontez@hsph.harvard.edu

This session will focus on the following questions that are core concerns of our section. How has the life course changed across key domains? What are the institutional forces that have shaped these changes? What implications do major changes in the life course have for inequality?

SALC Roundtables

Session Organizers: Jim Raymo (Wisconsin) and Yang Yang (North Carolina)

Email Addresses: jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu and yangy@unc.edu

In addition, we are planning an invited session.

Frontiers of Aging and Life Course Research: Intersecting Social and Biological Processes Influencing Health

Session Organizer: Michael Shanahan (North Carolina)

Email Address: mjshan@unc.edu

Many thanks to the SALC board for working with me to develop this exciting program.

It is also time to begin planning your nominations for the SALC awards: the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Publication Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award. Nominations are due by March 1, 2013. Later in the newsletter, information is provided about the nomination procedures for each award. Please consider nominating your colleagues for an award. It is important for our section to honor those who are enriching our sociological lives.

The section membership now exceeds 600. It is important for our current membership to be a lower bound and to encourage our colleagues and students to join the section. The intellectual tradition of our section with the ASA is strong – but can be stronger as our ideas and research findings further inform work throughout the other areas of our field. So, please renew your membership, and encourage colleagues and students to join as well.

A special thanks is owed to Rick Settersten, SALC's outgoing chair. His leadership led to an exciting program at the 2012 ASA meetings in Denver, and helped to rejuvenate important discussions about "reclaiming the Sociology of Age." In addition, I would like to express my thanks to our council and committee members. They work incredibly hard throughout the year to shape the program, organize sessions, and serve on awards committees. I also want to thank David Warner for a terrific job in managing our listserv. A special thanks is owed to Jenifer Hamil-Luker and to Kristen Schultz Lee. Jenifer is our outgoing newsletter editor and Kristen is the incoming editor. The listserv and newsletter keep us connected throughout the year.

Best wishes throughout the months as we approach the 2013 meetings in NYC!

Inside this issue:

Committee reports	2-3
Publication awards	4
Election results	4
Matilda W. Riley award	5
Nominations for 2013	6
2012 sponsors	7
New publications and announcements	8
Transitions	9

Section on Aging and the Life Course Business Meeting Friday, August 17, 2012, 3:30-4:10 pm

Call to Order: Rick Settersten, Oregon State University

Secretary's Minutes from 2011 Annual Meeting: Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University
Last year's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

The Section on Aging and the Life Course continues to be in excellent financial shape. We currently have approximately \$11,800 in the treasury. We have substantial expenses associated with the cost of the meetings (i.e., awards, reception, mentoring dinner). Chris Himes and Rick Settersten have been particularly effective this year with fundraising. Net assets at the end of 2012 are estimated to be approximately \$12,000.

Program Committee Report

Rick Settersten, Oregon State University

This year's SALC program theme is *Reclaiming the Sociology of Age: From Institutions to Identities*. It was chosen with the hope of generating fresh discussion about age as a property of social systems and social life. Because our membership exceeded 600 members at the end of September 2011, we received five session slots on the program:

1. **(Open Session) Reclaiming the Sociology of Age: From Institutions to Identities.**
2. **(Open Session) Children, Youth, and the Future of Aging** (co-sponsored with the Section on Children and Youth).
3. **Roundtables.** Session Organizers: Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Michael Shanahan, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
4. **(Invited Session) What's in a Name? Perspectives on the Sociology of "Age," "Aging," and "the Life Course."**
5. **Matilda White Riley Award, SALC Business Meeting and Reception.**

We also collaborated with the Section on Children and Youth and with the Section on Culture to gain two additional sessions:

6. **(Invited Session) Children, Youth and Life - What Has Age Got to Do with It?** (co-sponsored with Section on Children and Youth).
7. **(Open Session) Media and Aging Audiences/Fans/Users: New Areas of Inquiry** (co-sponsored with Section on Culture).

Book Raffle Committee Report

Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The book raffle raised approximately \$500 last year. This year's prizes included: 14 Books, 1 subscription to the *Gerontologist*, and 1 Kindle.

Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring

Chris Himes, Syracuse University

Our mentoring dinner this year was held on Friday, August 17 at Katie Mullen's Irish Pub from 6:45 to 9. The program "*The Final Stretch: Job Hunting; Interviewing, Dissertating, and Planning Your Future*" featured recent graduates Jennifer Karas Montez, Christopher Marcum, and Leah Ruppanner. Tickets were priced at \$35 for faculty and \$15 for students. The costs for the dinner are covered by donations and ticket sales. Janet Wilmoth noted the importance of donations, given that the per-person costs range from \$45 to \$60 depending on the meeting location and all ticket prices are subsidized.



Section Business During 2012 Annual Meeting

Membership Committee Report

Robin Shura, Hiram College

We have hit the 600 mark already! We are currently at approximately 608 members and are aiming at exceeding our all-time membership record of 624.



Communications Report

Newsletter Editor: Jenifer Hamil-Luker, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Section Web Manager, Rick Settersten, Oregon State University
Listserv Editor, David Warner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Newsletter Editor, Jenifer Hamil-Luker, distributed three newsletters this year. A new section called "transitions" has been added where people can announce professional and personal event info. Please submit information you would like to share!

The Section Web Manager, Rick Settersten, has been working to update and maintain the content of the site. It would be good to find someone to be webmaster for the section. Let us know if you are interested in doing this for the section.

The Listserv Editor, David Warner, has been distributing announcements via the listserv twice a month – around the 1st and 15th. We would like to encourage members to submit announcements.

Ad Hoc Committee on Publications

Chair: Ross Macmillan, University of Minnesota (report given by Rick Settersten)

An editor for the Springer book series will be appointed this fall and then we will initiate the contract.

Final announcements

Rick Settersten, Oregon State University

Thanks to organizations and individuals for supporting the reception and mentoring dinner.

Section name change proposal – Council will consider submitting to the SALC members a proposal for a section name change.



Presentation of ASA Section Awards 2012

Outstanding Publication Award

Chair: Eva Kahana

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee. This year's recipients are Markus Schafer, Kenneth Ferraro and Sara Mustillo for their 2012 article "Children of Misfortune: Early adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories," *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1053-1091. According to the abstract:

Adversity early in life may alter pathways of aging, but what interpretive processes can soften the blow of early insults? Drawing from cumulative inequality theory, the authors analyze trajectories of life evaluations and then consider whether early adversity offsets favorable expectations for the future. Results reveal that early adversity contributes to more negative views of the past but rising expectations for the future. Early adversity also has enduring effects on life evaluations, offsetting the influence of buoyant expectations. The findings draw attention to the limits of human agency under the constraints of early adversity—a process described as *biographical structuration*.



Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Chair: Teresa Cooney, University of Missouri

This year, two papers were selected to share the award: "Age Differences in Daily Social Activities," (*Research on Aging*, September 2012) by Christopher Steven Marcum, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Study of Aging, Rand Corporation (Ph.D. from UC-Irvine); and "Bright Futures in Malawi's New Dawn: Educational Aspirations as Assertions of Identity," (*American Journal of Sociology*, May, 2012), by Maggie Frye, Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology & Demography, University of California, Berkeley.



Christopher Steven Marcum



Maggie Frye



Ellen Idler

According to Marcum's abstract, the extent to which older and younger people do different activities when they are with others and when they are alone is examined in this article. Marcum leverages interpersonal data in combination with information on activities from the American Time Use Survey to shed light on the long held finding that older people have less social contact than younger people. The results show that, net of intervening factors, age is associated with declines in time spent with others for virtually all types of time use. However, the variety of activities that older and younger people do also differs. Using leisure activities to probe this finding reveals that, when older people spend time with others it tends to be during activities that are *sui generis* social activities—such as attending parties—but that this is not necessarily the case for younger people. The literature on time use and aging is discussed in light of these findings and a new hypothesis on agency in the life course is proposed.

Frye's paper (according to the abstract) incorporates insights from pragmatist theory and cognitive sociology to examine the relationship between imagined futures and present actions and experiences in rural Malawi, where future optimism appears particularly unfounded. Drawing from in-depth interviews and archival sources documenting ideological campaigns promoting schooling, the author shows that four elements are understood to jointly produce educational success: ambitious career goals, sustained effort, unflagging optimism, and resistance to temptation. Aspirations should be interpreted not as rational calculations, but instead as assertions of a virtuous identity, claims to be "one who aspires."

Congratulations to New SALC Officers!

Election Winners

Ellen Idler, Emory University, Chair-elect
 James Raymo, University of Wisconsin, Council
 Yang Yang, UNC-Chapel Hill, Council
 Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson, Purdue University, Student Member

Duane Alwin Receives 2012 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award



"It is a wonderful honor to receive the MWR Award this year, both because it is bestowed by my SALC colleagues, and because of my deep appreciation of Matilda Riley and her influence on my work. Her contributions to the study of age stratification, as well as aging, inspire us all."

Duane Alwin
Penn State University

The Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award committee selected Duane Alwin as the 2012 recipient. This award recognizes a scholar in the field of aging and the life course who has shown "exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course." As this year's recipient, he will present the MWR lecture at the 2013 annual ASA meetings in New York.

Duane has been working within the life course framework all of his professional career, from his early work on status attainment, and the influences of family origins on later life outcomes, to his present work on the antecedents and consequences of cognitive functioning in older age. All of his professional life, he has been motivated by C. Wright Mills' challenge to sociologists to pursue the "intersection of biography and history in social structure," a perspective (otherwise referred to as the *sociological imagination*) that was articulated in Matilda Riley's work as well.

He is perhaps best known for his work on the impacts of demographic and historical processes on individual cognitive, ideological and attitudinal development over the life span. One study, which he worked on with Ron Cohen and Theodore Newcomb (*Political Attitudes Over the Life-Span: The Bennington Women After Fifty Years*, Wisconsin Press, 1991), focused on the lifelong development of attitudes and political identities within the context of both social change and development of the life course.

Duane served as SALC chair in 2007-2008, the chair of the Section on Social Psychology of ASA in 1992-93, and has been the recipient of numerous research grants, awards and special honors. He is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and a member of the Population Association of America. For most of his career he held appointments in Sociology and the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, where he is currently an Emeritus Professor. For the past 10 years he has been affiliated with Penn State University as the Tracy Winfree and Ted H. McCartney Professor of Sociology and Demography, and Director of the Center for Life Course and Longitudinal Studies.

SALC Seeks Nominations for 2013 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award honors a scholar in the field of aging and life course who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations will be carried over for one year.

Materials should be sent by **March 1, 2013** to:

Professor Ellen Idler
Chair, SALC Matilda White Riley Award Committee
Department of Sociology
Emory University
1555 Dickey Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

Email: eidler@emory.edu

Mark Your Calendars for the 2013 ASA Annual Meeting!



Appreciation to Outgoing Officers

Thanks to outgoing chair Rick Settersten for an outstanding job running the section and putting together a great 2012 meeting in Denver. Thanks also to outgoing council members Georgiana Bostean, Debra Street, Debra Umberson, and Dale Dannefer and committee chairs Chris Himes, Robin Shura, and Pam Herd for their service.

We're on the web!
<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionaginglifecourse/>

SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

Outstanding Publication Award

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee.

Eligible publications include original research reports, theoretical or methodological developments, and policy-related contributions. The outstanding publication can be an article, book, or chapter published within the past three years. The committee will consider nominations and self-nominations. The award will rotate between a book and an article (or chapter) at least once every three years.

Eligible nominations are limited to publications appearing from 2010-2012. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a SALC member. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations. Nominations of publications for the 2012 award should be sent by **March 1, 2013** to:

Professor Melissa Hardy

Chair, SALC Outstanding Publication Award
 Department of Sociology
 Penn State University
 502 Oswald Tower
 University Park, PA 16802
 Email: mah38@psu.edu

Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors the outstanding paper written by a graduate student (or students) member(s) of the Section on Aging and the Life Course, as determined by the Graduate Student Paper Award committee. Papers authored or co-authored solely by students are eligible; faculty co-authorship is not allowed. Eligible student authors include master's students and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program or who have graduated no earlier than December of 2012.

Unpublished, under review, accepted, or published papers are eligible. If published, the paper should have appeared within the past two calendar years (e.g., a paper nominated in 2013 may have been published anytime during 2012 or 2013). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc). All nominations are due by **March 1, 2013**. Self-nominations are encouraged. To be nominated send a hard copy and an electronic version of the paper to the Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee along with a completed and signed nomination form (available online). The award consists of \$250 presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the annual ASA meeting.

Professor Michael Shanahan

Chair, SALC Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
 Department of Sociology
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 CB# 3210, Hamilton Hall
 Chapel Hill, NC, 27599-3210
 Email: mjshan@unc.edu

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

2012 Section on Aging and the Life Course Mentoring Dinner and Program

Individual Sponsors

Ronald Abeles
 Ron and Jacqueline Angel
 Deborah Carr
 Teresa Cooney
 John Delamater
 David Ekerdt
 Glen Elder
 Cheryl Elman
 Ellen Idler
 Victor Marshall
 Phyllis Moen
 Jeylan Mortimer
 Michael Shanahan
 Judith Treas
 Linda Waite
 John Williamson

Organizational Sponsors

Purdue University Center on Aging and the Life Course
 Syracuse University Aging Studies Institute
 University of Minnesota Life Course Center
 University of North Carolina Institute on Aging
 University of Texas, Austin



Book Raffle

Organizational Donors

Gerontological Society of America
 Springer Science
 Stata Press

Individual Donors

John Delamatar
 Gerald Handel
 Meika Loe
 Caitrin Lynch
 Victor Marshall
 Rick Settersten



Matilda White Riley Award and SALC Business Meeting Reception

Oregon State University
 College of Liberal Arts
 Honor's College
 Center for Healthy Aging Research
 Office of the Provost
 School of Public Policy and Dept of Sociology
 Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children & Families
 Baywood Publishing Company
 RAND
 Labor & Population
 University of Toronto
 Department of Sociology
 University of California, Berkeley
 Department of Demography
 University of California, Irvine
 Center for Demographic & Social Analysis

Recent Member Publications and Announcements

Jack Levin. *Blurring the Boundaries: The Declining Significance of Age.* Routledge, Nov 2012.

Over the decades, the lines separating young- middle-aged-, and older adults have blurred, as indicated by a broadening of the appropriate years for making life decisions. Not only are many people marrying later, but some are marrying earlier than ever. Overall, women giving birth later, but some are having children earlier in their lives. Older people are retiring later, but some are retiring at a younger age. The spread or variability (standard deviation) of age-based decisions has increased substantially, giving adults greater freedom from the traditional constraints of age. With these relaxed age norms has come a host of related social problems. The relaxation of age norms for adult decision-making has inadvertently blurred the boundaries between adults and teenagers, between teenagers and children. This generalization of the phenomenon throughout the life cycle is responsible for the adultification of childhood.

Avron Spiro III & Richard A. Settersten, Jr. 2012. *Military Service in the Life Course: Implications for Later-Life Health and Well-Being*

A Special Issue of *Research in Human Development*

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/hrhd20/current>

This Special Issue features a series of unique articles that explore the long term impact of potentially traumatic experiences in early life, focusing on the post-combat lives of veterans of several 20th Century wars. In a world where there are more veterans than ever before, their voices are an essential guide to the effects – positive and negative – of living through war upon individuals and societies.

Ken Chih-Yan Sun. 2012. "Fashioning Reciprocal Norms of Aging in the Transnational Social Field: A Case of Immigrants in the U.S. and their Parents in Taiwan." *Journal of Family Issues* 33 (9): 1240-1271.

<http://jfi.sagepub.com/content/33/9/1240.abstract>

Janet Zollinger Giele. *Family Policy and the American Safety Net.* Sage Publications, July 2012.

Family Policy and the American Safety Net shows how families adapt to economic and demographic change. Government programs provide a safety net against the new risks of modern life. Family policy includes any public program that helps families perform their four universal obligations of caregiving, income provision, shelter, and transmission of citizenship. In America, this means that child care, health care, Social Security, unemployment insurance, housing, the quality of neighborhood schools, and anti-discrimination and immigration measures are all key elements of a *de facto* family policy. Yet many students and citizens are unaware of the history and importance of these programs. This book argues that family policy is as important as economic and defense policy to the future of the nation, a message that is relevant to students in the social sciences, social policy, and social work as well as to the public at large.

AAMC Pre-health iCollaborative Seeks Submissions

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) announces the formation of the Pre-health iCollaborative repository. The online site supports sharing of free undergraduate teaching resources that address pre-health competencies, including topics from psychology and sociology. Learn more at www.mededportal.org/icollaborative/pre-health.

The Pre-health iCollaborative repository includes free, open-access teaching resources that faculty can use in the classroom or as student resources to activities that supplement an existing course.

Faculty may submit resources that they have authored or refer publicly available resources for inclusion in the collection. With the collective wisdom of the community comments and ratings, the collection will become even more valuable over time. For more information, please email the iCollaborative staff at icollaborative@aamc.org.



Transitions

Stefanie Mollborn has received tenure and been promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is a faculty member in the Institute of Behavioral Science and the Department of Sociology.

INFORMATION NEEDED

To help keep SALC members connected, each newsletter will contain information on recent transitions and publications. If you have a professional announcement (tenure and promotion, employment change), personal information (marriages, births, tributes to recently deceased members), or a recent publication, please send information to Kristen Schultz Lee, kslee4@buffalo.edu.

Section on Aging and the Life Course

Chair

Mark Hayward
University of Texas at Austin
mhayward@prc.utexas.edu

Chair Elect

Ellen Idler
Emory University
eidler@emory.edu

Past Chair

Richard Settersten
Oregon State University
richard.settersten@oregonstate.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Janet Wilmoth
Syracuse University
jwilmoth@maxwell.syr.edu

Council

Teresa Cooney ('13)
University of Missouri
cooneyt@missouri.edu

Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson ('13)
Washington State University
monicakj@wsu.edu

Michael Shanahan ('14)
University of North Carolina—CH
mjshan@unc.edu

Pamela Herd ('14)
University of Wisconsin Madison
pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu

James Raymo ('15)
University of Wisconsin Madison
jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu

Yang Yang ('15)
University of North Carolina—CH
yangy@unc.edu

Communications Officers

Kristen Schultz Lee
Newsletter editor
University at Buffalo, SUNY
kslee4@buffalo.edu

Richard Settersten
Web manager
Oregon State University
richard.settersten@oregonstate.edu

David Warner
Listserv editor
University of Nebraska--Lincoln
david.f.warner@gmail.com

Student Members

Michael McFarland ('13)
University of Texas at Austin
mjm3454@hotmail.com

Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson ('14)
Purdue University
lrinaldo@purdue.edu

